



## 2010 General Election Questionnaire

Please fill in your information and answer the four questions below. Return via email to [oregonartpac@yahoo.com](mailto:oregonartpac@yahoo.com)

Responses are due no later than September 16, 2010

**Candidate:** James G. Needham

**Contest:** Clackamas County Board of Commissioners, Position 3

**Date of Submittal:** September 16, 2010

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1. What steps will you take to help significantly increase **private sector** funding for local arts organizations so that the community's arts organizations can present more high quality arts programs for all citizens? **I will continue to promote development of the arts as a means of engaging communities in arts and culture – especially through auctions and fundraisers. My experience as a member of the Molalla City Council and the Main Street Program Organization Committee has allowed me to support and endorse the creation of Molalla's Art Commission. In the preceding months I attended and supported organizational meetings in my community and also lobbied Portland City Commissioners to support funding of the Creative Advocacy Network (CAN) to establish regional attention and sponsorship of the Arts. In my opinion, arts and culture are a 'common denominator' which all elements in communities can and will support as a means of unifying & engaging stakeholders, beautifying communities, and maximizing civic pride.**
2. As you know, there is a movement afoot to create a new dedicated annual stream of **public funding** for the arts that will likely be established through a voter-approved tax measure. Can you commit to supporting this effort and if so, in what way? **As I previously mentioned, I support and endorse arts and culture. I supported the Creative Advocacy Network in the Portland Metro Area and I intend to continue my support and endorsement of such efforts in**

whatever elective or private capacity I occupy. I would be pleased to participate in a speaker's bureau and/or provide any lobbying which would promote development of arts and culture. I'm hoping that at some point we may even be able to foster improved global relations by developing international cultural exchanges. After all, nobody has a monopoly on arts, culture, or the expression of aesthetic beauty in all its forms. There is no language so universal as art!

3. Each year, you may have the opportunity to vote to approve an arts funding budget for the region. Will you commit to maintaining or increasing this funding level? **It is my hope that as long as funding is utilized for the primary purpose of promoting arts and culture it will secure not only my support, but the support of patrons in every governmental jurisdiction. Annual review for the purpose of evaluating and improving effectiveness are always within the scope of what I would be willing to commit to.**
  
4. In addition to seeking more funding for arts and cultural endeavors, what other public policies would you pursue to strengthen the creative capacity of Portland and the region? Please include your thoughts about how you and your board, council or commission could enhance the delivery of and support for arts education in the region's schools. **I cannot speak for the consensus of any political organization I may have the privilege of participating in, but I can assure anyone who would ask that I will always support any activity which will maximize the opportunities for education, participation, and unification of our citizens and especially our youth. As I mentioned previously, I'm hoping that we may be able to expand our efforts to provide artistic and cultural opportunities beyond our local area to incorporate our global community. I believe there can never be a limit to what can be achieved by promoting arts and culture to youth of all ages!**