

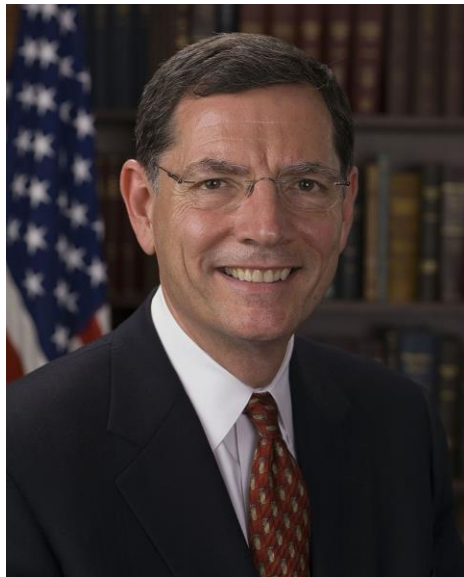


To: Arts Action Fund Members

From: Americans for the Arts Action Fund

Date: August 2, 2018

Re: John Barrasso and the Arts, Candidate for Wyoming U.S. Senate



Name: John Barrasso

Party: Republican

Occupation: United States Senator from Wyoming

Incumbent: Yes

Years Served: 2007-Present, 11 years

Born: July 21, 1952 (age 66) Reading, Pennsylvania

Previous Public Offices Held: Member of the Wyoming Senate from the 27th district (2003-2007).

Other Positions: Worked at a private orthopedic practice in Casper, WY and for a time served as chief of staff of the Wyoming Medical Center. Barrasso was also a rodeo physician for the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association. Barrasso was a board-certified orthopedic surgeon in private practice in Casper for 24 years (1983-2007).

Educational Background: Barrasso began his college career at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and transferred to Georgetown University, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree. He also received his Doctor of Medicine from Georgetown University School of Medicine.

Contact Information:

- Campaign Website: <https://www.barrassoformyoming.com/>
- Campaign Email: johnbarrasso@wyoming.com
- Campaign Mailing Address: P.O. Box 52008 Casper, WY 82605 USA
- Campaign Phone Number: 307-234-0819

Social Media Platforms:

- Facebook: @barrassoformyoming 18.8k followers
- Twitter: @barrassoformyo 243 followers
- Instagram: N/A

2018 General Campaign Prediction:

- Solid R (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))
- Ran unopposed as the Republican Senator in the primary election. (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))

Personal Arts Background: N/A

Notable Arts Quotes:

- *"National Native American Heritage Month celebrates and honors the diverse cultures, histories, and traditions of American Indians. Let's use this time as an opportunity to reflect on the many contributions Native Americans have made to our nation, and the sovereign government-to-government relationship the United States maintains with tribes."* – Barrasso said introducing the resolution to honor Native American Heritage month on November 5, 2015. (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.
- [2012 Congressional Report Card](#): F
- [2010 Congressional Report Card](#): F

Examples of Actions on the Arts

- **Every Student Succeeds Act**
 - Vote on S.1177—Senate bill to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, titled *Every Child Achieves Act* (ECAA) on July 16, 2015. (Source: [2016 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))
 - Vote on S.1177—Final legislation to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, now called the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA), replacing No Child Left Behind on December 9, 2015. (Source: [2016 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))
- **Tax Cuts and Jobs Act:**
 - Voted no on *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act* (HR 1) sponsored by Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX) which would double the standard deduction limiting specific incentives for income tax deductions of gifts to charity, becoming 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

Committee:

- Member of the Subcommittee on National Parks. (Source: [National Parks](#))

Information on Arts and the Economy in Wyoming:

- In Wyoming, arts and culture was a \$1.0 billion industry—equivalent to 2.7 percent of the state economy—in 2015. There were a total of 11,255 arts and culture industry jobs.¹
- A 2017 analysis of Dun & Bradstreet data found 1,008 businesses employed 4,396 people in Wyoming involved in the creation or distribution of the arts—2.87 percent of all businesses and 1.32 percent of all employees.²

Sample Advocacy Questions:

- Senator Barrasso, what is your personal background and experience in the arts?
- 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.