



To: Arts Action Fund Members
From: Americans for the Arts Action Fund
Date: August 2, 2018
Re: Kevin Cramer and the Arts, 2018 Candidate for North Dakota U.S. Senate



Name: Kevin Cramer
Party: Republican
Occupation: Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from North Dakota's at-large district (2013-present).
Incumbent: No. Challenger to incumbent Senator Heidi Heitkamp (D).
Born: January 21, 1961 (age 57) Rolette, North Dakota.
Previous Public Offices Held: N/A
Other Positions: Host of the Scott Hennen Show (present), Adjunct Instructor of Marketing/Management, University of Mary (present). Executive Director of Harold Schafer Leadership Center (2000-2003). Director of Economic Development and Finance at North Dakota Department (1997-2000). Director of Tourism of the North Dakota State Government (1993-1997).
Educational Background: Received his Bachelor of Arts in Social Work and Pre-Seminary Studies from Concordia College and his Master of Arts in Management.

Contact Information:

- Campaign Website: <https://www.kevincramer.org/>
- Campaign Email: info@kevincramer.org
- Campaign Mailing Address: Post Office Box 396 Bismarck, ND 58502
- Campaign Phone Number: 701-220-6368

Social Media Platforms:

- Facebook: @votecramer 10.6k followers
- Twitter: @kevincramer 4.1k followers
- Instagram: @repkevincramer 1.1k followers

2018 General Campaign Prediction:

- Toss up (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))
- Challenger Kevin Cramer won the Republican primary by 87.8% of the vote with 60,998 total votes. (Source: [Politico](#))

Personal Arts Background:

- Participated in the 2016 annual Congressional Arts Competition recognizing high school visual arts students from each participating U.S. Congressional district. (Source: [Congressional Arts Report Card](#))
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Notable Arts Quotes:

- *“One thing that all of us can agree on is that small business is the heart of our economy and that there is no smaller business than the single genius that writes music, right? That is the smallest of small businesses. We ought to get the government, to the degree we can, out of the way.”* – Cramer said in a floor speech on December 5, 2015 about the Songwriter Equity Act. (Source: [Floor Speech](#))

Arts Action Fund Congressional Report Card:

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

Examples of Actions on the Arts

- **Arts Funding:**
 - Voted no on House Amendment 904 sponsored by Rep. Glenn Grothman (R-WI) that would cut funding to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) by \$23 million each. The amendment failed by a recorded vote of 114 to 297 on July 18, 2018. (Source: [Congress.Gov](#))
- **Tax Legislation:**
 - Vote on H.R. 644 on February 12, 2015—legislation which would make permanent three critical charitable tax extenders, including the IRA Charitable Rollover. Please note that the majority of Democrats voted against this bill for political reasons because they feared the reduced treasury revenue would give Republicans a reason to cut domestic spending. (Source: [2016 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))
 - Vote on H.R. 4719-legislation which would make permanent three critical charitable tax extenders, including the IRA Charitable Rollover and making a charitable contribution deduction through April 15. (Source: [2016 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))

- **Every Student Succeeds Act:**
 - Vote on S.1177 on December 2, 2015—final legislation to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, now called the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA), replacing No Child Left Behind. (Source: [2016 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))

- **Letters:**
 - Cosigned a "Dear Colleague" letter on March 24, 2016, from Reps. Paul Tonko (D-NY), David McKinley (R-WV), and Arts Caucus co-chairs Reps. Louise Slaughter (D-NY) and Leonard Lance (R-NJ) supporting "robust" funding for the Office of Museum Services in FY 2017. (Source: [2016 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))

Arts Memberships: N/A

Information on 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

- Congressman Cramer, 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?

- 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. Unfortunately, the pool of itemizers has been significantly diminished as result of the recent changes in the federal tax reform law. Would you support a Universal Charitable Deduction, so all taxpayers have the incentive to donate?

- 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?

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.