



To: Arts Action Fund Members
From: Americans for the Arts Action Fund
Date: August 2, 2018
Re: Claire McCaskill and the Arts, 2018 Candidate for Missouri U.S. Senate



Name: Claire McCaskill
Party: Democrat
Occupation: United States Senator from Missouri
Incumbent: Yes
Years Served: 2007-Present, 11 years
Born: July 24, 1953 (age 64) in Rolla, Missouri.
Previous Public Offices Held: 34th Auditor of Missouri (1999-2007), Prosecutor of Jackson County (1993-1998), Member of the Missouri House of Representatives from the 42nd district (1983-1988).
Other Positions: N/A
Educational Background: Attended the University of Missouri where she received her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and later earned her Juris Doctor from the University of Missouri School of Law.

2018 Primary Campaign Information:

- Campaign Website: <https://clairemccaskill.com/>
- Campaign Email: info@clairemccaskill.com
- Campaign Mailing Address: Post Office Box 300077 Saint Louis, MO 63130
- Campaign Phone Number: 314-918-8100

Social Media Platforms:

- Facebook: @clairemccaskill 134K followers
- Twitter: @McCaskill4MO 4.2K followers
- Instagram: @McCaskill4MO 563 followers

2018 General Campaign Prediction:

- Toss Up (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))
- Last General Election: 54.8% (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))

Personal Arts Background:

- McCaskill attended the swearing-in ceremony for Jane Chu on July 23, 2014. “I’d like to acknowledge our two Missouri Senators, Senator Claire McCaskill and Senator Roy Blunt, for your sponsorship and endorsement...” – Jane Chu (Source: [Arts.Gov](#))

Notable Arts Quotes:

- “I have no doubt that Jane will make Missouri proud. She’s spent years enriching the culture and strengthening the business community in Kansas City, and I’m looking forward to seeing her bring that same leadership to the national stage.” - McCaskill said on Jane Chu being selected as the new NEA chairman in 2014 (Source: [Arts.Gov](#)).

Arts Action Fund Congressional Report Cards:

- [2016 Congressional Report Card](#): Did not receive a thumbs up
- [2014 Congressional Report Card](#): Did not receive a thumbs up
- [2012 Congressional Report Card](#): F

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—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](#))
 - 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](#))

Arts Membership:

- Senator Claire McCaskill (D-Mo), served on the National Council of the Arts, the advisory body that oversees the programs of the National Endowment for the Arts. McCaskill now serves as ex-officio member of the National Council on the Arts (Source: [Arts.Gov](#)).

Information on the Arts and Economy in Missouri:

- In Missouri, arts and culture was a \$11.1 billion industry—equivalent to 3.8 percent of the state economy—in 2015. There were a total of 93,704 arts and culture industry jobs.¹
- A 2017 analysis of Dun & Bradstreet data found 10,221 businesses employed 68,481 people in Missouri involved in the creation or distribution of the arts—3.47 percent of all businesses and 2.07 percent of all employees.²

Sample Advocacy Questions on the Arts:

- Senator McCaskill, 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.

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.