



**To:** Arts Action Fund Members

**From:** Americans for the Arts Action Fund

**Date:** August 2, 2018

**Re:** Elizabeth Warren and the Arts, 2018 Candidate for Massachusetts U.S. Senate

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**Name:** Elizabeth Warren

**Party:** Democrat

**Occupation:** U.S. Senator from Massachusetts

**Incumbent:** Yes

**Years Served:** 2013-Present, 5 years

**Born:** June 22, 1949 (age 69) in Oklahoma City, OK

**Previous Public Offices Held:** Vice Chair of the Senate Democratic Caucus (2017-Present), Special Advisor for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (2010-2011), Chair of the Congressional Oversight Panel (2008-2010).

**Other Positions:** She taught law at the University of Texas School of Law (1983-1987), University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1987, and Harvard Law School in 1992. She was also the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the University of Houston Law Center (1978-1983).

**Educational Background:** Received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Speech Pathology and Audiology from the University of Houston and her Juris Doctor from Rutgers University.

**Contact Information:**

- Campaign Website: <https://elizabethwarren.com/>
- Campaign Email: N/A
- Campaign Mailing Address: 24 Linnaean Street Cambridge, MA 02138-1611
- Headquarters Phone: N/A

**Social Media Platforms:**

- Facebook: @ElizabethWarren 3M followers
- Twitter: @ElizabethWarren 2M followers
- Instagram: @ElizabethWarrenMA 892K followers

### 2018 General Campaign Prediction:

- Solid D (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))
- Last General Election: 57.3% (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))
- In March 2018, Warren was 53% favorable to win the democratic primary. (Source: [WBUR Statewide MA Poll](#))

### Personal Arts Background:

- Left her home in Oklahoma at 17 years old to attend George Washington University in Washington DC. As Warren said, *“that’s when the world opened up to me. I saw my first Shakespeare Play, I saw my first ballet, my first symphony. The National Gallery was the first art museum I ever visited. Those experiences have stayed with me my whole life.”* These experiences have made Warren a lifelong supporter of the arts and humanities (Source: [National Endowment for the Arts](#)).
- Warren has authored one book and co-authored two books. Two of her publications are about politics and government – *A Fighting Chance* and *The Two Income Trap* – and her other book is about personal finance, *All Your Worth*. In these three books, Warren talks about her experience advising Congress on rewriting bankruptcy laws and shares her expertise on how to avoid financial crisis (Source: [Amazon](#)).

### Notable Quotes:

- *“The arts help us define our values as individuals and as a people. They give us insight into human passion and moral strength and of deep suffering and courageous struggle. As president Kennedy said, ‘Art establishes the basic human truths which must serve as the touchstones of our judgement.’ For 50 years the National Endowment for the Arts has helped millions of people to explore art and I’m proud to support the NEA.”* – Elizabeth Warren talks about the importance of the arts in her life (Source: [National Endowment for the Arts](#)).
- *“When we make these cuts the air gets dirtier, the water is more dangerous, [fewer] children are well fed and fewer Americans will be secure. I think it’s just wrong.”* – Elizabeth Warren said about President Trump’s proposed FY 2018 budget that would eliminate funding for the NEA and NEH (Source: [USA Today](#)).

### Arts Action Fund Congressional Report Card:

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

### 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: [2016 Congressional Arts Report Card](#)).
  
- **Letters:**
  - Cosigned 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 yes on 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. The letter was led by Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM). (Source: [2016 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))
  - Cosigned yes on a “Dear Colleague” letter on March 23, 2015, asking Senate appropriators to fund the NEA and NEH at \$147.9 million in FY 2016. The letter was led by Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM). (Source: [2016 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))
  - Cosigned yes on 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](#))
  - Cosigned yes on a "Dear Colleague" letter on March 27, 2015, asking Senate appropriators to support "robust" funding for the Office of Museum Services in FY 2016. The letter was led by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY). (Source: [2016 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))
  - Cosigned yes on 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: [2014 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))

**Arts Membership:** N/A

**Arts and Economy in State:**

- In Massachusetts, arts and culture was a \$21.10 billion industry—equivalent to 4.3 percent of the state economy—in 2015. There were a total of 131,169 arts and culture industry jobs.<sup>1</sup>
- A 2017 analysis of Dun & Bradstreet data found 16,157 businesses employed 95,658 people in Massachusetts involved in the creation or distribution of the arts—4.27 percent of all businesses and 2.17 percent of all employees.<sup>2</sup>

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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.

**Sample Advocacy Questions on the Arts:**

- Senator Warren, 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?
- 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. The charitable tax deduction incentive is currently only available to individuals who itemize their tax returns. 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.