



To: Arts Action Fund Members
From: Americans for the Arts Action Fund
Date: August 2, 2018
Re: Cindi Hyde-Smith and the Arts, 2018 Candidate for Mississippi U.S. Senate



Name: Cindi Hyde-Smith
Party: Republican
Occupation: United States Senator from Mississippi
Incumbent: Yes
Years Served: April 2, 2018 – Present (Appointed to fill the remaining term of Sen. Thad Cochran (R).
Born: May 10, 1959 (age 59) Brookhaven, Mississippi
Previous Public Offices Held: 7th Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce (2012-2018), Member of the Mississippi Senate from the 39th district (2000-2012).
Other Jobs: N/A
Educational Background: She graduated from Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the University of Southern Mississippi with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Contact Information:

- Campaign Website: <https://cindyhydesmith.com/>
- Campaign Email: Info@CindyHydeSmith.com
- Campaign Mailing Address: 595 Northpark Drive, Suite B Ridgeland, MS 39157
- Campaign Phone Number: N/A

Social Media Platforms:

- Facebook: @CindiHydeSmith2018 10.8k followers
- Twitter: @CindiHydeSmith 5k followers
- Instagram: N/A

2018 General Campaign Prediction:

- Solid R (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))
- Hyde-Smith won the Republican primary election with 57.4% of the vote. (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))

Personal Arts Background:

- Cindy Hyde-Smith speaks with Mark Tullos, president and C.E.O. of the Mississippi Arts and Entertainment Experience in Meridian, during a tour of the center on Wednesday. Cindy Hyde-Smith, who will soon be Mississippi's first female U.S. Senator, spent Wednesday in Meridian touring various facilities, including the Mississippi Arts and Entertainment Experience (Source: [Meridian Star](#)).

Notable Arts Quotes:

- *"The designation of the Medgar and Myrlie Evers home as a national monument will help ensure the preservation of an important and tragic civil rights site. I'm pleased this is a bipartisan effort, which also has support within the Trump administration."* – Said Hyde-Smith when introducing Bill to Designate Medgar Evers Home as a National Monument on May 21,2018 (Source: [Vote Smart](#)).

Arts Action Fund Congressional Report Card: N/A

Examples of Actions on the Arts: N/A

Committee:

- Member of the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies which has jurisdiction over the National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities. (Source: [Appropriations.senate.gov](#))

Stance on Issues:

- **Education:**
 - Senator Hyde-Smith understands the importance of education to ensure a better future for Mississippi children and their ability to be part of an economically-strong state. The Senator believes in the importance of state and local control of public education, while recognizing the role of the federal government to support educational achievement across the country (Source: [Hyde-Smith.gov](#)).
- **Jobs and the Economy:**
 - Senator Hyde-Smith supports federal policies to foster an economic environment that encourages job growth in Mississippi and the nation. She supports the tax cuts and reforms enacted by President Trump and the Republican-majority Congress. She believes in eliminating burdensome federal regulations that hinder small businesses, farmers, and industry (Source: [Hyde-Smith.gov](#)).

- **Rural Communities:**
 - The Senator understands the unique challenges faced by rural Mississippi to provide residents with basic services, infrastructure, education, and health care. She supports policies that will allow rural communities to expand economically. The federal government should not be a roadblock to the growth and wellbeing of rural America (Source: Hyde-Smith.gov).

- **Veterans:**
 - Senator Hyde-Smith is committed to ensuring the federal government meets its commitments to the men and women who have bravely served in the Armed Forces. She understands the changing needs of America’s newest generation of veterans and their families, and is dedicated to supporting efforts to make sure they receive the highest-quality medical care possible (Source: Hyde-Smith.gov).

Information on the Arts and the Economy in Mississippi:

- In Mississippi, arts and culture was a \$2.6 billion industry—equivalent to 2.4 percent of the state economy—in 2015. There were a total of 26,077 arts and culture industry jobs.¹
- A 2017 analysis of Dun & Bradstreet data found 2,740 businesses employed 15,069 people in Mississippi involved in the creation or distribution of the arts—2.24 percent of all businesses and 1.13 percent of all employees.²

Sample Advocacy Questions on the Arts:

- Senator Hyde-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?

- 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?

- 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?

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.

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.