

Answers by - Steve Kerrigan Democratic Candidate for Lieutenant Governor (running with Candidate for Governor Martha Coakley)

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, absolutely. I plan to be a Lieutenant Governor that will have an open door for anyone with good ideas about how to move our Commonwealth forward. That certainly includes the creative sector. I also won't be tied to Beacon Hill. I will be out in communities, visiting state offices and other workplaces and listening to residents, artists and other workers to hear firsthand how we are doing and what we can do better.

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. The arts, culture and creativity have been a hallmark of the Massachusetts experience since the earliest days in the Commonwealth's history. We know that the arts not only help boost our state economy and tourism, but they also contribute to the vibrancy of our communities and the overall education and positive development of our children. I will make the promotion and growth of this critical sector of our economy and our communities a personal priority.

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. I will work to ensure the next administration's appointees, including judicial nominees, have and will maintain a commitment to protecting the rights of workers in

any field, including the arts and the creative economy. There is no question that artists' intellectual property rights should be protected.

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?

My first act would be to ask the Governor to allow me to chair a Commonwealth Competitiveness Council. Under my plan, the Council would convene people from all areas of life in Massachusetts to determine how we can best grow our economy and improve our quality of life. The Council would produce specific proposals that will make the Commonwealth more competitive nationally and globally, help businesses grow here, attract new businesses to locate here, and help workers and families better afford to live, thrive and enjoy a higher quality of life. Among the priority issues the Council would explore would be fostering our cultural institutions and creative economy, as well as looking into our state tax structure, government tax incentives, our education system from early education to promoting STEAM in in our public schools to public higher education, income inequality, worker training, and transportation and infrastructure.