

Oregon artPAC — 2016 Primaries

Contest: Clackamas County Chair

Candidate Name: Jim Bernard

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Candidate Web Site: www.votejimbernard.com

Date of Questionnaire Submittal: Febraury 11, 2016

In a 140-character “tweet” format, tell us why you are running for office.

To rebuild damaged relationships with our regional partners and move the county forward. To make decisions in an effective efficient manner that are in the best interest of all the citizens. To build an organization that provides outstanding customer service using tools that easily accessible.

How many donors have contributed to your campaign?

150 approx

How much money have you raised for your campaign?

\$30,000

What endorsements have you received?

Various Mayors and Community Groups

What role do the arts and culture play in the life of our region and what do the arts personally mean to you and your family?

Brings the community together and provides an expressive outlet. It builds personal courage and shapes core values. Helps develop the right brain and can have a measurable impact on learning.

How will you address the growing affordability crisis in our region for artists, arts organizations, and small arts businesses as it relates to housing and creative space?

As Mayor of Milwaukie we built live/work housing and partnered to develop affordable housing in our North Main Project. In my current capacity as county commissioner we are working on a strategy to develop affordable housing near transit sites. I also started and continue to run a farmers market where local artisans and musicians have an opportunity to perform and sell their products.

How will you foster the growth of the creative economy in our region?

By supporting creative opportunities where possible. On campus we display local art work in our lobbies provided by the Arts and Culture Board. We also require that that 1% of development on our campus be spent on artwork.

How will you enhance the delivery of and support for arts education in school and neighborhood settings?

I run a non-profit in Milwaukie, we use our money to support community events including Main Street art and neighborhood music festivals. We also use art in our county's juvenile programs to help our youth focus on the environment through the lens of a camera.

How will you further the values of equity and access to the arts and culture? What do you see as the biggest challenges to progress in this area?

The biggest challenge is probably the current board. Additional investments in arts has not been a priority.

What other public policies would you pursue to strengthen the creative capacity of our region?

I would reach out to our arts and culture council for advice. We currently budget around \$250,000 annually to the council and partner with our tourism department to enhance the county's investments in the arts. I support a larger investment.

The following question is for candidates in City of Portland contests only. Do you support the voter-approved Arts Education and Access Fund and do you commit to maintaining it? What changes, if any, would you make to improve its administration?

Clackamas County doesn't have an arts tax but I would be very interested in considering it. It was something we were considering before the commission changed. Thanks to our partnership with tourism we have been able to support the local arts community.

The following question is for candidates in City of Portland, Clackamas County, Multnomah County, or Washington County contests only. Each year, you will have the opportunity to vote to approve a budget for arts funding through the Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC). Do you commit to maintaining or increasing this budget allocation and funding level?

Yes! We are starting our budget process and I will recommend an increase.