



To: Arts Action Fund Members
From: Americans for the Arts Action Fund
Date: 23 October 2015
Re: Lincoln Chafee and the Arts*

[*Note: Lincoln Chafee suspended his Presidential campaign on 10/23/2015](#)



Name: Lincoln Chafee
Party: Democrat
Born: 26 March 1953, Providence Rhode Island
Previous Public Offices Held: Governor of Rhode Island 2011-2015; U.S. Senator from Rhode Island 1999-2007; Mayor of Warwick 1993-1999
Other Jobs Held: Farrier
Educational Background: Brown University (B.A.), Montana State University in Bozeman



2016 Presidential Campaign Information:

Declaration Location: George Mason University, Arlington, VA, June 3, 2015
Campaign Website: <http://www.chafee2016.com/>
Campaign Email: N/A
Headquarters Address: Lincoln Chafee for President
P.O. Box 7328
Warwick, RI. 02887
Headquarters Phone: Unlisted
Campaign Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/chafee2016>
Campaign Twitter: [@LincolnChafee](#) 23,500 Followers

Positions on the Arts

Personal Arts Background

- Chafee's maternal great grandfather was well-known painter George de Forest Brush. (Source: [Wikipedia](#))
- His wife Stephanie's family founded the Rhode Island School of Design. Her father was its treasurer and vice president. (Sources: [Forbes](#), [New York Times](#))

Policy Views on the Arts and Education

- "He has not announced a specific stance on the state-initiated Common Core standards, but Chafee supported President Obama's "Race to the Top" initiative which was a move toward the Common Core. Rhode Island won \$75 million in grants through the program." (Source: [PBS](#))
- Rhode Island has education standards for the Fine Arts. (Source: [Rhode Island Department of Education](#))

Examples of Actions on the Arts

- As Governor, the General Assembly enacted legislation exempting certain works of art from the statewide sales tax. (Sources: 2014 [State of the State Speech](#), [Rhode Island State Council on the Arts/Wallstreet Journal](#))
- Called upon Rhode Islanders to make a 35 million dollar commitment through a bond referendum for the arts industry. (Source: 2014 [State of the State Speech](#))
- Proposed 1 million dollars in general revenue in support of the arts. (Source: 2014 [State of the State Speech](#))
- Recommended the establishment of a new Creative and Cultural Director at the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation. (Source: 2014 [State of the State Speech](#))
- Recommended moving the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts and the state Film Office to the Commerce Corporation. (Source: 2014 [State of the State Speech](#))

Congressional Arts Voting Record

- In 2000, Chafee voted no on a bill to decrease federal funding for the NEA. (Source: [GovTrack](#))
- Co-sponsored a bill in 2004 to ensure tax deductions of fair market value for artists' gifts. (Source: [Congress.gov](#))

Arts and the Economy in Rhode Island

- Rhode Island has 1,163 arts and cultural organizations which have created 5,200 jobs and over 324 million dollars in economic activity in the state. (Source: 2014 [State of the State Speech](#))

Americans for the Arts' Facts & Figures for Rhode Island

- Creative Industries: There are 12,661 people employed by 2,542 Arts-Related Businesses. This represents 4.3% of all businesses and 2.4% of people employed in Rhode Island. (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))
- Economic Impact: In the city of Providence alone, nonprofit arts organizations and their audiences spent \$190 million in Fiscal Year 2010 and contributed \$18 million of revenue to state and local governments. (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))
- State Arts Budget: For FY 2016, the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts received \$3,261,345 in legislative appropriations. (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#).)

Sample Advocacy Questions on the Arts

- As Governor and Senator, you have been a big supporter of the arts. As President, would you support increased funding to the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities?
- Under your leadership in Rhode Island you helped grow the arts industry's impact on the state's economy. As President, how would you replicate what you did in your state at the federal level?
- In your very own state, the Rhode Island School of Design initiated the idea of turning STEM education into STEAM by adding a concentration in the arts to help nurture creative innovation among the sciences. Do you support the STEAM effort?