

Discover Candidate Stances on Arts Education

by Fourth District PTA Cultural Arts Committee Member Shanin Zeimer

Are you interested in being a more informed voter? Do you want to know more about your school board candidates before you vote? The California Alliance for Arts Education Candidate Survey Project invites all local school board candidates to go on record with their views about the role of arts education in local schools. The results, published a few weeks before the election, give the public a way to learn more about candidates' views before they vote.

The survey asks them four simple but revealing questions:

- What meaningful experiences with the arts (visual arts, dance, drama and/or music) did you have growing up?
- What role do you think the arts can play in supporting key education priorities such as closing the achievement gap, reducing the dropout rate and preparing more students for college eligibility and the 21st century workforce?
- If elected, how will you promote the role of arts education in meeting the eight new priorities for the State's Local Control Funding Formula?

- In keeping with the State Education code, each school district is to provide every K-12 student with a standards-based, comprehensive arts education. In addition, the arts are critical for developing job skills vital in the creative economy and the 21st century workforce. If elected, how will you promote the role of arts education in a complete education for students?



School board elections are now more important than ever! In recent years local school boards have been given increasing control over how education dollars are spent. With the new Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) that passed last year, local school board members have been given unprecedented power about what programs are funded in district schools.

To see how your candidates responded, go to <http://www.artsed411.org/survey> You can provide a link to this survey on your PTA website, in your newsletter, and/or emails to help all your PTA families find out more about who is in the running to run your school.