



**Candidate:** Edna B. Jackson

**Party:** Democrat

**State:** GA

**District:** 165

*Georgia State Legislative Arts & Culture Survey*

**Question: What is your background and experience in the arts? (Check all that apply)**

- I am an artist in the discipline(s) of Instrumental  • Vocal  
 • Theater  • Visual Arts  • Dance  • Photography  •  
Literary Arts  • Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 I am a supporter of arts and culture through donations.  
 I am a regular participant as an arts patron.  
Additional Comments (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last few years (pre-COVID to the present)?**

- Music  • Theater  • Visual Arts  • Dance  • Literary Arts  •  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
Additional Comments (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

---

*Background: The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies reports Georgia is historically at or near 50th in legislative arts and culture and currently with a per capita of \$.14., while the entire southeast state averages \$.71. At the federal level, for reference, spending per capita is \$.47. Furthermore, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that arts and cultural production account for over \$28 billion and 4.6% of the Georgia economy, contributing 154,259 jobs. This value-added to the Georgia economy is second only to retail.*

**Question: How would you support a plan or take action to increase Georgia Council for the Arts funding up to a level to meet or exceed the southeast per capita average of \$.71. A funding increase would contribute to arts and cultural organizations presenting even more accessible programs for all Georgians and contribute to increasing the value-added?**

Your response: Any way we can increase funding for the arts at every level of education and funding will be a primary goal of mine.

---

*Background: An arts education provides a well-rounded education and too many benefits to mention in this survey. Education in the arts frequently leads to jobs and provides the creative skills employers seek. In addition, existing Georgia law, proposed legislation, and several state-driven education initiatives emphasize STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics).*

*With the implementation of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), states now have more responsibility for providing a well-rounded education – including an arts education. Support for arts education can best be done when states are provided adequate funding and resources to administer, research, and provide accountability for arts education programs.*

**Question: How would you support a plan or take action to amend existing Georgia law, secure proposed legislative language, or redirect state-driven education initiatives to emphasize STEAM, where the arts are prominently featured as a priority in education?**

Your response: Arts were important in my own education, from first grade through college. I would push for emphasis on STEAM funding that would in any way benefit schools and our art communities across the state of Georgia. \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Is there anything else to share with Georgia voters interested in the state's health and sustainability of arts and culture?**

Your response: As Mayor of Savannah, I initiated the construction of the Cultural Arts Center in Savannah, which provides performance space, gallery space, workrooms, instruction, and more for would-be artists of all ages to learn and perform, and for all of Savannah to have a space to appreciate the arts. This particular facility has been recognized nationally.