

Candidate Information

Your name as it appears on the ballot

Abby Vakilian

City, State & Zip

Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

I am a candidate running for

Scio Township Trustee

Party Affiliation - I am running as a/an

Democrat

As an elected official, you have an opportunity to lead and influence public policy and investment in the arts + creative industries.

What are your personal beliefs, interests and investments in the arts + creative industries? Please check all that apply.

- I believe that the arts + creative industries are important and that they enhance and improve the quality of life, place and economy in our community making it a great place to create, live, work, learn, play and visit.
- People living in my community should have access to excellent and affordable art, creative, cultural and heritage offerings in our community.
- I believe every child in Washtenaw County should have access to excellent arts and creative education at every grade level.
- I regularly make financial contributions to nonprofit art, cultural and/or heritage organizations.

Government/Municipal Planning - Integrating the Arts + Creative Industries

- Government/Municipal Master Plans
- Government/Municipal Strategic Plans
- Government/Municipal Economic Plans
- Government/Municipal Arts + Creative Industries Plan

Commissions - Establishing & Investing in an Arts + Creative Industries Commission

- An arts + creative industries commission charged with developing, implementing, maintaining and evaluating a comprehensive arts and creative industries plan (including public art and design). This commission will have proper resources including a budget and qualified staff resources.
- A Public Art & Design Commission (standalone) charged with developing, implementing, maintaining and evaluating a public art and design program. This commission will have proper resources including a budget and qualified staff resources.
- Working to establish a countywide arts +creative industries commission and/or agency with equitable representation and shared investment responsibilities by all Washtenaw County

governments to develop, implement, maintain and evaluate a comprehensive arts and creative industries master plan.

Public Investment & Policy - Arts & Creative Industries

- Appropriations - direct spending on arts & creative programs such as including funding for commissions and qualified staff.
- Municipal grant program for projects and programs (not public art & design)
- Require the integration of public art & design into government building projects.
- Establishing a program that dedicates a determined percent of municipal construction budgets to be invested in public art & design projects.
- Economic development support/grants specific to arts and creative industry projects/programs.
- Contributed public safety and services for special/community events.
- Government grants/opportunities requiring municipal engagement– with or without community partners, leading, providing staff and financial resources for planning, applications, project implementation and reporting.
- Other grants/opportunities with or without community partners, leading, providing staff and financial resources for planning, applications, project implementation and reporting.
- Disaster relief funds and services should be afforded the arts + creative industries (for and nonprofit) as it is other Michigan industries.

Emergency Relief and Restoration

- Yes, I will work to require that the arts + creative industries are included and have equitable decision-making responsibility at economic development agencies.

Arts + Creative Education Integration for Student Excellent (ACEISE) in Washtenaw County

My pre-K-12 education included arts + creative education.

- Yes, my pre-K-12 education included arts + creative education.

Arts + Creative Education

Yes, I will be an advocate in support of arts & creative education.

What role do you believe elected officials and government agencies should play in leading arts and creative industry development and sustainability in their communities?

Leading & Supportive role .

If elected, what role will you take in leading arts & creative industry development and sustainability in your community?

Please see the above answer .

If elected, I will be a leader and champion for the arts + creative industries in sessions, committee meetings and in my district. I look forward to working with and learning from those in my community practicing in, championing and advocating for the arts and creative industries.

- Yes, I will be a leader and champion for the arts + creative industries.

If elected, would you join a legislative arts, humanities and/or creative industries caucus?

- Yes, I would join.