



To: Arts Action Fund Members
From: Americans for the Arts Action Fund
Date: August 2, 2018
Re: Chris Murphy and the Arts, 2018 Candidate for Connecticut U.S. Senate



Name: Chris Murphy
Party: Democrat
Occupation: United States Senator from Connecticut
Incumbent: Yes
Years Served: 2013 - Present, 5 years
Born: August 3, 1973 (age 44) in White Plains, NY
Previous Public Offices Held: Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Connecticut's 5th district (2007-2013), Member of the Connecticut Senate from the 16th district (2003-2007), Member of Connecticut House of Representatives, the 81st district (1999-2003).
Other Positions: Murphy was campaign manager for Charlotte Koskoff's campaign for the House. He also worked for Connecticut State Senate Majority Leader George Jepsen (1997-1998). He was first elected to office in 1997 winning a seat on the Planning and Zoning Commission.
Educational Background: Received his Bachelor of Arts from Williams College, and his JD from the University of Connecticut School of Law.

Contact Information:

- Campaign Website: <https://chrismurphy.com/>
- Campaign Email: N/A
- Campaign Mailing Address: Colt Gateway 120 Huyshope Avenue, Suite 401 Hartford, CT 06106
- Campaign Phone Number: (860) 549-8463

Social Media Platforms:

- Twitter: @ChrisMurphyCT 703K followers
- Facebook: @ChrisMurphyCT 286.6K followers
- Instagram: @chrismurphyct 8.1K followers

2018 General Campaign Prediction:

- Solid D (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))
- Last General Election: 54.8% (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))
- Last Primary Election: 68.0% (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))

Personal Arts Background: N/A

Notable Arts Quotes:

- *"From poetry to puppets, arts-infused education to outdoor performance, these competitive awards represent the depth and breadth of Connecticut's incredible arts community. We are proud to announce these awards, totaling more than \$1 million, to advance, support and inspire the arts in towns across Connecticut. Whether it is in the classroom, in our parks, or in our museums and theaters, the arts enliven and enrich our understanding and appreciation of who we are as a community, and we are all better for that. We look forward to continuing to support this meaningful work."* – The Connecticut Delegation, including Chris Murphy, said on May 6, 2015, when announcing more than \$1 million to support the arts in Connecticut (Source: [Press Release](#)).
- *" Connecticut's National Coast Guard Museum will have a fascinating story to tell, and it's going to attract millions of visitors to the area. I've been fighting tooth-and-nail alongside Senator Blumenthal and Congressman Courtney to allow for federal funding for the museum. As soon as we got the green light to pursue funding, I worked hard on the Appropriations Committee to make it happen. Today's investment is a down payment to get the artifacts and exhibits restored and ready to be displayed, but it's also important seed money for New London and the Coast Guard as we all work together to make the museum a reality."* – Chris Murphy said on May 26, 2016 about securing first federal funding for National Coast Guard Museum in committee (Source: [Press Release](#)).

Arts Action Fund Congressional Report Card:

- [2016 Congressional Report Card](#): Thumbs up
- [2014 Congressional Report Card](#): Thumbs up
- [2012 Congressional Report Card](#): A+

Examples of Actions on the Arts

- **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](#))
- **Every Student Succeeds Act:**
 - Voted yes 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: [Congress.Gov](#)).

- **Letters:**

- Cosigned yes on a “Dear Colleague” letter on March 16, 2018, asking Senate appropriators to fund the NEA and NEH at no less than \$155 million in FY 2019. The letter was led by late Representative Louise Slaughter. (Source: [Arts Action Fund](#))
- Cosigned a “Dear Colleague” letter on March 16, 2016, asking Senate appropriators to fund the NEA and NEH at no less than \$149.8 million in FY 2017. (Source: [Congressional Arts Report Card](#))
- Cosigned "Dear Colleague" letters in March 2016, 2015, and 2014 asking Senate appropriators to support "robust" funding for the Office of Museum Services for the upcoming fiscal year. (Source: [Congressional Arts Report Card](#))
- Cosigned a “Dear Colleague” letter on April 8, 2014, asking Senate appropriators to fund the NEA and NEH at \$155 million. The letter was initiated by Senator Tom Udall (D-NM). (Source: [Congressional Arts Report Card](#))
- Cosigned a “Dear Colleague” letter on April 25, 2013, asking Senate appropriators to fund the NEA and NEH at \$154 million each. The letter was initiated by Senator Tom Udall (D-NM). (Source: [Congressional Arts Report Card](#))

Membership:

- Murphy served on the Connecticut Congressional Delegation that announced over \$1 million in grants from the National Endowment for the Arts to support the arts in Connecticut in 2015 and 2016 (Source: [Press Release](#)).
- Murphy has been a member in the Senate Cultural Caucus since 2014. He is currently serving as a member in the 115th 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](#)).

Information on Arts and the Economy in Connecticut:

- In Connecticut, arts and culture was a \$9.00 billion industry—equivalent to 3.5 percent of the state economy—in 2015. There were a total of 57,326 arts and culture industry jobs.¹
- A 2017 analysis of Dun & Bradstreet data found 10,403 businesses employed 39,419 people in Connecticut involved in the creation or distribution of the arts—4.5 percent of all businesses and 1.75 percent of all employees.²

Sample Advocacy Questions on the Arts:

- Senator Murphy, 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

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.

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?

- 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?
- 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?

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.