

THE ARTS VOTER GUIDE

GENERAL
ELECTION

2026



U.S. CONGRESS

PA-01, PA-03, PA-05

GREATER PHILADELPHIA

CULTURAL
ALLIANCE

WELCOME TO THE ARTS VOTER GUIDE

The Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance believes that arts, culture, and humanities are essential civic infrastructure, and deserve greater public investment. This is a critical moment for Philadelphia, Southeastern Pennsylvania, and the state as a whole, to examine how we preserve and sustain our cultural assets that are essential to our civic life. Our research confirms that the arts matter to voters so much so that arts and culture issues can serve as a driving force in voter turnout.

The 2026 Arts Voter Guide is designed to help members and the broader community better understand where candidates stand on issues impacting artists, cultural organizations, creative workers, and the communities they serve.

The Arts Voter Guide does not include every candidate running in Pennsylvania's gubernatorial and congressional races. All candidates in these races were invited to respond to the same set of questions. We encourage voters to keep this in mind as they review the guide and make informed decisions at the ballot box. Arts and culture are vital drivers of our region's civic and economic vitality, and we believe all candidates should recognize their importance to the communities they seek to represent.

Candidate responses are shared for voter education purposes only and do not constitute an endorsement.

PHILADELPHIA BALLOT QUESTION #2: MAKING CREATIVE PHILADELPHIA PERMANENT

Shall the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter be amended to establish and define the functions of Creative Philadelphia, an office headed by the Chief Cultural Officer to promote the City's arts, culture, and creative economy sector?

On November 3, Philadelphia voters will consider Ballot Question #2, a proposed amendment to the City's Home Rule Charter that would establish Creative Philadelphia as a permanent office within City government, led by a Cabinet-level Chief Cultural Officer.

Currently operating under an executive order, Creative Philadelphia supports the city's artists, cultural organizations, public art programs, and creative economy. The proposed amendment would formally establish the office in the City Charter, providing continuity across mayoral administrations and a more stable administrative structure for arts and culture. Importantly, the measure does not provide additional funding for the office or the broader cultural sector.

The Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance has long advocated for making Creative Philadelphia permanent, recognizing the transformative potential of a stronger, more consistent commitment to arts and culture. We believe this change would provide the stable administrative infrastructure needed to fully leverage the power of Philadelphia's creative economy, which generates approximately \$3 billion in regional economic activity and supports 133,000 jobs.



A YES vote supports formally establishing Creative Philadelphia in the City Charter.



A NO vote leaves the existing Charter unchanged.

The Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance encourages a vote “yes” to Ballot Question #2.

To learn more about Ballot Question #2 as well as voting resources, please visit: **vote.phila.gov**.

PA-01



BOB HARVIE (DEMOCRAT)

BOBHARVIEFORCONGRESS.COM



BRIAN FITZPATRICK (REPUBLICAN)

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PA-03



CHRIS RABB (DEMOCRAT)

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DENNIS MAHONEY (INDEPENDENT)

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PA-05



MARY GAY SCANLON (DEMOCRAT)

SCANLONFORCONGRESS.COM



NICK MANGANARO (REPUBLICAN)

DELAWARECOUNTYGOP.ORG/NICK-MANGANARO-CONGRESS

QUESTION 1: FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN ARTS & HUMANITIES

Historically, federal support for state and local arts and culture initiatives has been disbursed through the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Do you support continued federal funding for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities? Would you support increasing, maintaining, or reducing federal investment in these agencies, and why?

PA-01

BOB HARVIE: I support continued federal funding for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities, and I would support increasing investment when possible. Arts and humanities help us understand our history, encourage creativity, and bring communities together. As a former public school Social Studies teacher for 26 years, I know that education extends beyond textbooks. Every student and community deserves the opportunity to experience and benefit from the arts.

BRIAN FITZPATRICK: I have defended and strongly support funding for the NEA and NEH. I support increasing funding to ensure more local, targeted priorities can be accomplished.

PA-03

CHRIS RABB: Increase. The NEA and NEH seed the local arts groups, humanities councils, and festivals that anchor neighborhoods in Philadelphia and across the country, often reaching places private philanthropy skips. I'll fight to reverse recent cuts and grant cancellations, protect grantmaking from political interference, and push the NEA toward at least \$1 per American. Culture isn't a luxury line item. It's civic infrastructure.

DENNIS MAHONEY: No response

PA-05

MARY GAY SCANLON: The federal government should be an active participant in funding museums and libraries and I support continued funding for the IMLS. In a world filled with social media misinformation, and attempts by those who do not like our history to attempt to erase it, it's more important than ever that Americans have resources that do not hide the parts we don't like to acknowledge.

NICK MANGANARO: No response

QUESTION 2: MUSEUMS AND LIBRARIES

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) provides federal support to museums and libraries throughout the country. What role should the federal government play in supporting these institutions, and would you support continued funding for IMLS?

PA-01

BOB HARVIE: Libraries and museums expand access to education, preserve our history, and connect people with information and ideas. As County Commissioner, I worked with the African American Museum of Bucks County to secure its first permanent home. I support continued federal funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services so communities of all sizes can preserve collections, support students and families, and provide opportunities for lifelong learning.

BRIAN FITZPATRICK: Yes, it is critical that we fund IMLS to support the museums and libraries across our communities, which play a critical role for preserving cultures, promoting literacy and ensuring everyone has access to the arts.

PA-03

CHRIS RABB: The federal role is to guarantee that every community, not just wealthy ones, has a library and museum within reach. IMLS is the backbone of that promise, funding state library programs, digitization, and museum education. I strongly support continued and increased IMLS funding and will oppose any effort to dismantle it. Libraries are our most democratic institutions: free, open to all, and often the only place offering internet access, job help, and community space.

DENNIS MAHONEY: No response

PA-05

MARY GAY SCANLON: I believe that the federal government has a duty to protect our national parks and historic and cultural sites and I believe in expanding funding for these projects. In addition, I believe we need to leave politics out of the interpretation of historic and cultural resources like we are seeing with the President's House in Philadelphia right now. It is of continued importance that we have the government present facts and allow the public to be educated and interpret these facts without erasure.

NICK MANGANARO: No response

QUESTION 3: DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, NATIONAL PARKS & HISTORIC RESOURCES

Pennsylvania is home to nationally significant historic and cultural sites that contribute to tourism, education, and local economies. What are your priorities for federal investment in and policies administered by the Department of the Interior and National Park Service to preserve, protect, and interpret historic and cultural resources?

PA-01

BOB HARVIE: I would prioritize protecting national parks, preserving historic sites, and investing in Pennsylvania's cultural resources. These places tell our nation's story, provide educational opportunities, and support tourism and small businesses. Federal investment should protect these irreplaceable resources, improve public access, and ensure future generations can learn from the history and heritage that make Pennsylvania special.

BRIAN FITZPATRICK: I think sustained funding for these priorities is most important so that localities and the Commonwealth have the certainty and guarantee that backlog projects can be accomplished in a manner that helps contribute to the local economy and the preservation of cultural history. This must be done in concert with public-private partnership efforts.

PA-03

CHRIS RABB: My priorities: fully fund NPS staffing and the deferred-maintenance backlog; expand the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom and African American Civil Rights grants; and protect honest interpretation of history from political censorship. We must tell the whole American story, including the parts that are hard to hear.

DENNIS MAHONEY: No response

PA-05

MARY GAY SCANLON: I believe that the federal government has a duty to protect our national parks and historic and cultural sites and I believe in expanding funding for these projects. In addition, I believe we need to leave politics out of the interpretation of historic and cultural resources like we are seeing with the President's House in Philadelphia right now. It is of continued importance that we have the government present facts and allow the public to be educated and interpret these facts without erasure.

NICK MANGANARO: No response

QUESTION 4: SECTION 106

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to consider how federally funded, permitted, or approved projects may affect historic properties. Do you support maintaining Section 106 protections? How would you balance historic preservation with the need for housing, infrastructure, and economic development?

PA-01

BOB HARVIE: I support maintaining Section 106 protections requiring federal agencies to evaluate impacts on historic properties before approving or funding projects. Preservation and progress can go hand in hand. By engaging communities, preservation experts, and developers early, we can protect historic resources while supporting responsible housing, infrastructure, and economic development. We should build for the future without sacrificing the places that connect us to our past.

BRIAN FITZPATRICK: I support maintaining Section 106 protections while ensuring that localities have the flexibility they need to address pressing community concerns. I think the correct balance can be struck if the federal government works in consultation always with local community interests and other historic preservation stakeholders.

PA-03

CHRIS RABB: Yes. Section 106 gives communities a seat at the table before federal dollars reshape their neighborhoods. Preservation and progress aren't rivals; adaptive reuse of historic buildings is often a fast path to housing. I'd fund State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices so reviews move quickly, encourage programmatic agreements for affordable housing, and expand the Historic Tax Credit. Speed should come from capacity, not from gutting protections.

DENNIS MAHONEY: No response

PA-05

MARY GAY SCANLON: Yes, I support Section 106 protections and I believe that the two can work hand in hand. We should be doing what we can to make sure that we have adequate housing, infrastructure and economic development, however National Historic sites are a boon to the economy through tourism dollars. We can and should make sure our history isn't knocked down while making sure we are meeting the needs of our society.

NICK MANGANARO: No response

QUESTION 5: CREATIVE ECONOMY

Arts and culture represent a significant economic sector supporting millions of American jobs. What federal policies would you support to strengthen artists, nonprofit cultural organizations, museums, historic sites, and creative businesses as contributors to economic growth?

PA-01

BOB HARVIE: The creative economy supports jobs, small businesses, tourism, and vibrant communities. I'm proud that Bucks County is home to one of the nation's leading art centers in New Hope. I support sustained federal investment in the arts and humanities, grants for cultural organizations, and stronger arts education and workforce development. Investing in culture strengthens our communities and Pennsylvania's economic future.

BRIAN FITZPATRICK: As a Member of the Ways and Means Committee, I have and will continue to support initiatives to support the arts and culture sector including the Performing Artist Tax Parity Act to benefit working class actors, musicians, and performers, expansion of the Federal Historic Tax Credit, and efforts to reshore television and film production back to the United States. I also support the CREATIVE Act, which would expand and repair local cultural facilities while ensuring local community input.

PA-03

CHRIS RABB: Artists are entrepreneurs, and policy should treat them that way. I support the CREATE Act to open federal economic development programs to artists and creative enterprises; portable benefits for freelance workers; the Artist-Museum Partnership Act so artists can deduct the fair market value of donated work; and a stronger universal charitable deduction. Community wealth-building means investing in the local businesses and cultural groups that keep dollars circulating in our neighborhoods.

DENNIS MAHONEY: No response

PA-05

MARY GAY SCANLON: I have been a tremendous supporter of funding for the arts and would continue to find ways to make sure we are using Federal government resources to support the community. I would be supportive of expanding arts funding for our K-12 students and making sure our historic sites are protected. I would also support incentives for businesses to support the arts and have brought federal dollars home to support nonprofit organizations that support the arts.

NICK MANGANARO: No response

QUESTION 6: YOUR COMMITMENT

What is one specific action you would commit to taking in Congress to strengthen arts, culture, humanities, museums, or historic preservation in Pennsylvania?

PA-01

BOB HARVIE: I will advocate for continued federal funding for the NEA, NEH, and IMLS and work to ensure Pennsylvania communities can access these resources. As a former teacher, I understand the importance of giving students opportunities to learn through arts, history, and culture. I will push for investments that strengthen local cultural institutions, preserve historic resources, and expand educational opportunities throughout Bucks County, Montgomery County, and Pennsylvania.

BRIAN FITZPATRICK: I will continue to support the passage of the Historic Tax Credit Growth and Opportunity Act, a bipartisan bill that makes targeted improvements to the historic tax credit, allowing the credit to be more accessible and effective, including a return to a one year credit structure, eliminating the basis reduction requirement which will support affordable housing projects, and several provisions that support smaller projects.

PA-03

CHRIS RABB: I will support legislation to help families in historic neighborhoods keep their homes. In Harrisburg, I fought heirs' property loss and deed fraud, which strip generational wealth and displace the people who give historic blocks their meaning. In Congress, I'll seek federal grants for clear-title legal aid and preservation repairs on owner-occupied historic homes, so preserving history also preserves the communities who made it.

DENNIS MAHONEY: No response

PA-05

MARY GAY SCANLON: I would vote and have voted to ensure that our historic sites and museums do not bury the truth about our history and have been a big proponent of protecting the President's House in Philadelphia and the Smithsonian, as we fight against the Trump administration's efforts to erase our history.

NICK MANGANARO: No response