



To: Action Fund Members
From: Americans for the Arts Action Fund
Date: 4 May 2016
Re: John Kasich and the Arts*

*Note: John Kasich suspended his Presidential campaign on 5/4/2016.



Name: John Kasich
Party: Republican
Born: 13 May 1952, McKees Rock, Pennsylvania
Previous Public Offices Held: Governor of Ohio, 2011-Present; Chairman of House Budget Committee, 1995-2001; Member of U.S. House (OH-12), 1983-2001; Ohio State Senator, 15th District, 1979-1982
Other Jobs Held: Researcher, Ohio Legislative Service; Administrative Assistant, Ohio State Senator Buz Lukens
Educational Background: B.A in Political Science, Ohio State University



2016 Presidential Campaign Information:

Declaration Location: Ohio State University on July 21, 2015
Campaign Website: <https://johnkasich.com>
Campaign Email: info@johnkasich.com
Headquarters Address: Kasich For America, Capitol Square, Ste 2100
65 East State Street, Columbus, OH 43215
Headquarters Phone: N/A
Campaign Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JohnKasich>
Campaign Twitter: [@JohnKasich](https://twitter.com/JohnKasich) 322,000 Followers

Positions on the Arts

Personal Arts Background

- Kasich is known to personally attend many cultural events, such as symphonies, ballets, and theater performances.
- The Ohio Governor's Youth Art Exhibition has been displayed annually for nearly 50 years. Kasich is enthusiastic about the program and presenting the Governor's Art Award to high school students across the state. (Source: govart.org)
- Kasich and his wife have twin daughters, Emma and Reese, who are both interested in the arts. Governor Kasich and his wife have made public statements in the past about how the arts have been valuable for their children and that the arts are valuable for all children. They have also spoken about the importance of exposing children to cultural experiences such as museum visits or trips to the theater.
- Mrs. Kasich is said to be a 'life-long lover of the arts'. (Source: ohio.gov)

Notable Quotes

- *"The arts and humanities play a unique role in the lives of our families, communities and country by enhancing and enriching the human experience... I hereby designate October 2011 as Arts & Humanities Month throughout Ohio and encourage the residents of Ohio to celebrate and promote the arts and culture in our state."* (Source: [Ohio Arts Council](http://ohioarts.org))
- *"We will also recommend expanding what's been known as STEM education to all grade levels. Of course, we all know the letters in STEM stand for science, technology, engineering, and math. But personally I like to call it STEAM. STEAM education – to add a capital A for the arts. Any student who's going to succeed later in life, including someone choosing a technical career, is going to need creative skills and know how to apply critical thinking. Those skills are best developed by exposure to the arts. Science, technology, engineering, math, and the arts. Arts community, did you ever think you'd see a conservative Republican ever say this?"* (Source: [2016 State of the State](http://www.ohio.gov), April 6, 2016)
- *"We did have a very tough budget time, and we're not out of the woods yet. But we all felt that the arts are critical. I know that there were a lot of people surprised that Republicans in the House and the Senate and the Governor's Office could actually provide a very strong level of funding for the arts...the most since 1986".* (Source: [Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio](http://www.ohio.gov), May 9, 2012)

Policy Views on the Arts and Education

- Kasich supports the Common Core Education Standards: *"Sometimes things get to be political and they get to be runaway internet issues,"* he said. *"We don't want the federal government driving K-12 education, and in my state- the state of Ohio- that is simply not the case."* (Source: [The Wall Street Journal](http://www.wsj.com))

- The education standards in Ohio include standards for the fine arts including: Dance, Drama/Theatre, Music and Visual Art. (Source: [Ohio Department of Education](#))
- While Ohio does not have arts education as a line item budget stipulation for the State education system, it does make grants on a school-by-school basis.
- During his 2016 State of the State address, Governor Kasich said he supports adding the Arts to STEM education to make STEAM. (Source: [2016 State of the State](#), April 6, 2016)

Examples of Action Taken on the Arts

As Governor of Ohio:

- *Ohio's two-year state budget was signed by Gov. John Kasich on June 30 and includes an historic increase in state funding for the Ohio Arts Council (OAC). The OAC's budget was increased to \$28.9 million for FY 2016-17 - a 27.5% increase over the current biennium. The \$6.5 million increase is the highest received by the OAC in its 50-year history. Of the total appropriation, more than \$25 million is designated for state subsidies and grants. When added to the \$2 million in NEA funding received by OAC, all of which must be used for grants and subsidies, this brings the total available for arts organizations to \$27 million. Gov. Kasich first proposed a \$1.7 million increase for the OAC in the introduced version of the state budget. The House then added an additional \$2.5 million with the Senate also including a \$2 million increase.* (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))
- In December 2014, Ohio Governor John Kasich signed SB 84 into law, which created the post of Ohio Poet Laureate. Ohio joined forty-four other states, including the District of Columbia, that already have an official poet laureate. (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))
- First Lady Karen Kasich instituted "Spotlight: Featured Artists at the Ohio Governor's Residence", which began in the Fall 2013. It featured one Ohio artist, displaying three works of art per quarter at the Ohio Governor's Residence and Heritage Garden in Bexley. This program encourages the community to visit the residence for free tours. (Source: [Ohio Arts Council](#))
- In 2014, Governor Kasich signed the first capitol appropriations bill for the arts and culture in six years. (Source: [Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce](#))
- Kasich created the first ever state wide Capital Arts and Cultural Committee, a group of arts leaders who meet and determine projects to which funding would be granted. The projects that were granted funding ranged from tiny community theaters to large-scale historical building restorations in major cities. The committee also raised funding for all regions of Ohio, not only in the typical urban centers, but also in the Appalachian region. (Source: [Heritage Ohio](#))
- During his 2016 State of the State address, Governor Kasich said he supports adding the Arts to STEM education to make STEAM. (Source: [2016 State of the State](#), April 6, 2016)

- Governor Kasich appointed members of the state school board who voted, in April 2015, to eliminate the so-called “5 of 8” rule that set the minimum number of school nurses, librarians, counselors, and arts teachers that school districts were required to have. It is now up to the discretion of individual school districts. (Source: [Cleveland.com](#))

Congressional Arts Voting Record

- During a highly turbulent period of Congressional funding cuts to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in the late 1990’s, then-Congressman Kasich recorded several years of votes consistently in favor of reducing funding to the NEA. Most notably, Kasich voted for the 1996 Interior Appropriations Bill (H.R. 1977) that cut funding for the NEA by \$62 million (Source: [votesmart.org](#)).
- In 1998 Kasich voted against an amendment to H.R. 4193 that would have restored \$93 million in funding to the National Endowment for the Arts (Source: [votesmart.org](#)).
- In 1995 Kasich voted for an amendment to H.R. 2127 that would have eliminated \$240 million in funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) (Source: [votesmart.org](#)).
- In 1983 and 1987 Rep. Kasich co-sponsored bills to designate the square dance as America’s national folk dance ([congress.gov](#))

Arts and the Economy in Ohio:

According to a [February 2015 report](#) by the Center for Regional Development at Bowling Green State University, Ohio’s Creative Industries (both nonprofit and commercial arts-related businesses) have a significant impact on the state’s economy:

- *Creative industries contribute more than \$31.8 billion annually to Ohio’s economy*
- *Creative industries support 230,965 jobs in Ohio’s economy annually*
- Creative industries generate \$1.13 billion in state and local tax revenue annually
- Creative industries generate \$8.6 billion in employee compensation annually
- Creative Industries are spread throughout Ohio and are not only present in urban areas
(Source: [The Center for Regional Development](#), Bowling Green State University)

Americans for the Arts Facts & Figures for Ohio:

- Creative Industries: There are 82,645 people employed by 19,941 Arts-Related businesses. This represents 3.3% of all businesses and 1.5% of all employees in Ohio (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))
- Economic Impact: In the Greater Columbus Area alone, non profit arts organizations and their audiences spent \$226 million in Fiscal Year 2010, and contributed over \$25 million of revenue to state and local governments (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))
- State Arts Budget: For FY 2016, the Ohio Arts Council will receive \$14,222,050 million in legislative appropriations. (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))

Sample Advocacy Questions on the Arts

- As Governor you steadily increased the funding for the Ohio Arts Council. How do you believe increasing public investment in the arts impacted the overall economy in Ohio?
- How were you able to convince a state legislature that was trying to cut spending and balance the budget to increase funding in the arts, while other states in the same situation cut funding on the arts and other programs they deemed unnecessary?
- As Governor, you consistently supported increased funding for the arts. But as a congressman, you voted to decrease funding for the National Endowment for the Arts. The NEA now sends 40 percent of all its federal funding to state arts agencies, like the Ohio Arts Council, to grant to local nonprofit groups. As President, would you support robust funding for the NEA?