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## Re: Georgia Arts Network Survey

From: Senator John Albers <john@senatorialbers.com>

Date: 09/10/2018 15:30

To: president@gaartsnetwork.org

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Here you go!

*Candidate Name: **Senator John Albers***

*For which office are you running? **Re-election to the Georgia State Senate, District 56***

Would you please share your personal involvement in arts and culture (such as being an artist/performer, attending various events, supporting a spouse/child as they pursue the arts, donating to local organizations, or other items that may be personal to you)?

*I am a 40-year musician playing trumpet and most brass instruments. I played in the marching band and pep band for the University of Louisville. My son plays piano and other percussion instruments in high school and competitive Drum Corps. Our church has many concerts. I participated vocally as well as instrumentally in many events. I attend many concerts from classical, country and classic rock. My city of Roswell has a great arts community and I have attended gala's and donated directly.*

*According to the [National Assembly of State Arts Agencies FY2019 State Arts Agency Legislative Appropriation Preview](#), Georgia ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in per capita funding for our State Arts Agency. Do you believe that this is an appropriate level of investment? And why or why not?*

**Yes, this is critical for society and everyone wins with bringing additional revenue and tourism to the state.**

*What are your goals for arts education in our public-school systems?*

**We need arts in all forms in schools starting in pre-k. I led the fight to keep music in Fulton Schools. The arts are fundamental and as critical as math, science, etc.**

*Do you support the statewide legalization of gaming at casino resorts?*

**No, I do not support gambling.**

*According to industry consultant [CSL's 2016 analysis of the Casino Impact on Performing Arts Venues](#), there is a negative impact on existing local arts and cultural entertainment venues when casino-owned and funded entertainment venues are constructed in the market. Were you aware of this detrimental consequence? Do you think these civic assets deserve formal protection?*

**I am aware of the negative impacts and we need to protect our civic assets. I am open to civil assets having protection.**

*Other states that have legalized casino gaming have included language in the legislation to protect local arts and cultural facilities, including provisions to prohibit or limit the capacity of entertainment venues housed at casino resorts. Would you introduce protection for Georgia's arts and culture facilities? If so, what would you propose?*

**I will not support gambling. However, I am open to protecting our arts & culture.**

On [Mon, Sep 10, 2018](#) at 2:27 PM "Jessica Akers (Georgia Arts Network)" <[president@gaartsnetwork.org](mailto:president@gaartsnetwork.org)> wrote:

Dear Candidate:

On behalf of the Georgia Arts Network and the Georgia Arts and Culture Venues Coalition, we are sending all candidates for statewide elected office the attached survey. The responses will be shared in full with our respective newsletter subscribers and social media followers as well as shared on our website.

We thank you in advance and look forward to sharing your responses with our constituencies. Please return your completed survey to either [president@gaartsnetwork.org](mailto:president@gaartsnetwork.org) or the P.O. Box below.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Akers, President  
Georgia Arts Network  
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