

Candidate: Camden
McConnell
Party: Libertarian
State: California
District: 7



1. **Question:** What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?

Music Theater Visual Arts Dance Literary Arts Other None

Additional Comments (optional):

I work full time and live a considerable distance from locations for performances. I would be most likely to attend theatrical presentations and do so on occasion.

2. **Background:** The budget of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) was cut in half during the 1990s. With its current funding of \$144.7 million, the NEA spends just 48 cents per American—about the cost of a pack of gum.

Question: Do you support a significant funding increase for the National Endowment for the Arts, so that arts organizations in your district can present more high quality arts programs for all of its citizens?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Undecided

Additional Comments (optional):

Phrased as a question, I read as a statement to agree or disagree. I support the termination of all Federal funding for the NEA. Why should we allow someone (even all of us collectively) to put a gun to the head of an individual to obtain money to pay for that which he does not personally want? History shows us that the arts flourish well without government support. Keeping government out of the arts is most likely to permit liberty of the artist.

3. **Background:** Prior to the budget cuts of the 1990s, the NEA partnered with local arts agencies to re-grant funds in their communities, ensuring strong local input and control over artistic programming, especially in rural and underserved areas. After the cuts, however, the re-granting partnership ended because of insufficient funds.

Question: Do you support dedicated funding for an NEA re-granting program for local arts agencies?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Undecided

Additional Comments (optional):

Again, phrased as a question. My "disagree" may be read as "No." I support an end to all Federal funding of the arts. Notice that there is no mention in the Constitution of funding such private endeavors.

4. **Background:** The *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) defines the arts as a core academic subject, allowing school districts to use federal funding for arts education instruction. However, implementation of NCLB has dramatically reduced the time spent teaching the arts around the country and increased the need for federal-level research measuring the status and condition of the arts.

Question: Do you support strengthening arts education and research through the reauthorization of NCLB?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Undecided

Additional Comments (optional):

NCLB needs to be repealed and all Federal funding for education stopped. Happily, we will see this clearly as the coming economic collapse of our "system" unfolds.

5. **Background:** The Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which has been level-funded at about \$400 million for several years, is a major provider of arts programming on public television and radio.

Question: Do you support increased funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Undecided

Additional Comments (optional):

Once again, I support an end to all such funding. If there is a market for commercial-free radio and television, it will pay for itself. I notice, too, that there is an abundance of what can only be called "commercials" on the so-called "public broadcasting networks."

6. **Background:** Currently, art collectors can claim a fair market value tax deduction for works that they donate to cultural organizations, but artists can claim only the cost of materials when they donate work that they have created.

Question: Do you support bipartisan legislation to correct this inequity and to ensure that museums, libraries, and other cultural organizations receive donations?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Undecided

Additional Comments (optional):

This sort of possible inequity comes about from the existence of an income tax. Hopefully, in the sorting out of the detritus from our economic collapse, we can do away with it. In the meantime, the income tax structure offers the perfect opportunity for an artist to set an unreasonably high price on his work and donate it, to protect other real income from taxation. The present rule appears to prevent this practice.

For more detailed information on these arts policy issues, please visit:
www.ArtsActionFund.org/sc/LegislativePriorities

Completed By: Camden McConnell

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Please fax or e-mail survey responses to 202.371.0424 or jstrieter@artsusa.org.

Questions? Please contact Arts Action Fund Coordinator Jessica Strieter at jstrieter@artsusa.org or 202.371.2830.