



To: Arts Action Fund Members
From: Americans for the Arts Action Fund
Date: August 2, 2018
Re: Ted Cruz and the Arts, 2018 Candidate for Texas U.S. Senate



Name: Ted Cruz
Party: Republican
Occupation: United States Senator from Texas
Incumbent: Yes
Years Served: 2013-present, 5 years
Born: December 22, 1970 (age 47) Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Previous Public Offices Held: 3rd Solicitor General of Texas (2003-2008).
Other Positions: Cruz He took a position with Cooper, Carvin & Rosenthal, now known as Cooper & Kirk, PLLC. Cruz joined the George W. Bush presidential campaign in 1999 as a domestic policy adviser. Cruz served as an associate deputy attorney general in the U.S. Justice Department and as the director of policy planning at the U.S. Federal Trade Commission.
Educational Background: Received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Policy from Princeton University and received his Juris Doctor from Harvard University.

Contact Information:

- Campaign Website: <https://www.tedcruz.org/>
- Campaign Email: ted@tedcruz.org
- Campaign Mailing Address: Post Office Box 25376 Houston, TX 77265
- Campaign Phone Number: 713-353-4330

Social Media Platforms:

- Twitter: @tedcruz 3.1M followers
- Facebook: @tedcruzpage 1.9M followers
- Instagram: N/A

2018 General Campaign Results:

- Likely R (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))
- Won the Republican primary by 85.3% of the vote with 1,317,463 total votes. (Source: [The Texas Tribune](#))

Personal Arts Background:

- Author of the New York Times Best Selling book, *A Time for Truth* about his experience in the Senate dealing with political collusion, a corrupted legislative process, and the bureaucratic barriers to fixing the enormous challenges we face. In this book Cruz tells the whole truth about his time in office. (Source: [Amazon](#))

Personal Arts Quotes:

- *"Moreover, while this legislation is designed to help recover artwork that the Nazis stole during the Holocaust, it reminds us that the need to protect our cultural history in our own time is as urgent as ever... The HEAR Act will make it clear that the United States takes a strong stand against the looting and trafficking of antiquities and other artifacts. I am proud to have worked closely with my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to introduce this bill."* – Cruz made a statement on April 7, 2017 to introduce a bill to help return art stolen by Nazis. (Source: [Press Release](#))

Arts Action Fund Congressional Report Card:

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

Examples of Actions on the Arts

- **Tax Cuts and Jobs Act:**
 - Voted yes on *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act* (HR1) sponsored by Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX) to adopt a conference report that amends the Internal Revenue Code to reduce certain tax rates and modify policies, credits, and deductions for individuals and businesses. This will double the standard deduction, limiting specific incentives for income tax deductions of gifts to charities. Tax incentives would become severely limited to only the top five percent of taxpayers who itemize their deductions. The Senate voted 51 to 48 on December 13, 2017 to pass the bill in a party-line vote (Source: [New York Times](#)).

Arts Memberships: N/A

Information on Arts and the Economy in Texas:

- In Texas, arts and culture was a \$42.7 billion industry—equivalent to 2.7 percent of the state economy—in 2015. There were a total of 358,431 arts and culture industry jobs.¹

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.

- A 2017 analysis of Dun & Bradstreet data found 53,136 businesses employed 219,445 people in Texas involved in the creation or distribution of the arts—3.78 percent of all businesses and 1.59 percent of all employees.²

Sample Advocacy Questions on the Arts:

- Senator Cruz, what arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?
- 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?
- Currently, the creative economy is an impressive \$730 billion industry, representing 4.2% of the nation's Gross Domestic Product. Would you support federal legislation to strengthen opportunities for artists, nonprofit arts organizations, and small businesses in the creative sector to fully access economic development programs?

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.

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.