



To: Arts Action Fund Members

From: Americans for the Arts Action Fund

Date: August 2, 2018

Re: Rick Scott and the Arts, 2018 Candidate for Florida U.S. Senate



Name: Rick Scott

Party: Republican

Occupation: 45th Governor of Florida (2011-present)

Incumbent: No. Challenger to incumbent Senator Bill Nelson (D).

Born: December 1, 1952 (age 65) in Bloomington, IL

Previous Public Offices Held: N/A

Other Positions: Served in the United States Navy before starting his career, joining the Dallas law firm Johnson & Swanson, where he became partner. In 1987, he co-founded Columbia Hospital Corporation with two business partners; this merged with Hospital Corporation of America in 1989, to form Columbia/HCA and eventually became the largest private for-profit health care company in the U.S.

Educational Background: Received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Missouri, Kansas City and his Juris Doctor from Southern Methodist University.

Contact Information:

- Campaign Website: <https://rickscottforflorida.com/>
- Campaign Email: jchutz@scottforflorida.com
- Campaign Mailing Address: 3150 Gordon Drive Naples, FL 34102
- Campaign Phone Number: 727-403-5354

Social Media Platforms:

- Facebook: @Scottforflorida 233.3K followers
- Twitter: @ScottforFlorida 30.9K followers
- Instagram: @Scottforflorida 4.8K followers

2018 General Campaign Prediction:

- Toss up (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))

Personal Arts Background: NA

- During a Florida Cabinet meeting on January 13, 2015, Governor Rick Scott and Volunteer Florida CEO Chester Spellman awarded six Floridians with the Champion of Service Award, including one to a volunteer at the historic St. Augustine Lighthouse and Museum. (Source: [Press Release](#))
- Governor Scott visited the Florida Holocaust Museum to commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day on April 8, 2013 (Source: [Press Release](#)).
- Governor Rick Scott and First Lady Ann Scott announced the 2018 Hispanic Heritage Month contests for students and educators and invited Florida K-12 students to participate in the essay and art contests on June 14, 2018 in Tallahassee, Florida. (Source: [Orlando Political Observer](#))

Notable Quotes:

- Governor Rick Scott highlighted increased funding for early childhood education at the Miami Children's Museum. The Governor's "It's Your Money Tax Cut Budget" proposes \$1.1 billion in state funding for early childhood education and care. This is an increase of \$100 per child, which is the largest boost for early learning in the past decade. (Source: [Press Release](#))
- *"Families want their children to have high-quality educational opportunities and research shows a good education begins early. That is why investing \$1.1 billion in early childhood education is so important for our state. I am committed to continued support for early learning, and making sure Florida remains number one in the nation for access to prekindergarten."* (Source: [Press Release](#))
- *"Hey, that psych major deal, that philosophy major thing, that's great. It's important to have liberal arts ... but realize, you're going to be working at Chick-fil-A. Is it a vital interest of the state to have more anthropologists? I don't think so."* – Rick Scott on announcing cuts to certain arts education programs. (Source: [Lexington Herald Leader](#))

Arts Action Fund Congressional Report Card: N/A

Arts Membership: N/A

Examples of Actions on the Arts

- In March 2018 Gov. Rick Scott unrolled his \$88.7 billion budget for 2018-2019. In 2017, the state allowed \$25 million for arts projects. This year, it dropped to \$2.6 million — nearly 90 percent less. Those funds will be split among 489 organizations approved through the state's Department of Cultural Affairs. (Source: [Tampa Bay Times](#))
- Vetoed House Bill 2243 on June 2, 2017 that appropriates \$700,000 for FY 2017 for White Springs Community Center operations and programming. (Source: [Bill Text](#))
- Vetoed House Bill 2729 on June 2, 2017 that appropriates \$80k for FY 2018 for aerial photography in Florida. (Source: [Bill Text](#))
- Vetoed House Bill 4241 on June 2, 2017 that appropriates funds for the Hotel Ponce de Leon - Molly Wiley Art Building Restoration Project. (Source: [Bill Text](#))

- Vetoed House Bill 2663 that appropriates funds for the University of Florida Music Building Renovations Project. (Source: [Bill Text](#))
- Vetoed House Bill 2351 that appropriates funds for the Bill Edwards Foundation - Education and Access to Performing Arts Project. (Source: [Bill Text](#))

Stance on Issues

- **No Budget, No Pay**
 - Funding government is one of the most basic responsibilities of Congress, yet Congress has failed to pass all appropriations bills on time for twenty-two straight years. Florida has seen firsthand the negative impacts of government shutdowns, which is why Governor Scott will work to require Congress to pass an annual budget and meet appropriations bill deadlines, or they will be required to forgo their own salaries until the job is done – no budget, no pay. (Source: [Issues](#))
- **Supermajority vote to approve any tax or fee increase**
 - Just like Governor Scott championed this year in Florida, he will work to require a supermajority vote of two-thirds of each house of Congress to approve any tax or fee increase before it can become law. This proposal helps ensure Congress rightfully treats tax and fee increases as an absolute last resort, not as a knee-jerk reaction to fund government waste. Governor Scott is committed to make it harder for politicians to raise your taxes and believes that keeping more money in the hands of hardworking taxpayers and job creators is the best way to ensure long-term economic growth. (Source: [Issues](#))

Information on Arts and the Economy in Florida:

- In Florida, arts and culture was a \$33.4 billion industry—equivalent to 3.8 percent of the state economy—in 2015. There were a total of 245,652 arts and culture industry jobs.¹
- A 2017 analysis of Dun & Bradstreet data found 58,162 businesses employed 227,843 people in Florida involved in the creation or distribution of the arts—3.92 percent of all businesses and 2.07 percent of all employees.²

Sample Advocacy Questions on the Arts:

- Governor Scott, what is your personal background and experience in the arts?
- Currently, the creative economy is an impressive \$730 billion industry, representing 4.2% of the nation’s Gross Domestic Product. Would you support federal legislation to strengthen opportunities for artists, nonprofit arts organizations, and small businesses in the creative sector to fully access economic development programs?

¹Arts and cultural production are defined by ACPSA as those industries that produce arts and culture related commodities and generally follow the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS). Employment estimates for ACP-related industries are for “direct” employment. [Arts and Culture Production Satellite Account](#) (ACPSA), 2015; U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and National Endowment for the Arts, 2018.

²Findings count active U.S. businesses registered with Duns & Bradstreet in the following categories: museums and collections; performing arts; visual art/photography; film, radio, and television; design and publishing; schools and services. [Creative Industries: Business & Employment in the Arts](#), Americans for the Arts, 2017.

- The budget of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) was cut in half during the 1990s. With its current funding of \$153 million, the NEA spends just 47 cents per American—half the cost of a pack of gum. Would you support a plan to increase federal arts funding to the NEA to \$1 per American, so that arts organizations in your state or district can present even more accessible arts programs for all its residents?

About ArtsVote2018:

- The mission of ArtsVote2018 is to advance the role of arts in the 2018 midterm elections by providing arts advocates, arts leaders, elected officials, and media with needed information to effectively advocate for the arts.