



To: Arts Action Fund Members

From: Americans for the Arts Action Fund

Date: August 2, 2018

Re: Heidi Heitkamp and the Arts, 2018 Candidate for North Dakota U.S. Senate



Name: Heidi Heitkamp

Party: Democrat

Occupation: United States Senator from North Dakota

Incumbent: Yes

Years Served: 2013-Present, 5 years

Born: October 30, 1955 (age 62 years), Breckenridge, MN

Previous Public Offices Held: 28th Attorney General of North Dakota (1992-2000), 20th Tax Commissioner of North Dakota (1986-1992).

Other Positions: Heitkamp worked as an attorney for the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Educational Background: She earned her Bachelor of Arts from the University of North Dakota and a Juris Doctor from Lewis and Clark Law School.

Contact Information:

- Campaign Website: <https://heidiforthdakota.com/>
- Campaign Email: ress@heidiforthdakota.com
- Campaign Mailing Address: 23 Broadway North Fargo, ND 58102
- Campaign Phone Number: 701-532-1412

Social Media Platforms:

- Facebook: @HeidiforNorthDakota 23.7K followers
- Twitter: @HeidiHeitkamp 7.5K followers
- Instagram: @Heidi4ND 518 followers

2018 General Campaign Prediction:

- Toss Up (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))
- Heitkamp ran unopposed as the incumbent Democrat Senator in the primary election. (Source: [Washington Post](#)).

Personal Arts Background: N/A

Notable Quotes:

- *“Embracing North Dakota’s rich culture and art helps preserve and pass down our state’s traditions while also supporting arts education programs. These funds will help the North Dakota Council on the Arts continue its great work, as well as help the Fargo-Moorhead Opera Company grow by providing support and resources to showcase talented North Dakotans and inspire younger North Dakotans to pursue artistic passions.”* - Heitkamp said announcing federal funding for ND Council on the Arts and F-M Opera Company on May 6, 2015 (Source: [Press Release](#)).

Arts Action Fund Congressional Report Cards:

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

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](#))
 - Vote 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 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](#))

Arts Membership: N/A

Information on the Arts and the Economy in North Dakota:

- In North Dakota, arts and culture was a \$1.4 billion industry—equivalent to 2.4 percent of the state economy—in 2015. There were a total of 14,199 arts and culture industry jobs.¹
- A 2017 analysis of Dun & Bradstreet data found 1,267 businesses employed 6,000 people in North Dakota involved in the creation or distribution of the arts—2.35 percent of all businesses and 1.22 percent of all employees.²

Sample Advocacy Questions on the Arts:

- Senator Heitkamp, 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.