



**To:** Arts Action Fund Members  
**From:** Americans for the Arts Action Fund  
**Date:** August 2, 2018  
**Re:** Jon Tester and the Arts, 2018 Candidate for Montana U.S. Senate

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**Name:** Jon Tester  
**Party:** Democrat  
**Occupation:** United States Senator from Montana  
**Incumbent:** Yes  
**Years Served:** 2007-Present, 11 years  
**Born:** August 21, 1956 (61) Havre, MT  
**Previous Public Offices Held:** N/A  
**Other Positions:** Worked as a music teacher in the Big Sandy School District. Worked on his family's farm and custom butcher shop.  
**Educational Background:** Attended the University of Great Falls where he received his Bachelor of Arts in Music.

**Contact Information:**

- Campaign Website: <https://www.jontester.com/>
- Campaign Email: [info@jontester.com](mailto:info@jontester.com)
- Campaign Mailing Address: 709 Son Lane Big Sandy, MT 59520
- Campaign Phone Number: 406-378-3182

**Social Media Platforms:**

- Facebook: @jontester 46.3K followers
- Twitter: @jontester 25.3K followers
- Instagram: @jontester 1.3K followers

### **2018 General Campaign Prediction:**

- Likely D (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))
- Tester is the Incumbent Democrat Senator, who ran unopposed in the primary election. (Source: [Washington Post](#)).

### **Personal Arts Background:**

- Jon Tester was an elementary school music teacher at F.E. Miley School in Big Sand, MT at the start of his career and eventually was elected to the Big Sandy School Board (Source: [Tester for Senate](#)).
- Tester plays the trumpet and majored in Music Education at the University of Great Falls in Montana (Source: [Tester for Senate](#)).

### **Notable Arts Quotes:**

- *"I was impressed with both the high quality of their work and the enthusiasm of the students. Investing in the arts makes our communities stronger and more vibrant and it opens the doors to new ideas and innovation."* - Tester said in the MAPS press release in November 2017 (Source: [Ravalli Republic](#)).

### **Arts Action Fund Congressional Report Cards:**

- [2016 Congressional Report Card](#): Thumbs up
- [2014 Congressional Report Card](#): Thumbs up
- [2012 Congressional Report Card](#): B

### **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](#))
- **2010 Transportation Appropriation Bill:**
  - Voted yes on 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 offered by Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK) to prohibit funds within the 2010 Transportation Appropriations Bill from being used for any museum. (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. (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) 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](#))
  
- **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 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 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: [2016 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))

#### **Committees:**

- Member of the Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies. (Source: [Appropriations.senate.gov](#))

#### **Arts Membership:**

- Tester has been a member in the Senate Cultural Caucus since 2016. 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 the Arts and the Economy in Montana:**

- In Montana, arts and culture was a \$1.4 billion industry—equivalent to 3.0 percent of the state economy—in 2015. There were a total of 15,180 arts and culture industry jobs.<sup>1</sup>
- A 2017 analysis of Dun & Bradstreet data found 2,508 businesses employed 8,995 people in Montana involved in the creation or distribution of the arts—3.36 percent of all businesses and 1.57 percent of all employees.<sup>2</sup>

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<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.

**Sample Advocacy Questions on the Arts:**

- Senator Tester, 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.