



**To:** Arts Action Fund Members  
**From:** Americans for the Arts Action Fund  
**Date:** August 2, 2018  
**Re:** Kyrsten Sinema and the Arts, 2018 Candidate for Arizona U.S. Senate

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**Name:** Kyrsten Sinema  
**Party:** Democrat  
**Occupation:** Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Arizona's 9<sup>th</sup> district (2013-Present).  
**Incumbent:** No. Open seat held by Senator Jeff Flake (R).  
**Born:** July 12, 1976 (age 42) in Tucson, AZ.  
**Previous Public Offices Held:** Member of the Arizona Senate from the 15th district (2011-2012). Member of the Arizona House of Representatives from the 15th district (2005-2011).  
**Other Positions:** Was a social worker (1995 to 2002). Sinema became a criminal defense lawyer in 2005. She has also taught law, policy, and grant-writing classes at Arizona Summit Law School and Arizona State University since 2003.  
**Educational Background:** Received her Bachelor of Arts from Brigham Young University. Later she received her Master of Social Work and Juris Doctor from Arizona State University. She also earned a Ph.D. in Justice Studies from Arizona State.

**Contact Information:**

- Campaign Website: <https://kyrstensinema.com/>
- Campaign Email: [info@kyrstensinema.com](mailto:info@kyrstensinema.com)
- Campaign Mailing Address: Post Office Box 7586 Phoenix, AZ 85011-7586
- Campaign Phone Number: 480-526-7070

**Social Media Platforms:**

- Facebook: @ksinemaaz 52.8k followers
- Twitter: @kyrstensinema 33.4k followers
- Instagram: @kyrstensinema 3.4k followers

### 2018 General Campaign Prediction:

- Toss up (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))
- Latest Election Polls as of April 2018: (Source: [Vox](#))
  - Sinema: 48%; McSally: 42%; 10 % undecided
  - Sinema: 50%; Ward: 40%; 10% undecided
  - Sinema: 59%; Arpaio 33%; 8% undecided

### Personal Arts Background:

- Sinema is the author of *Unite and Conquer: How to Build Coalitions that Win and Last* published in 2009, about forging connections – both personal and political – to broaden potential partners and expand tactical options. Sinema uses her own experience and campaign stories to offer advice on navigating state politics. (Source: [Phoenix New Times](#))
- Participated in the 2013 and 2016 annual Congressional Arts Competition recognizing high school visual art students from each participating U.S. Congressional district. (Source: [Congressional Report Card, Arts Action Fund](#))
- Her favorite musicians are Counting Crows and Jack Johnson and one of her favorite hobbies is reading. (Source: [Vote Smart](#))

### Notable Arts Quotes:

- On October 10, 2013, Sinema released the following statement regarding news that administration officials will now permit states to use state funds to reopen some national parks that were closed during the government shutdown. (Source: [Vote Smart](#))
- *"I'm pleased that Arizona now has the opportunity to re-open the Grand Canyon during government shutdown. Arizona loses millions of dollars every day the Grand Canyon is closed to tourists and visitors, and our local businesses are suffering. Today's announcement provides an opportunity for our state to earn the \$2.7 million per day our local economy depends on from national parks."* - Congresswoman Krysten Sinema. (Source: [Vote Smart](#))

### Arts Action Fund Congressional Report Card:

- 2016 [Congressional Arts Report Card](#): Thumbs up

### Examples of Actions on the Arts

- **Arts Funding:** For members of the U.S. House
  - 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](#))
- **Arts Education:**
  - 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 Report Card, Arts Action Fund](#))
  - Voted yes on House Bill 2557 that required the Department of Education to survey school districts to determine to what extent they provide instruction in physical

education, the arts, music, and vocational education and submit collected information to the governor, president of the senate, and speaker of the house before December 15, 2008 (Sec 4). The concurrence vote passed the house with a vote of 47-9 on May 14, 2008. (Source: [Vote Smart](#))

- Sinema is working to strengthen STEAM education for primary and secondary students, and to increase access to technical and skills training. (Source: [Sinema Website](#))

- **Tax Legislation:**

- Vote 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 Report Card, Arts Action Fund](#))
- 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. Legislation passed in Congress by a vote of 277 to 130 on July 17, 2014. (Source: [Congressional Report Card, Arts Action Fund](#))

- **Letters:**

- Cosigned a “Dear Colleague” letter on March 22, 2016, asking House appropriators to support an increased funding level of \$155 million for the National Endowment for the Arts in FY 2017. The letter was initiated by Congressional Arts Caucus co-Chairs Reps. Louise Slaughter (D-NY) and Leonard Lance (R-NJ). (Source: [Congressional Report Card, Arts Action Fund](#))
- Cosigned a “Dear Colleague” letter on March 24, 2016, from Reps. Paul Tonko (D-NY), David McKinley (R-WV), and Arts Caucus co-chairs Reps. Louise Slaughter (D-NY) and Leonard Lance (R-NJ) supporting “robust” funding for the Office of Museum Services in FY 2017. (Source: [Congressional Report Card, Arts Action Fund](#))
- Cosigned a “Dear Colleague” letter on March 24, 2016, from STEAM Caucus co-chairs Reps. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) and Elise Stefanik (R-NY), and Reps. Carlos Curbelo (R-FL) and Katherine Clark (D-MA) supporting full funding for the Student Support and Academic Enrichment grant program. (Source: [Congressional Report Card, Arts Action Fund](#))

### **Arts Memberships:**

- Sinema has been a member in the House Congressional Arts Caucus since 2016. She is currently serving as a member in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress. There are 34 members and the list is maintained by office of Caucus Co-Chairs, Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) and Senator Tom Udall (D-NM). (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))
- Sinema has been a member in the Congressional STEAM Caucus since 2016. She is currently serving as a member in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress. There are 85 members and the list is maintained by office of Caucus co-chairs, Representative Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) and Representative Elise Stefanik (R-NY). (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))

### Information on Arts and the Economy in Arizona:

- In Arizona, arts and culture was a \$9.00 billion industry—equivalent to 3.10 percent of the state economy—in 2015. There were a total of direct 90,287 arts and culture industry jobs.<sup>1</sup>
- A 2017 analysis of Dun & Bradstreet data found 14,522 businesses employed 74,688 people in Arizona involved in the creation or distribution of the arts—4.38 percent of all businesses and 2.39 percent of all employees.<sup>2</sup>

### Sample Advocacy Questions on the Arts:

- Congresswoman Sinema, 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.

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<sup>1</sup>Arts 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.

<sup>2</sup> Findings 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