

## 2022 NFTA/NATA Candidate Survey

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Please complete the following general information. Thank you.

Candidate Name: **Merv Riepe**

Legislative District: **12**

Candidate Website: **www.voteriepe.com**

Candidate Email Address: **mmriepe@gmail.com**

### 2022 Candidate Questions

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1. Are you aware of an agency of state government – the Nebraska Arts Council (NAC) – whose mission is to support the arts, humanities and creative activities in Nebraska?
  - Very Aware
  - Moderately Aware**
  - Slightly Aware
  - Not Aware
2. In Fy2021-22, the Nebraska Arts Council invested \$1.9 million in state general appropriations in grants and services across the state to support arts programs and access, arts education programs, and supporting local arts councils and organizations. Most grant dollars required a 1:1 match from private sources. Which statement below best reflects your view?
  - The NAC should receive an increase in state funding in the coming fiscal year.
  - The NAC should receive the same amount of state funding in the coming fiscal year.
  - The NAC should receive a decrease in state funding in the coming fiscal year.
  - No opinion at this time.**
3. The State of Nebraska has curriculum standards in the fine arts, which includes art, music, theater, dance, and media arts. How important do you think it is for schools to have content-specific certified teachers in the arts?
  - Essential
  - High Priority
  - Medium Priority**
  - Low Priority
  - Not a Priority
4. U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that the arts and culture sector contributed \$3 billion to Nebraska's economy in 2020, representing 2.2% of the state's GDP, 26,888 jobs, and total compensation of \$1.8 billion. How important do you feel state appropriations and policies to

advance Nebraska's creative industries (including arts, cultural, historical, humanities, science, and arts education resources) are in relation to creating a strong economic future for Nebraska?

- Extremely Important
- Very Important**
- Moderately Important
- Slightly Important
- Not at all Important

5. How aware are you with the Nebraska certified Creative District program?

- Very Aware
- Moderately Aware
- Slightly Aware
- Not Aware**

6. Nebraska adults have one of the highest the highest participation rate in the U.S. in annually attending an art exhibit or arts performance. Is there a specific arts or culture organization in your part of the state that you or your family particularly enjoy, or do you have an artistic talent or hobby?

- Yes
- No**

If yes, please list your talent/hobby and your favorite organization(s) here:

We welcome any additional comments or experiences you would like to make with regards to the arts in Nebraska. Please use the space below. Your comments will be posted on the Nebraskans for the Arts website.

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If you would like additional information about the participating organizations, please contact NFTA Executive Director Petra Wahlqvist (402.817.8176, [petra@nebraskansforthearts.org](mailto:petra@nebraskansforthearts.org)) or view the following websites:

Nebraskans for the Arts ([www.nebraskansforthearts.org](http://www.nebraskansforthearts.org))

Nebraska Arts Teachers Association ([www.nebraskaarteducators.org](http://www.nebraskaarteducators.org))