



To: Arts Action Fund Members
From: Americans for the Arts Action Fund
Date: August 2, 2018
Re: Joe Donnelly and the Arts, 2018 Candidate for Indiana U.S. Senate



Name: Joe Donnelly
Party: Democrat
Born: September 29, 1955 (age 62) in Massapequa, NY
Occupation: United States Senator from Indiana
Incumbent: 2013-Present, 5 years
Previous Offices Held: Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Indiana's 2nd district (2007-2013).
Other Positions: He practiced at the law firm Nemeth, Feeney & Masters until 1996 and then opened Marking Solutions - a printing and rubber-stamp company (1998-2007)
Educational Background: Received his Bachelor of Arts in Government from University of Notre Dame and earned his Juris Doctor from Notre Dame Law School.

Contact Information:

- Campaign Website: <https://joeforindiana.com/>
- Campaign Email: info@joeforindiana.com
- Campaign Mailing Address: Post Office Box 891 Indianapolis, IN 46206
- Headquarters Phone: 317-231-7108

Social Media Platforms:

- Facebook: @JoeForIndiana 16.3K followers
- Twitter: @JoeforIndiana 4.1K followers
- Instagram: @donnellyforindiana 1.2K followers

2018 General Election Prediction:

- Toss Up (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))
- Last General Election: 50.0% (Source: [Cook Political Report](#)).
- Joe Donnelly ran unopposed as the incumbent Democrat in the primary election. (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))

Personal Arts Background: N/A

Notable Arts Quotes:

- *"Our nation's monuments share the story of our country. It can't fully be told without a National Desert Storm War Memorial."* – Senator Joe Donnelly said on June 25, 2018 in response to the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts vote to locate the Memorial in the Capital City (Source: [Vote Smart](#)).
- *"Now that our bipartisan resolution has been signed into law, our nation's capital can finally host a fitting memorial to the brave men and women who fought and died for our country in the First Gulf War. I am proud to have spent the last several years working with Senator Boozman on this effort, and I look forward to the day when we can visit the National Desert Storm Memorial and pay our respects on behalf of Hoosiers, our veterans, and a grateful nation."* – Senator Joe Donnelly said on March 31, 2017 about a location for the National Desert Storm War Memorial signed into law (Source: [Vote Smart](#)).

Arts Action Fund Report Cards:

- [2016 Congressional Report Card](#): Thumbs up
- [2014 Congressional Report Card](#): No grade
- [2012 Congressional Report Card](#): A

Examples of Actions on the Arts:

- **NEA Funding:**
 - Voted no on amendment offered by Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI) as part of the FY 2011 long-term Continuing Resolution to reduce funding for the National Endowment for the Arts by \$20.6 million. (Source: [2012 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))
 - Voted nay on amendment offered to the FY 2012 Interior Appropriations bill by Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI) to reduce funding for the National Endowment for the Arts by \$10.6 million. (Source: [2012 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](#))
- **Every Student Achieves 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](#))
- **Letters:**
 - Cosigned a "Dear Colleague" letter on March 17, 2016, asking Senate appropriators to support "robust" funding for the Office of Museum Services in FY 2017. The letter was led by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) (Source: [2016 Congressional Arts Report Card](#)).

Stance on Issues:

- **Arts and Health in the Military:**
 - Joe's first bill as U.S. Senator was the *Jacob Sexton Military Suicide Prevention Act of 2013*. In 2014, after he received feedback from the Department of Defense, current servicemembers, and mental health providers, Joe introduced the *Jacob Sexton Military Suicide Prevention Act of 2014*, which requires yearly mental health assessments for all serving in Active Duty, Guard, and Reserve. This bill was signed into law in December of 2014 (Source: [Issues, Joe Donnelly Website](#)).

Arts Membership: N/A

Information on Arts and the Economy in Indiana:

- In Indiana, arts and culture was a \$8.0 billion industry—equivalent to 2.4 percent of the state economy—in 2015. There were a total of 96,070 arts and culture industry jobs.¹
- A 2017 analysis of Dun & Bradstreet data found 9,647 businesses employed 51,084 people in Indiana involved in the creation or distribution of the arts—3.12 percent of all businesses and 1.50 percent of all employees.²

Example Advocacy Questions:

- Senator Donnelly, research done by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) shows that the arts can address the effects of mental and physical injuries incurred during combat. That is why the NEA is investing \$4.14 million in Creative Forces to expand access to creative arts therapies and arts engagement activities in clinical and community settings for active military, veterans and their families. Would you support funding so that more military personnel could participate in the NEA Creative Forces program?
- 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

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.

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.