



## *Create the Vote 2024*

### **Candidate Survey**

2024-07-17

#### **Phil Christopherson (SD 24)**

**What arts and cultural activities have you and your family members attended, participated in, or supported in the past year?**

Music, Film/Media

**Are there any specific arts and culture activities from your experience that you would like to highlight as noteworthy or exceptional?**

Not really - I am an engineer and not artistic at all. However, over my years doing economic development I have come to understand the importance of having arts and cultural activities in a community. I enjoy the new art that the Gillette Mayors Council has brought into the community over the years. When I conducted tours of Gillette for Visitors I would always highlight the many activities and art in the community. Our local AVA house is a tremendous asset. Now that I am retired I am starting to attend more events. I'm even going to learn to play the piano.

**Considering your own personal background and education, what arts or cultural classes, programs or activities did you participate in?**

Film/Photography, Digital Arts/Design

**What role do you believe Wyoming and/or local government should play in supporting arts, culture and the humanities to enhance economic and community development?**

Each local community should decide for itself what they want. Eagle Bronze has done a marvelous job in Lander for the entire community. This is an excellent demonstration of private sector leading the way. I do not know if the City of Lander has assisted, but I hope they did. Public / Private partnerships are an excellent way to bring arts and culture to a community

**What role do you believe Wyoming and/or local government should play in supporting arts and culture to provide a comprehensive education for Wyoming K-12 students?** Arts, culture, band, performing arts and more should be a part of the curriculum.

**What role do you believe Wyoming and/or local government should play in supporting arts and culture, diversifying the local economy, and enhancing quality of life?** The state, local governments and the private sector should work closely together to develop goals, objectives and plans to diversify the state's economy. The local leaders (community, business, elected and others) should determine what is needed and wanted at the local level. The state can provide guidance, direction, direction and perhaps even funding.

**Rate your level of support for a local-option sales or property tax to support cultural activities and development.**

Supportive

*Create the Vote 2024 Candidate Surveys are a voter education service provided by WyAA, a member-supported nonprofit dedicated to improving the climate for the arts and culture in Wyoming. Become a member online at [Wyomingarts.org/join](http://Wyomingarts.org/join).*