

Q1

*Candidate Information*

- Candidate Name: Michael Connely
- Legislative District: Senate District #29
- Candidate Website: [www.michaelconnelysenate.com](http://www.michaelconnelysenate.com)
- Candidate Preferred Email Address: [michaelconnelysenate@gmail.com](mailto:michaelconnelysenate@gmail.com)

Q2

*Are you aware of an agency of state government – the Nebraska Arts Council (NAC) – whose mission is to support the arts, humanities and creative activities in Nebraska?*

- Not so aware

Q3

*The Nebraska Arts Council invested \$1.5 million in FY2019-20 state general appropriations in grants across the state to support arts programs and access, arts education programs, and supporting local arts councils and organizations. Most grant dollars required a 1:1 match. With which statement do you most agree?*

- No opinion at this time.

*Comments:*

- My family are musicians. I have 2 uncles in the Music Hall of Fame. Nobody in my family has used the Nebraska Arts Council. IF the state has extra funds, it may be a good expenditure but I would like to see exactly what you do.

Q4

*Research has shown that arts education increases achievement across all academic disciplines, enhances student engagement, and fosters development of critical thinking and learning skills. How important do you think it is to have access and participation in arts education for youth in Nebraska schools?*

- Extremely important

*Comments:*

- Yes, arts education is essential.

Q5

*The State of Nebraska has curriculum standards in the fine arts, which includes art, music, theater, dance, and media arts. How important do you think it is for schools to have content-specific certified teachers in the arts?*

- Not a Priority

Comments:

- No. There are highly skilled instructors in arts that are not certified. No you are delving into union support areas instead of Arts areas with this question.

Q6

*According to data from the Creative Economy State Profiles, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that arts and cultural production accounts for \$2,943,343,023 and 2.4% of the Nebraska economy, contributing 28,735 jobs. The Nebraska Blueprint report recommends investing in “community vibrancy” projects to attract businesses and workers, increase tourism, and generate revenue for state and local government. How important do you feel state appropriations and policies to advance Nebraska’s creative industries (an example is this year’s LB943) are in relation to creating a strong economic future for Nebraska?*

- Not at all important

Comments:

- A law is not needed to make creative industries. Reductions of regulations are needed. I speak from a generation of experience.

Q7

*In 1998, the Nebraska Legislature established the Cultural Preservation Endowment Fund to join the Nebraska Cultural Endowment to create a private-public partnership for providing stable funding for arts and cultural programs in the state. These funds must be matched dollar-for-dollar by private contributions. The earnings from both the state and private sides are then distributed to the Nebraska Arts Council and Humanities Nebraska to fund grants and programs all across the state. As a candidate for the Nebraska Legislature, what is your position in supporting this investment in Nebraska’s rich arts and humanities assets?*

- Neutral

Comment:

- Again, you would need specific examples.

Q8

*Nebraska adults have one of the highest the highest participation rate in the U.S. in annually attending an art exhibit or arts performance. Is there a specific arts or culture organization in your part of the state that you or your family particularly enjoy, or do you have an artistic talent or hobby?*

- Yes

*If yes, please list your talent/hobby and your favorite organization(s) here:*

- I have 2 uncles who played for President Jimmy Carter. I am at odds with some art performance areas that severely discriminate against one category of disabled individuals.

Q9

*We welcome any additional comments or experiences you would like to make with regards to the arts in Nebraska. Please use the space below. Your comments will be posted on the Nebraskans for the Arts website and in a voter guide of survey results received, sent to the network of arts advocates in the participating organizations.*

- I visited a theater that was installing closed captioning devices for hard of hearing. These are based on a blue tooth radiation system that is deadly for individuals with Electro Magnetic Hypersensitivity. These systems should be hard wired. There are **SERIOUS** flaws in your current systems and I would work to correct them before any funding. **AND** I am from a family of professional artists.