

Answers by - Angus Jennings Independent Candidate for Lieutenant Governor (United Independent Party- running with Candidate for Governor Evan Falchuk)

Questions for Lieutenant Governor Candidates:

(Note: Questions 1-3 can be answered with a yes or no, but please feel free to elaborate beyond a one word answer)

1. As Lt. Governor, would you commit to an open door policy for the Massachusetts artists community and the creative sector?

Yes. Having served in and with municipal governments throughout my career I am accustomed to all work products and correspondences being a matter of public record. It has long concerned me that our State agencies and officials, nor our General Court, are subject to comparable standards. I believe that a great deal of progress can be made from the present system – in which there is no transparency whatsoever but for those connected to the leadership on Beacon Hill. The Falchuk-Jennings administration would be committed to leading by example, and restoring public confidence in our state’s government.

2. Lt. Governors of our state have a great tradition of promoting the governor’s policies throughout the state. If elected, would you advise the governor to make the promotion and support of our state’s third largest economic sector, the creative economy, a top priority for your office? (The creative economy includes artists of all disciplines, arts and culture, the film sector, etc.)

Yes, promoting the creative economy will make our Commonwealth a better place both economically and culturally.

3. The Lt. Governor sits on the Governor’s Council, a clear sign that our state values his or her involvement in matters of justice. As Lt. Governor, would you commit your office to promoting justice for all workers, including artists of all disciplines, those involved in the arts, culture, the creative economy, and those who create intellectual property?

Yes, economic justice for worker of all kinds will be a priority. Our economy, and society, cannot work properly if workers don’t have confidence they will be compensated fairly for what they do. Achieving this vision in a governing context of scarce resources will rely on integrating arts and culture into our overall planning, regulatory framework and

development in a real way – from conceptualization to permitting to financing to build. In this way the value of the arts can benefit directly from the value that arts and culture create in our built environment.

4. Is there anything else you would like to share in regards to your policy and/or platforms that directly impacts artists of all disciplines and by extension the arts, culture, and creative economy communities?

As the son of a professional musician, my early years were spent in a household full of music and creative arts. Some of my best summer memories are from my courses in arts and pottery at George Walter Vincent Smith art museum in The Quadrangle in Springfield. Although I never achieved the skills of my mom nor other relatives, I continue to play music regularly, and am fortunate to count some of the Massachusetts' notable artists and musicians good friends.

The context for my work in the arts, culture and creative economy would be part and parcel of my work, on behalf of the Falchuk-Jennings administration, to implement our Thriving Communities Action Plan. This policy framework would stimulate significant increases in private development activity in the Commonwealth, and we would reflect our values and our commitment to the arts through a renewed emphasis on public art.

Whether it be murals, paintings on sidewalks/street, sculptures or other mediums, public art can enliven and inspire our citizens in their own communities. Currently, much of the public art we do have is to commemorate certain events and/or primarily in urban centers. This is worthwhile, but we should do more by encouraging more public art for arts' sake – in suburban, rural and urban areas.

As president of the non-profit Massachusetts Association of Planning Directors (MAPD) I sponsored and administered an essay contest for current college and graduate students in planning in Massachusetts, and with no staff support drew responses from seven colleges and universities. Building on such comparable prior civic and community efforts, I envision launching seasonal contests for professional and amateur artists to display artistic works in all the communities of the Commonwealth.