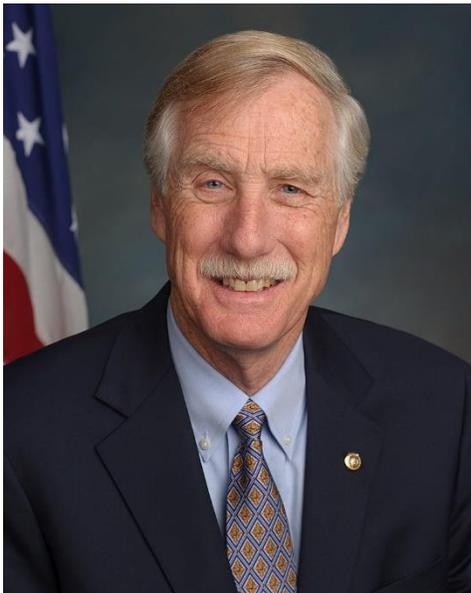




**To:** Arts Action Fund Members  
**From:** Americans for the Arts Action Fund  
**Date:** August 2, 2018  
**Re:** Agnus King and the Arts, Candidate for Maine U.S. Senate

---



**Name:** Agnus King  
**Party:** Independent (caucuses with Democrats)  
**Born:** March 31, 1944 (age 74) in Alexandria, VA  
**Occupation:** United States Senator from Maine  
**Incumbent:** Yes  
**Years Served:** 2013-Present, 5 years  
**Previous Offices Held:** 72nd Governor of Maine (1995-2003).  
**Other Positions:** In 1989, King founded Northeast Energy Management, Inc. He was a staff attorney for Pine Tree Legal Assistance. In 1972, he served as chief counsel to the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Alcoholism and Narcotics. King served as a legislative assistant to Democratic U.S. Senator William Hathaway in the 1970s.  
**Educational Background:** Received his Bachelor of Arts from Dartmouth College and his Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia School of Law.

**Contact Information:**

- Website: <https://angusformaine.com/>
- Campaign Email: <https://angusformaine.com/contact/>
- Campaign Mailing Address: P.O. Box 368 Brunswick, ME 04011
- Campaign Phone Number: (207) 607-4298

**Social Media Platforms:**

- Facebook: @angusformaine 52.4K followers
- Twitter: N/A
- Instagram: anguskingmaine 14.6K followers

### 2018 General Campaign Prediction:

- Solid I (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))
- Last General Election: 51.1% (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))
- Agnus King ran unopposed as the incumbent Democrat in the primary election. (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))

### Personal Arts Background:

- Nature based artwork exhibit featuring large-format photographic prints from *Enduring Heights – The High Peaks of Maine*, a book aimed at supporting the conservation efforts of the Maine Trust for Public Land. This work includes a foreword written by United States Senator Angus King, as well as an essay on conservation in the region by Wolfe Tone, former Executive Director of the Trust for Public Land in Maine. King attended the exhibit at Couleur Collection Gallery in Falmouth on December 8, 2017 (Source: [Portland Patch](#)).

### Notable Arts Quotes:

- *"The arts support communities, attract tourists, and grow Maine's economy. From music festivals to art shows, and from Kittery to Madawaska, Maine people gather each summer to celebrate some of our greatest treasures -- the creativity of our artists and beauty of our state."* – Senator Angus King said on July 31, 2017 in his podcast *Inside Maine* discussing the economic impact of the arts in Maine (Source: [Press Release](#)).
- *"Maine is fortunate to have many passionate individuals and organizations dedicated to developing the arts and preserving our state's vibrant culture. These NEA grants will help sow the seeds of artistic expression and further unify our already tightly knit communities."* – Said Senators Collins and Angus King on May 7, 2015 in a joint statement announcing NEA funding for arts programs in Maine (Source: [Press Release](#)).
- *"These grants are welcomed news and will provide Mainers across the state with new and exciting educational opportunities. Scholarship in the humanities serves to enrich our communities and strengthen society by supporting museums, libraries, schools and other avenues of learning. By sustaining and sharing Maine's cultural heritage, these projects will play a key role in achieving that goal."* – said Senators Susan Collins and Angus King in a joint statement announcing NEH grant recipients in Maine (Source: [Press Release](#)).

### 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:**

- 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](#))
- Supported the passage of the *Every Student Succeeds Act*, which replaced the outdated No Child Left Behind, recalibrates the federal government’s involvement in education, facilitates the sharing of K-12 decision-making with state and local authorities, and makes sure that government has a beneficial and unobtrusive role in education. This new law includes provisions I authored to address the “Homework Gap.” (Source: [Angus King Website](#))

- **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: [2016 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))
- 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. The letter was led by Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM). (Source: [2016 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))
- Cosigned 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: [2014 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))
- 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](#))
- Cosigned 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: [2014 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: [2014 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))
- Cosigned a "Dear Colleague" letter on January 23, 2014, asking Senate tax leaders to protect the full value and scope of the charitable deduction during any comprehensive tax reform efforts. (Source: [2014 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))

**Arts Membership:**

- King has been a member in the Senate Cultural Caucus since 2014. He 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](#)).

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

- In Maine, arts and culture was a \$1.50 billion industry—equivalent to 2.6 percent of the state economy—in 2015. There were a total of 16,577 arts and culture industry jobs.<sup>1</sup>
- A 2017 analysis of Dun & Bradstreet data found 2,582 businesses employed 10,445 people in Maine involved in the creation or distribution of the arts—3.69 percent of all businesses and 1.52 percent of all employees.<sup>2</sup>

### Sample Advocacy Questions:

- Senator King, 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.

---

<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.