

**2008 Florida Legislative Candidates (who won) Responses to Florida Cultural Alliance Candidate Survey**

<b>1. Name:</b>	<b>Jeff ATWATER</b>	<b>Nancy DETERT</b>	<b>Keith FITZGERALD</b>	<b>Dan GELBER</b>	<b>Doug HOLDER</b>	<b>Martin David KIAR</b>	<b>John WOOD</b>
<b>1. Address:</b>	PO Box 14366	1769 Batello Drive	P.O. Box 2105	5445 LaGorce Drive	340 S. Tamiami Trail, Suite 109	250 Mahogany Terrace	3601 Cypress Gardens Road
<b>1. City/Town</b>	North Palm Beach	Venice	Sarasota	Miami Beach	Nokomis	Davie	Winter Haven
<b>1. State:</b>	Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida
<b>1. ZIP:</b>	33408	34292	34234	33140	34275	33325	33884
<b>1. Email Address:</b>	jeff@senatorjeff.com	nancydetert@yahoo.com	gofitzgo2008@yahoo.com	dan@dangelber.com	doug@dougholder.com	electmartinkiar@yahoo.com	johnwoodcampaign@aol.com
<b>1. Phone Number:</b>	561-842-4040	941-493-1987	941-556-1457	(305) 531-7831	941-284-1959	954-205-7735	863-287-6821
<b>2. Office Chamber:</b>	Florida Senate	Florida Senate	Florida House	Florida Senate	Florida House	Florida House	Florida House
<b>3. District They Won:</b>	25	23	69	35	70	97	65
<b>Counties Represented:</b>	Broward, Palm Beach	Charlotte, Manatee, Sarasota	Manatee, Sarasota	Broward, Miami-Dade	Sarasota	Broward	Polk

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<p><b>4. Background:</b> People involved with the arts know the incredible intrinsic value they bring to our lives. We also know and have research that demonstrates their value in so many areas of our communities. Arts &amp; Culture -- part of the solution really does work to help diversify and build the economy, improve student achievement, attract and retain new businesses, revitalize downtowns, prevent crime, improve health and wellness, increase tourism, expand job growth, and enhance our quality of life. <b>Statement:</b> We want to know how often you participate in arts or cultural activities during the year.</p>	I participate in 4 to 6 arts or cultural activities during the year.	I participate in more than 6 arts or cultural activities during the year.	I participate in more than 6 arts or cultural activities during the year.	I participate in more than 6 arts or cultural activities during the year.	I participate in 4 to 6 arts or cultural activities during the year.	I participate in more than 6 arts or cultural activities during the year.	I participate in more than 6 arts or cultural activities during the year.

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<p><b>5. Background:</b> According to Dun &amp; Bradstreet January 2008 data, there are over 40,000 arts-related businesses in Florida that employ over 168,500 people. <b>Statement:</b> State appropriations and policies to advance Florida's creative industries (including arts, cultural, historical, humanities, and arts education resources) are extremely important to Florida's strong economic and innovative future.</p>	I strongly agree.	<p>I strongly agree. Comments: I hope you remember that I chaired the Tourism Committee in the House was responsible for a lot of the funding for the arts and historic preservation.</p>	I strongly agree.	<p>I strongly believe. I believe a community's commitment to the arts, in many ways, defines it. I am a member of the Miami Dade PAC Board.</p>	<p>I strongly agree. Comments - No more important than in our area.</p>	<p>I strongly agree. I truly believe that our communities arts and cultural activities play a vital role in our society. I believe that the arts, etc., help provide our residents with well rounded and very enjoyable lifestyles. Our largest industry in Florida is tourism. The arts and creative industries that Florida provides help attract many people to our great state. I truly believe that the arts and cultural activities that our state is blessed to provide entices many tourists to our state which in turn is vital for our economic stability.</p>	I strongly agree.

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<p><b>6. Background:</b> Florida's Divisions of Cultural Affairs and Historical Resources have well-established, accountable, volunteer professional citizen grants-review processes to determine how state grants are awarded to various arts, cultural, and historical programs and projects throughout Florida.</p> <p><b>Statement:</b> Support for the Florida Department of State's (where these two divisions are managed) grants-review panel systems is the most equitable, accountable, and professional process to award state money, unlike allocating specific line items that have no professional review or accountability processes.</p>	I strongly agree.	I strongly agree. Comments: I am very familiar with the ranking process and have worked closely with the Secretary of State's office.	I strongly agree.	I agree.	I strongly agree. Comments - I think it is important to have some oversight over how state funds are used to promote arts in Florida.	I strongly agree. I agree because we need oversight to ensure that the grants are distributed in the most efficient and responsible manner possible.	I strongly agree.

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<p><b>7. Background:</b> Florida's arts, cultural, and historical not-for-profit organizations depend upon a number of funding sources to sustain their programs and projects for residents and visitors. Only 49% of their budgets are earned through ticket and contracted service revenue; the balance must be raised. To make these programs accessible to a greater number and diversity of people, both residents and tourists, over 50% of their annual operating budgets must be raised through private contributions; corporate support; and local, state, and federal grants.</p> <p><b>Statement:</b> The use of current and new local-option tax dollars to fund arts, cultural, and historical programs and projects that promote tourism and economic development must continue and be encouraged.</p>	I agree.	I strongly agree.	I strongly agree.	I strongly agree.	I strongly agree. Comments: I support state funding for the arts and will continue to serve as a spokesperson in Tallahassee for arts in the State and especially Sarasota County.	No opinion at this time.	I strongly agree.

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<p><b>8. Background:</b> Arts education is more and more important to help prepare students for a future workforce that will depend upon a person's creativity and innovation. Study after study demonstrates the value of strong arts education courses and programs within our schools. We know schools that have quality arts courses and programs in art, music, theater, and dance taught by certified fine arts teachers have successful students and schools. <b>Statement:</b> Local, state, and federal policy makers must work collectively and collaboratively to provide adequate funding and policy support to ensure that all our students can study one or more of the fine arts (music, dance, theater, and art) taught by certified fine arts teachers as a requirement of their graduation.</p>	I strongly agree.	I strongly agree. As a former School Board member I have always supported this policy.	I strongly agree.	I strongly agree.	I strongly agree. Comments: I fully support a diverse educational program balanced with academic, physical, and artistic programs.	I strongly agree. I agree completely. I believe that our students deserve a well rounded education, which includes core subjects, such as Math and English and also creative subjects, such as music and dance.	I strongly agree.

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<p><b>9. Background:</b> In the last three years, Florida's funding for the arts has been reduced by more than 80% (to a total of \$6 million for the entire state in Fiscal Year 2008-2009). This is jeopardizing the ability of Florida's arts and cultural programs and projects to play an effective role in attracting businesses, tourism, and a skilled workforce to our State.</p> <p><b>Statement:</b> Modest investments in Florida's vibrant arts and cultural resources produce significant returns. Increases not only to restore but also to advance funding for the arts and culture is essential to sustain Florida's creative industries' impact on economic development, jobs, tourism, downtown revitalization, health and wellness, student achievement, crime prevention, and quality of life.</p>	I agree.	I strongly agree. Comments: I won a Hero of the Arts award for protecting the Arts trust fund. I agree with the statements above and feel that communities of culture contribute the a healthy economy.	I strongly agree.	I strongly agree.	I strongly agree. Comments: Working with Visit Florida, Sarasota and Her Islands and serving as Vice-Chairman of the House Tourism and Trade Committee allows me to see first hand the return on investment we receive from funding the arts.	I strongly agree. Our largest industry in Florida is tourism. The arts and creative industries that Florida provides help attract many people to our great state. I truly believe that the arts and cultural activities that our state is blessed to provide entices many tourists to our state which in turn is vital for our economic stability. By attracting tourists to our state, that will help us grow jobs and generate much needed revenue from sales tax.	I agree. Education and enforcement of our laws are the highest priorities. Difficult times require cutbacks.

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<p><b>10. Background:</b> For over a decade until 2003, Florida had a dedicated state trust fund to support Florida's arts and cultural programs and projects that helped diversify and build our state's innovative economy. For every \$1 invested by government in arts and cultural resources, \$7 is returned to governmental accounts -- a modest investment for great returns. <b>Statement:</b> The reestablishment of a dedicated, reliable, and stable revenue source that can increase with the statewide population and industry growth of the field is critical to sustain the arts and culture in Florida.</p>	I agree.	I strongly agree. Comments: see statements above and review my legislative record.	I strongly agree.	I strongly agree.	I agree.	I strongly agree.	I agree. I would like more information on this concept and how it was funded.