

**To:** Arts Action Fund Members

**From:** Americans for the Arts Action Fund

**Date:** 20 October 2015

**Re:** Jim Webb and the Arts\*

\*Note: Jim Webb <u>suspended</u> his campaign for the Democratic nomination on 10/20/2015; he is considering whether or not to run for President as an Independent.

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Name: Jim Webb Party: Democrat

Born: 9 February 1946

**Previous Public Offices Held:** U.S. Senator, Virginia 2007-2013; United States Secretary of the Navy 1987-1988; Assistant Secretary of Defense for

Reserve Affairs 1984-1987

Other Jobs Held: Captain, U.S. Marine Corps

Educational Background: U.S. Naval Academy, University of South

Carolina, Georgetown University Law Center (J.D.)



#### **2016 Presidential Campaign Information:**

**Declaration Location:** Announced July 2, 2015 via blog post

Campaign Website: <a href="https://www.webb2016.com">https://www.webb2016.com</a>

Campaign Email: <a href="mailto:info@Webb2016.com">info@Webb2016.com</a>

Headquarters Address: Webb 2016

P.O. Box 11742 Burke, VA 22009

**Headquarters Phone:** Unlisted

Campaign Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/IHeardMyCountryCalling

Campaign Twitter: @JimWebbUSA 21,500 Followers

# **Positions on the Arts**

## Personal Arts Background

- "Before serving one term in the Senate, Webb was an accomplished novelist. Notably, Fields of Fire, which was his first book and written when he was just 32, 'has often been called the best book about Vietnam and likened to the war writing of Norman Mailer and Stephen Crane,' Elizabeth Drew wrote in *The New York Review of Books* in 2008." (Source: NPR)
- Webb has written 10 best-selling books. (Source: NPR)
- Served as the executive producer and screenwriter for the movie Rules of Engagement, which starred Samuel L. Jackson and Tommy Lee Jones. The 2000 action thriller was number one in the box office for two weeks. (Source: NPR)
- Webb won an Emmy for his 1983 coverage of the Lebanese civil war. (Source: NPR)
- Produced the documentary Prepared to Serve: The U.S. Naval Academy in the Vietnam Era in 2003. (Source: IMDB)
- Taught literature at the Naval Academy as a visiting writer. (Source: <u>UVA Today</u>)

#### Policy Views on the Arts and Education

- Supported No Child Left Behind. (Source: The Washington Post)
- Does not support charter schools. (Source: Daily Press)
- The state of Virginia has curriculum standards on arts education including: Dance Arts, Music, Theatre, and Visual Arts. (Source: <u>Virginia Department of Education</u>)

## **Examples of Actions on the Arts**

- Sponsored a resolution to designate April 23 as "National Adopt a Library Day" in 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012, respectively. (Source: congress.gov)
- Co-Sponsored a resolution in 2009, "A resolution recognizing the cultural and historical significance of Nowruz, expressing appreciation to Iranian-Americans for their contributions to society, and wishing Iranian-Americans and the people of Iran a prosperous new year". (Source: congress.gov)
- Co-Sponsored the Star-Spangled Banner Commemorative Coin Act. (Source: congress.gov)

## **Congressional Arts Voting Record**

 Webb earned a B+ in the 2010 Senate Arts Report Card by voting pro-arts on three out of four bills and being a member of the Senate Cultural Caucus. (Source: <u>Americans for the Arts</u> <u>Action Fund Congressional Report Card 2010</u>)

#### Arts and the Economy in Virginia

• Virginia has more than 500 non-profit art organizations. (Source: Virginians for the Arts)

- The organizations provide \$849 million in economic impact, as well as an additional \$342 million in out of state visitor spending. (Source: Virginians for the Arts)
- Organizations provided \$447 million in personal income for Virginia residents, including \$300 million in wages for 19,000 employees. (Source: <u>Virginians for the Arts</u>)

## Americans for the Arts Facts & Figures for Virginia:

- Creative Industries: There are 68,554 people employed by 17,381 Arts-Related Businesses. This represents 3.7% of all businesses and 1.6% of all employees in Virginia. (Source: Americans for the Arts)
- Economic Impact: In the Greater Charlottesville area alone, nonprofit arts organizations and their audiences generated \$114 million in Fiscal Year 2010 and contributed over \$8 million of revenue to state and local governments (Source: Americans for the Arts)
- In Fiscal Year 2016 the Virginia Commission on the Arts received \$3,462,374 in legislative appropriations (Source: Americans for the Arts)

# Sample Advocacy Questions on the Arts

- As a writer of historical fiction, you have demonstrated that the arts can facilitate greater understanding of a whole range of subjects. What role do you believe the arts should play in public education curricula?
- Based on your military experience and your work with veterans, do you believe there is a role for the arts in helping our men and women coming home who deal with posttraumatic stress disorder and other effects of combat?
- As a U.S. Senator you were a member of the Senate Cultural Caucus. As President, would you support increased public investment in the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities?