



Dear Candidate:

On behalf of the Georgia Arts Network and the Georgia Arts and Culture Venues Coalition, we are asking all candidates for statewide elected office the following questions. 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 or the PO Box below.

Sincerely,

Jessica Akers

Jessica Akers, President, Georgia Arts Network

Candidate Name: John Turpish

For which office are you running? Public Service Commission, district 5

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)?

My involvement has been minimal, and no I'd rather not share.

According to the [National Assembly of State Arts Agencies FY2019 State Arts Agency Legislative Appropriation Preview](#), Georgia ranks 49th 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.

Generally, one cannot justify the expenditure of ill-gotten gains on artwork. Also due to its impact on the art. Those who control the purse strings get to send a message - perhaps silently - about what is acceptably eccentric and what will not be tolerated. I do not want that in the hands of the state.

That said, being at rank 49 suggests it's not something I should worry about.

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and advocate for the arts in Georgia.

Georgia Arts Network, P.O. Box 244191, Atlanta, GA 30324
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What are your goals for arts education in our public school systems?

From a policy perspective, I have ~~no such policy~~ ~~no such policy~~. Not that the PSC could establish any such policy anyhow.

Personally my goal is to respect and perhaps even enable my daughters' own personal exploration and growth.

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

Yes. Gambling is a bad habit, but it's not something I'm willing to use violence to stop.

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 was not. This is not something I'm motivated to educate myself on.

"Formal protection" is a very strange and ambiguous turn of phrase. Given the context of speaking of the behavior of coercive government, no I do not believe the government of Georgia should be involved in "protecting" local arts and cultural entertainment venues.

Art exists, has always existed, and will always exist regardless of what governmental powers attempt. We should have no worries there.

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?

No, nor would I be capable of introducing such a provision. I'm running for the PSC, not the General Assembly. What do you want me to do, threaten to ask a utility to turn their power off? But also, of course I would not want to support any such provision.

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