



To: Arts Action Fund Members

From: Americans for the Arts Action Fund

Date: August 2, 2018

Re: Debbie Stabenow and the Arts, 2018 Candidate for Michigan U.S. Senate



Name: Debbie Stabenow

Party: Democrat

Occupation: United States Senator from Michigan

Incumbent: Yes

Years Served: 2001-Present, 17 years

Born: April 29, 1950 (age 68) in Gladwin, Michigan

Previous Public Offices Held: Member of the Michigan Senate from the 24th district (1991-1994). Member of the Michigan House of Representatives from the 58th district (1979-1991).

Other Positions: N/A

Educational Background: Received her Bachelor of Arts from Michigan State University and her Master of Social Work.

Contact Information:

- Campaign Website: <https://debbiestabenow.com/>
- Campaign Email: info@stabenowforsenate.com
- Campaign Mailing Address: Post Office Box 4945 East Lansing, MI 48826
- Campaign Phone Number: 517-336-8500

Social Media Platforms:

- Facebook: @stabenow 127K followers
- Twitter: @stabenow 41K followers
- Instagram: N/A

2018 General Campaign Prediction:

- Cooks Political Report: Likely D (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))
- Last General Election: Won by 58.8% of the vote (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))
- Debbie Stabenow holds a 51% to 30% lead over Republican nominee, John James. (Source: [The Detroit News](#)).

Personal Arts Background:

- Stabenow hails from a musical family, her father had a swing band and taught her at an early age to play “boogie-woogie” music. Stabenow sings and plays the piano. In college, she would play bar gigs as part of the duo Dale and Debbie to make some extra spending money. (Source: [Deadline Detroit](#))

Notable Quotes:

- *"Michigan has a long and rich history of contributions to our nation's African American history. This museum will honor many great Americans with ties to Michigan, from Barry Gordy and the sound of Motown to great innovators, like Elijah McCoy and George Washington Carver, as well as trailblazers like Rosa Parks and Sojourner Truth. Michigan's history will be an integral part of this museum, and I celebrate today's groundbreaking as we look forward to being able to walk through the halls of the newest member of the Smithsonian institution."* - Debbie Stabenow said about the groundbreaking of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture on February 22, 2012. (Source: [Vote Smart](#))

Arts Action Fund PAC support this election cycle as of 8-2-18:

- \$1,000 on 11/28/2017
- \$1,000 on 8/14/2017

Arts Action Fund Congressional Report Cards:

- [2016 Congressional Report Card](#): Thumbs Up
- [2014 Congressional Report Card](#): Thumbs Up
- [2012 Congressional Report Card](#): B+
- [2010 Congressional Report Card](#): B+

Examples of Actions on the Arts

- **Funding for National Endowment for the Arts:**
 - Voted yes on House Amendment 753 sponsored by Rep. Nancy Johnson (R-CT) to restore \$98 million in funding for the National Endowment for the Arts. The Amendment was approved and adopted by the house with a vote of 253 to 173 on July 21, 1998 (Source: [Vote Smart](#)).
 - Voted yes on House Resolution 2361 sponsored by Rep Charles Taylor (R-NC) to pass a conference report that appropriates \$27.73 billion for the Department of the Interior, environment and related agencies for FY 2006. The report was adopted by the senate on July 29, 2005 with a vote of 99 to 1 and the bill passed with amendment by the Senate with a vote of 94-0 (Source: [Vote Smart](#)).

- **Tax Bills:**
 - Voted nay on House Resolution 4297 – Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005 – sponsored by Rep. William Thomas (R-CA) that authorizes and extends \$69.96 billion in tax credits and cuts through 2010. The resolution includes sec. 204 which provides an election to treat sales of certain musical compositions or copyrights as capital gains if created by the taxpayer. The conference report was adopted by the Senate with a vote of 54 to 44 on May 11, 2006 (Source: [Congress.Gov](#)).
 - 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](#))

- **2010 Transportation Appropriation Bill:**
 - Voted nay on an amendment offered by Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK) to halt funding for the Transportation Enhancement program, which includes funding eligible for historic preservation and museums, within the FY 2010 Transportation Appropriations Bill. Amendment failed on September 16, 2009 with a vote of 39-59 (Source: [2012 Congressional Arts Report Card](#)).
 - Voted yes on motion to table an amendment offered by Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) to prohibit Transportation Enhancement funds in the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2012 from being used on “lower-priority projects,” such as transportation museums, historic preservation and public art projects. Amendment tabled by the Senate on October 19, 2011 with a vote of 59 to 39 (Source: [2012 Congressional Arts Report Card](#)).

- **Every Student Succeeds Act:**
 - Voted yes on S.1177—Senate bill to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, titled *Every Child Achieves Act* (ECAA). Bill passed Senate with a vote of 81 to 17 on July 16, 2015. (Source: [2016 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))
 - 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. Final legislation passed with a vote of 85-12 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 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](#))

Membership:

- Stabenow has been a member in the Senate Cultural Caucus since 2006. She 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 Michigan:

- In Michigan, arts and culture was a \$13.6 billion industry—equivalent to 2.9 percent of the state economy—in 2015. There were a total of 128,619 arts and culture industry jobs.¹
- A 2017 analysis of Dun & Bradstreet data found 17,394 businesses employed 77,404 people in Michigan involved in the creation or distribution of the arts—3.7 percent of all businesses and 1.55 percent of all employees.²

Sample Advocacy Questions on the Arts:

- Senator Stabenow, 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?
- 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

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.

American, so that arts organizations in your state or district can present even more accessible arts programs for all its residents?

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.