



To: Arts Action Fund Members
From: Americans for the Arts Action Fund
Date: August 2, 2018
Re: David Baria and the Arts, 2018 Candidate for Mississippi U.S. Senate



Name: David Baria
Party: Democrat
Occupation: Minority leader of the Mississippi House of Representatives (2016-present).
Incumbent: No. Challenger running against incumbent Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith (R).
Born: December 4, 1962 (age 55 years) in Pascagoula, Mississippi
Previous Positions: Member of the Mississippi House of Representatives from the 122nd district (2012-Present), Member of the Mississippi Senate from the 46th district (2008-2012).
Educational Background: Received his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from the University of Southern Mississippi and earned his Juris Doctor at the University of Mississippi School of Law.

Contact Information:

- Campaign Website: <https://www.bariaformississippi.com/>
- Campaign Email: admin@bariaformississippi.com
- Campaign Mailing Address: 544 Main Street Bay Saint Louis, MS 39520
- Campaign Phone Number: 228-466-0815

Social Media Platforms:

- Facebook: @davidbaria 5.6k followers
- Twitter: @dbaria 4.6k followers
- Instagram: N/A

2018 General Campaign Prediction:

- Solid R (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))

Personal Arts Background:

- Baria formed a music production company in 2013, Darden Music, named after his deceased son. In 2012, Baria's son Darden became ill from rabies, fell into a coma and died a week later. He was 10 years old (Source: [Baria Law](#)).
- Baria's grandfather owned a sandwich shop named Willie Louise Place after Baria's grandmother. He credits the shop's jukebox for his love of music. He inherited the used 45's from artists like Rufus Thomas, Ray Charles, and James Brown. He formed his own collection including albums from the Rolling Stones, the Beatles, Elton John and Creedence Clearwater Revival (Source: [Clarion Ledger](#)).
- Baria is a member of the O'Tuxers, a Hal's St. Paddy's Parade marching crew led by Jackson Parade Founder and former State Tourism Director, Malcolm White (Source: [Clarion Ledger](#)).

Notable Arts Quotes:

- *"I have always loved music, especially live music, and wanted to promote live music in my hometown area... The company occasionally promotes concerts and sometimes breaks even on them. I do it mostly because life is short and I want to help people enjoy it through good music."* - Baria said on forming his own music company, Darden Music, in 2013 (Source: [Mississippi Today](#)).

Arts Action Fund Congressional Report Cards: N/A

Examples of Actions on the Arts: N/A

Arts Membership: N/A

Stance on Issues

- **Real Tax Relief for Working Families:**
 - During this campaign, I have spent a lot of time talking about real tax relief for working families. That's because the recent tax overhaul passed by Congress has failed on its promise to put money in the pockets of American workers. Unfortunately, most of that money has instead gone towards tax cuts for the wealthiest 1% and large corporations (Source: [Baria for Mississippi](#)).
- **Education:**
 - We must prepare our children to compete in the 21st Century economy. This means investing in programs, tools and innovations to help all students get ahead. I believe that we can do more to ensure our students and workers have the tools they need to succeed and that our federal dollars make it to the places where resources are most needed. This means making education a budget priority in Washington (Source: [Baria for Mississippi](#)).

- **Roads and Bridges:**

- Our crumbling infrastructure is a quality of life and safety issue for Mississippians. In April, the Mississippi Department of Transportation, announced the closure of more than 100 roads and bridges. Congress needs to pass a comprehensive infrastructure package that revitalizes our national infrastructure (Source: [Baria for Mississippi](#)).

Information on Arts and the Economy in Mississippi:

- In Mississippi, arts and culture was a \$2.6 billion industry—equivalent to 2.4 percent of the state economy—in 2015. There were a total of 26,077 arts and culture industry jobs.¹
- A 2017 analysis of Dun & Bradstreet data found 2,740 businesses employed 15,069 people in Mississippi involved in the creation or distribution of the arts—2.24 percent of all businesses and 1.13 percent of all employees.²

Sample Advocacy Questions on the Arts:

- Mr. Baria, what arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?
- 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?
- Nonprofit arts organizations are charities, and on average, 25 percent of their annual budgets rely on donations made by individual taxpayers to serve the public good. Unfortunately, the pool of itemizers has been significantly diminished as result of the recent changes in the federal tax reform law. Would you support a Universal Charitable Deduction, so all taxpayers have the incentive to donate?

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.

¹Arts and cultural production are defined 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.