

**CAROLYN TOMEI**  
**Candidate for House District 41, 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?*

**I will continue to support the film and video tax credit, which encourages moviemaking here in Oregon. We must build an educated and appreciative audience for all forms of art – support arts education in schools and make sure our students have the opportunities to participate in drama, arts and music throughout the curriculum. And we should continue the Cultural Trust tax credit, which, with its matching requirements of donations to other cultural organizations, greatly increases contributions and activities in local arts and culture organizations.**

*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?*

**Yes. And not only in theory, but in practice. My husband and I have been donors to the Cultural Trust since its inception.**

*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 was dismayed by the inclusion of several funds in the 2009 sweep to balance the budget. Unfortunately, there were many different choices that session. Currently, plans are being made to shore up Oregon's Rainy Day Fund; by assuring great financial stability, it is my hope to avoid "sweeps" like that in the future.**

*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?*

**I am a strong supporter of the arts. I may be the only legislator with a cultural trust license plate. I have written editorials in Nov/Dec to my local newspapers reminding readers about the cultural trust tax credit. I am actually a member of SAG and continue to act in community theater, most recently this summer in the New Century Players production of Deadly Dancing. I initiated the regular inclusion of poets at the Capitol at the beginning our legislative floor session, and now other legislators are also inviting poets for opening ceremonies. Paulann Petersen, our new Oregon poet laureate, lives in my district, and I was pleased to add my voice in support of her appointment. My husband Gary Michael is both a painter and a musician; his musical group has frequent performances and his artwork is displayed throughout the state. Visual and performing arts play a vital role in our everyday activities.**