

### Texas Coalition for Quality Arts Education Legislative Candidate Questionnaire

Thank you for taking your time to answer the following brief questionnaire. This information will be shared with arts education supporters as they prepare to vote in the upcoming election. If you have any questions about the content or would like more information, please contact Robert Floyd, TCQAE Chair, at (512) 452-0710, ext. 101.

Name Dorothy M. Olmos District 4

**Returning the Questionnaire:** Return this questionnaire either in the included envelope by October 5, or fax both sides to (512) 451-9213.

#### Benefits of Music Education

In 2010-2011, the Texas Music Educators Association conducted an analysis of student enrollment in Texas middle school and high school fine arts courses (music, theatre, art, and dance). The analysis found that student enrollment in fine arts courses from 2006 to 2011 was significantly higher in schools rated "exemplary" than in schools rated "low performing." Also, schools with higher student involvement in fine arts had better student attendance records. In addition, students selected as Texas All-State musicians have SAT scores over 400 points higher than the state average and over 360 points higher than the national average.

- 1. Do you believe that studying music and other fine arts helps improve student performance in other academic courses?  
 Yes     No     Undecided     Would like more information
- 2. Do you believe that student involvement in music and other fine arts reduces the drop out rate by keeping some at-risk students interested in school?  
 Yes     No     Undecided     Would like more information
- 3. Do you believe that instruction in music and other fine arts provides students with learning skills that enhance college preparedness?  
 Yes     No     Undecided     Would like more information
- 4. Do you believe that creativity fostered by a fine arts education is a trait highly valued by employers in building a 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce?  
 Yes     No     Undecided     Would like more information

*They sometimes do not understand or appreciate people such as myself who have studied music, Drama & Dance to be a more valuable employee. People that studied The Arts have the ability to multi-task & have a much more broader mind.*

*not making in the work place.*

**Education Priorities**

Many believe that being in a school band, orchestra, or choir is an extracurricular activity, yet these are standards-based academic courses for which students receive course credits. State law requires every high school student to have at least one fine arts credit to graduate. However, student enrollment in high school and middle school arts courses has been limited and participation in elementary grades sacrificed to prepare for STAAR tests.

5. Do you support or oppose making fine arts courses part of the core curriculum for Texas schools?

- Support
- Oppose
- Undecided
- Would like more info

*I support & would enhance making it mandatory to have it as a core curriculum in the TX schools.*

6. Do you support or oppose removing students from music and other fine arts courses for STAAR preparation drills?

- Support
- Oppose
- Undecided
- Would like more info

*I oppose this decision because I am a proponent of giving a student more tools & materials to be effective in learning especially for STAAR prep drills.*

**Legislative Support for Fine Arts**

During the 82<sup>nd</sup> legislative session, Senator Leticia Van de Putte and Representative Mark Shelton cosponsored the creation of a fine arts caucus to share the importance of a well-balanced education that includes the arts.

7. Would you be willing to become a member of such a caucus during the 83<sup>rd</sup> session?

- Yes
- No
- Undecided
- Would like more info

*Definitely. I have always stated in every campaign that I have run for the importance of rhythm & color to be able to allow children from K-12 to learn & comprehend.*

*Please return it in the envelope provided or fax it to (512) 451-9213 by October 5.*

*Questionnaire results will be posted on www.GoArts.org*

*I will always strive to include Fine Arts in the TX schools core curriculum.*