



To: Arts Action Fund Members

From: Americans for the Arts Action Fund

Date: August 2, 2018

Re: Tina Smith and the Arts, 2018 Candidate for Minnesota U.S. Senate



Name: Tina Smith

Party: Democrat

Occupation: United States Senator from Minnesota (Appointed to fill the remaining term of Sen Al Franken (D)).

Incumbent: Yes

Years Served: January 3, 2018-Present

Born: March 4, 1958 (age 60) in Albuquerque, NM

Previous Public Offices Held: 48th Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota (2015-2018).

Other Positions: In 1984, Smith worked at General Mills in a marketing job and later started her own marketing firm, where she consulted with businesses and nonprofits. She also worked as the Vice President of External Affairs at Planned Parenthood of MN, ND, and SD (2002-2010).

Educational Background: Received her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Stanford University and earned her Masters Degree in Business Administration from Dartmouth College.

Contact Information:

- Campaign Website: <https://www.tinaforminnesota.com/>
- Campaign Email: <https://www.tinaforminnesota.com/contact>
- Campaign Mailing Address: N/A
- Headquarters Phone: N/A

Social Media Platforms:

- Twitter: @TinaSmithMN 60.3K followers
- Facebook: @TinaSmithMN 19.6K followers
- Instagram: @tinasmithmn 1.1K followers

2018 General Campaign Prediction:

- Lean D (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))
- Smith is running as the Democrat Incumbent in primary election. (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))

Personal Background on the Arts:

- Worked as a non-profit executive for various organizations (Source: [Grand Forks Herald](#)).

Notable Arts Quotes: N/A

Arts Action Fund Congressional Report Card: N/A

Examples of Actions on the Arts

- **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](#)).

Stance on Issues

- **Quality Education for All Minnesotans**
 - All-Day Kindergarten: As Lt. Governor, Tina fought an uphill battle to establish all-day kindergarten for all Minnesota children. Supporting our littlest learners improves access to education and helps close the achievement gap while saving parents from costly childcare expenses. (Source: [Tina for Minnesota](#))
 - Sen. Smith believes that every young person has a right to a high-quality K-12 education. That starts with addressing the teacher shortage, particularly in rural areas and in STEM and technical education fields and ensuring that K-12 teachers have the support they need to be successful in the classroom. (Source: [Tina for Minnesota](#))
- **Supporting Minnesota’s Farmers and Rural Communities:**
 - A growing agricultural economy and vibrant rural communities are the heart of Minnesota. As a member of the Agriculture Committee, Tina is working to pass a Farm Bill that invests in Minnesota farmers and rural communities and expands essential broadband infrastructure across the state. (Source: [Tina for Minnesota](#))
 - In many places in rural Minnesota, there is a devastating lack of affordable housing. Tina has introduced legislation to help Minnesotans afford to stay in their homes by maintaining rental assistance through the Rural Housing Service at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. (Source: [Tina for Minnesota](#))
- **Supporting our Veterans**
 - Quality and Timely Health Care for Veterans: Veterans should have access to quality, timely health care. That is why Tina is committed to pushing the Department of Veterans Affairs to end the backlog of cases so that veterans don't have to wait months to get treatment – which can put the lives of patients at risk. (Source: [Tina for Minnesota](#))

Information on the Arts and Economy in Minnesota:

- In Minnesota, arts and culture was a \$11.4 billion industry—equivalent to 3.5 percent of the state economy—in 2015. There were a total of 98,285 arts and culture industry jobs.¹
- A 2017 analysis of Dun & Bradstreet data found 13,039 businesses employed 61,321 people in Minnesota involved in the creation or distribution of the arts—4.02 percent of all businesses and 1.79 percent of all employees.²

Arts Membership: N/A

Sample Advocacy Questions on the Arts:

- Senator Smith, 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?
- 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?
- Currently, the creative economy is an impressive \$730 billion industry, representing 4.2% of the nation’s Gross Domestic Product. Would you support federal legislation to strengthen opportunities for artists, nonprofit arts organizations, and small businesses in the creative sector to fully access economic development programs?

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.

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.