

**JEFF BARKER**

**Candidate for House District 28, Democrat**

*Recognizing that job creation is a top priority in the current economic condition in Oregon and that investment in the creative arts & culture sector function as a jobs-driver, what policies or practices will you implement to continue to grow jobs in the sector and/or encourage more creative businesses to locate in Oregon?*

**First I would ‘do no harm.’ I will work to keep business regulations and permits at a minimum, encouraging people to bring creative arts and cultural jobs to Oregon. I would support the arts by supporting the companies and industries that help the arts flourish. I believe the Cultural Trust is a good example of what can be done to encourage the arts in Oregon. I would continue to support the movie industry in Oregon. When a movie, a television program or commercial is being made in Oregon, dollars are multiplied in the local economy. Local artists are hired, local business, like food catering, cleaning, car rental, real estate rental and others foster economic development in Oregon. This will encourage startup companies to form to supply the needs of the art community. The result will be more good jobs for Oregon and Oregonians.**

*The Oregon Cultural Trust is an innovative, statewide private-public partnership raising significant new contributed funds. Each year, the Trust is directed by law to keep 58% of its annual revenues in the Trust endowment, and distribute 42% in direct support of Oregon’s arts, heritage and humanities. Donors to the Trust are eligible for an Oregon income tax credit for contributions, after first making a matching gift to one or more of nearly 1,300 cultural nonprofits. Do you support the current Cultural Trust tax credit?*

**I do support the current Cultural Trust tax credit. While we need to review tax expenditures to be sure they provide a value to Oregon taxpayers, I believe the Cultural Trust tax credit is justified by helping the arts flourish in Oregon. The Cultural Trust dollars are put back into the local economy supporting not only the arts, but many Oregon businesses, as well. Clearly many Oregon employers see the value in the Cultural Trust and will continue to match their employees’ contribution. I support the Cultural Trust personally, as well. My wife and I participate in the program yearly.**

*During 2009, \$1.8 million dollars was “swept” by the Legislature from the Cultural Trust for general government purposes to rebalance the state budget. Would you support statutory language that clearly describes the purpose and better protects the donor intent of contributions made for the purpose of growing the Trust endowment?*

**I would support looking at statutory language to clarify the purpose of the Cultural Trust tax credit. While the legislature did “sweep” \$1.8 million to help rebalance the state budget it is important to remember that some of that money ended up in schools supporting the arts and music programs that are so important to the learning experience.**

*In what specific ways have you supported arts and culture – as a private citizen, as a public or private employee, and/or as an elected official?*

**As both a private citizen and a legislator I personally support the arts and culture in Oregon. I have been a strong advocate for arts and music, as basics, in K-12 education. My wife and I have attended the Oregon Shakespeare Festival (we are members) since 1980. We spend at least one week every year in Ashland, and we enjoy other art related events,**

like the Oregon Cabaret Theater, in the Ashland area. We have been members of the Portland Art Museum. I have contributed military artifacts not only to local veterans associations, but sent some of my late father's World War I artifacts to the Marine Corps Heritage Museum in Quantico, Virginia – personal photographs of the WW I Marine Corps Aeronautics Company in the Azores Islands – and a historical part of an air craft that the museum needed to complete a display. I purchase jewelry made by local artists and music created locally. We have purchased paintings by local artists as well. In the past I have helped build theater props and sets at Aloha High School. My wife worked sewing costumes for the same program. My wife and I encouraged our two daughters to take part in arts and music in school. Our older daughter was active in high school (and college) drama, and had the lead role in the spring musical play her senior year. Our younger daughter was active in band and was the first female Drum Major at Aloha High School her senior year. Further, I have been a member and contributor to Oregon Public Broadcasting since 1972.