



**To:** Arts Action Fund Members  
**From:** Americans for the Arts Action Fund  
**Date:** 11 August 2015  
**Re:** Scott Walker and the Arts\*

\*Note: Scott Walker suspended his Presidential campaign on 9/21/15

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**Name:** Scott Walker  
**Party:** Republican  
**Born:** 2 November 1967, Colorado Springs, Colorado  
**Previous Public Offices Held:** Governor of Wisconsin: 2011-present;  
Executive of Milwaukee County: 2002-2007; Wisconsin State Assembly,  
14th District: 1993-2002  
**Other Jobs Held:** American Red Cross  
**Educational Background:** Marquette University (did not graduate)

#### 2016 Presidential Campaign Information:

**Declaration Location:** Waukesha County Expo Center, Waukesha,  
Wisconsin, July 13, 2015

**Campaign Website:** <https://www.scottwalker.com>

**Campaign Email:** [info@scottwalker.com](mailto:info@scottwalker.com)

**Headquarters Address:** Unlisted

**Headquarters Phone:** Unlisted

**Campaign Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/scottwalker?fref=ts>

**Campaign Twitter:** [@ScottWalker](https://twitter.com/ScottWalker) 187,000 Followers



## Positions on the Arts

### **Personal Arts Background**

- “Although he can’t carry a tune, that doesn’t stop him from trying, according to Walker’s wife. He met his wife on karaoke night at a local barbecue restaurant. Too embarrassed to go up and talk to her, he left his number on a napkin and walked out of the bar. At their wedding reception, he serenaded her with Elvis Presley’s “*Can’t Help Falling in Love*.” She has since forbidden him from singing on the campaign trail.” (Source: [The Fiscal Times](#))

### **Policy Views on the Arts and Education**

- Walker does not support the Common Core Education Standards and believes everything should be locally determined. (Source: [The Blaze](#))

### **Examples of Actions on the Arts**

- Walker’s state budgets have cut 68% of arts funding in Wisconsin. (Source: [Journal Sentinel](#))
- He merged the Wisconsin Arts Board and Department of Tourism. The merge cut funding for the arts board from \$2.4 million to \$759,000 and sent the funding through the Department of Tourism. (Source: [isthmus.com](#))
- Cut the \$2,000 budget for the Wisconsin poet laureate in proposed 2011 budget. (Source: [Bloomberg](#))
- First Lady Tonette Walker instituted the “Walk with Walker” program, where “she visits some of Wisconsin’s most picturesque trails, parks, and landscapes, promoting health and fitness while showcasing some of the beautiful but lesser known sites across the state.” (Source: [First Lady Tonette Walker](#))

### **Arts and the Economy in Wisconsin**

- Local nonprofit arts organizations generate \$535 million in economic impact each year. (Source: [Wisconsin Arts Board](#))
- The arts industry generates \$65 million in local and state tax revenues. (Source: [Wisconsin Arts Board](#))
- The arts industry also supports 22,872 in full-time equivalent jobs and provide \$479 million in employee income. (Source: [Wisconsin Arts Board](#))

### **Americans for the Arts Facts & Figures for Wisconsin:**

- Creative Industries: There are 42,183 people employed by 9,885 Arts-Related Businesses. This represents 3.2% of all businesses and 1.4% of all employees in Wisconsin. (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))
- Economic Impact: In the state of Wisconsin, nonprofit arts organizations and their audiences generated \$535 million in Fiscal Year 2010 and contributed over \$64 million of revenue to state and local governments (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))

- In Fiscal Year 2014/2015 the Wisconsin Arts Board received \$780,000 in legislative appropriations (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))

### **Sample Advocacy Questions on the Arts**

- As Governor, you cut funding for the arts by 68% and merged it with the Department of Tourism, if elected President would you increase or cut federal funding for the arts?
- The arts industry has a \$535 million economic impact in your state, which is smaller than surrounding states such as Minnesota, which is around a \$1 billion economic impact. Do you believe there is a role for government to help grow the arts industry?
- Do you believe the arts have an important role in promoting tourism to America and if so, what kinds of policies would you put forward to this effect?