

Candidate Information**Your name as it appears on the ballot**

Jimmie Wilson Jr.

City, State & Zip

Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

I am a candidate running for

State of Michigan – State Representative - District 32

Party Affiliation - I am running as a/an

Democrat

I am currently an elected official and hold the office of:

Ypsilanti Township Trustee

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.

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

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.

State of Michigan - Arts + Creative Industries Legislative Issues

Michigan Legislative Issues - Arts + Creative Industries.

- Recognize arts + creative businesses (for profit and nonprofit) as an industry and incorporate it in Michigan's Economic Development Department
- Include the arts + creative industries and workers (including gig workers) in Michigan's economic development and workforce initiatives.
- Increase MACC funding, currently set at \$11 million.
- Insist that arts + creative education is available to every child in Michigan.
- Prioritize arts + creativity and engage its professionals in Michigan's tourism initiatives.

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

Politicians have a role in ensuring funding for creative endeavors in public institutions, including schools as well as parks and other recreational facilities. They also have a role in ensuring funding for a diverse business and industry sector that doesn't rely on those fields that have been deemed "serious." Stuart Brown, a leading play researcher and founder of the National Institute for Play, has led and amplified some amazing research on the happiness and health benefits of creativity across the lifespan. The research tells us that it is not only about joy in the moment, but physical and mental health across the lifespan. Health, including mental health, is a major part of my platform. Given what experts are telling us, advocating for the funding of creative endeavors is essential for any leader, but especially those of us who want to see improvements in mental and physical health.

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

If elected, in addition to advocating for funding in Lansing, I would continue striving to be accessible to the industry and community and do my best to link them to resources and opportunities. I think a big part of the role of a politician is not to take over leadership of industries, but to support existing leadership and bringing more people into leadership positions so that industries remain diverse, complex, and resilient.

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.

If yes, which caucus would you join?

- Washtenaw County Arts & Creative Industries Caucus - when it is formed.