



To: Arts Action Fund Members

From: Americans for the Arts Action Fund

Date: August 2, 2018

Re: Jim Renacci and the Arts, 2018 Candidate for Ohio U.S. Senate



Name: Jim Renacci

Party: Republican

Occupation: U.S. House of Representatives from Ohio's 16th district (2011-present).

Incumbent: No. Challenger to incumbent Senator Sherrod Brown (D).

Born: December 3, 1958 (age 59) Monongahela, Pennsylvania

Previous Public Offices Held: Mayor of Wadsworth (2004-2008)

Other Positions: Certified Public Accountant (CPA), State of Ohio (1983-present).

Educational Background: Received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Contact Information:

- Campaign Website: <http://jimrenacci.com/>
- Campaign Email: Info@JimRenacci.com
- Campaign Mailing Address: 150 Smokerise Drive Wadsworth, OH 44281
- Campaign Phone Number: N/A

Social Media Platforms:

- Facebook: @JimRenacci 20.5k followers
- Twitter: @jimrenacci 8.6k followers
- Instagram: N/A

2018 General Campaign Results:

- Lean D (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))
- Jim Renacci won the Republican primary by 47.4% of the vote with 360,475 total votes. (Source: [Politico](#))

Personal Arts Background:

- Participated in the 2016 annual Congressional Arts Competition recognizing high school visual arts students from each participating U.S. Congressional district. (Source: [Congressional Arts Report Card](#))
- Participated in the 2013 annual Congressional Arts Competition recognizing high school visual art students from each participating U.S. Congressional district. (Source: [Congressional Arts Report Card](#))

Notable Arts Quotes:

- *“Arts and humanities are too often underserved and underrepresented. These subjects need to remain a critical component of child and teen education. More and more, our national economy insists on individuals of creativity and innovation. That being said, it is important to take part in any efforts that strive to bring awareness to the arts. Every year, the annual Congressional Art Competition does just that by providing an opportunity shine a light on the more creative element of education.”* - Renacci said on November 2, 2016 when announcing the 2017 Youth Art Initiative. (Source: [Press Release](#))

Arts Action Fund Congressional Report Card:

- [2016 Congressional Arts Report Card](#): Did not receive a thumbs up.
- [2014 Congressional Arts Report Card](#): Did not receive a thumbs up.
- [2012 Congressional Arts Report Card](#): F

Examples of Actions on the Arts

- **Arts Funding:**
 - Voted no on House Amendment 904 sponsored by Rep. Glenn Grothman (R-WI) that would cut funding to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) by \$23 million each. The amendment failed by a recorded vote of 114 to 297 on July 18, 2018. (Source: [Congress.Gov](#))
- **Tax Legislation:**
 - Voted yes on H.R. 644 on February 12, 2015—legislation which would make permanent three critical charitable tax extenders, including the IRA Charitable Rollover. Please note that the majority of Democrats voted against this bill for political reasons because they feared the reduced treasury revenue would give Republicans a reason to cut domestic spending. (Source: [Congressional Arts Report Card](#))
 - Voted yes on H.R. 4719-legislation which would make permanent three critical charitable tax extenders, including the IRA Charitable Rollover and making a charitable contribution deduction through April 15. (Source: [Congressional Arts Report Card](#))

- **Every Student Succeeds Act:**

- Vote on S.1177 on December 2, 2015—final legislation to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, now called the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA), replacing No Child Left Behind. (Source: [Congressional Arts Report Card](#))

Memberships: N/A

Information on Arts and the Economy in Ohio:

- In Ohio, arts and culture was a \$17.5 billion industry—equivalent to 2.9 percent of the state economy—in 2015. There were a total of 174,125 arts and culture industry jobs.¹
- A 2017 analysis of Dun & Bradstreet data found 19,049 businesses employed 94,040 people in Ohio involved in the creation or distribution of the arts—3.48 percent of all businesses and 1.46 percent of all employees.²

Sample Advocacy Questions:

- Congressman Renacci, 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?
- With the implementation of *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA), states now have more responsibility for providing a well-rounded education – including the arts. Would you support full funding (\$1.6 billion) of the Well-Rounded Education provisions of ESSA, including data collection of arts education programs by the states and advocating for the integration of the arts into STEM education?

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.