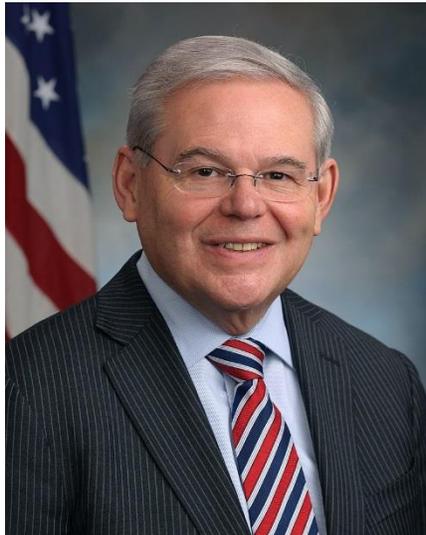




To: Arts Action Fund Members
From: Americans for the Arts Action Fund
Date: August 2, 2018
Re: Bob Menendez and the Arts, 2018 Candidate for New Jersey U.S. Senate



Name: Bob Menendez
Party: Democrat
Occupation: United States Senator from New Jersey
Incumbent: Yes
Years Served: 2006-Present, 12 years
Born: January 1, 1954 (age 64 years), New York City, NY
Previous Public Offices Held: Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from New Jersey's 13th district (1993-2006), Member of the New Jersey State Senate from the 33rd district (1991-1993), Mayor of Union City (1986-1992).
Other Positions: Menendez became a lawyer in a private practice.
Educational Background: Received his Bachelor of Arts from Saint Peter's University and his Juris Doctor from Rutgers University School of Law.

Contact Information:

- Campaign Website: <https://menendezfornj.com/>
- Campaign Email: info@menendezfornj.com
- Campaign Mailing Address: PO BOX 32248 Newark, NJ 07102
- Campaign Phone Number: N/A

Social Media Platforms:

- Facebook: @MenendezForNJ 17.4K followers
- Twitter: @BobMenendezNJ 13.5K followers
- Instagram: N/A

2018 General Campaign Predictions:

- Likely D (Source: [Cooks Political Report](#))
- Menendez won the democratic primary by 62.2% of the vote with 259,875 total votes (Source: [Politico](#)).

Personal Arts Background: N/A

Notable Quotes:

- *“Investing in New Jersey’s local cultural and arts organizations provides enormous returns, not just in supporting creative expression, but in creating jobs and economic growth, promoting wellness, boosting student achievement, and bringing together our diverse communities. The Administration’s constant threats to eliminate the NEA would be devastating to these local organizations and to the immense joy and benefits they provide all of us.”* - Said Menendez when announcing \$1.4 Million in Federal Funding to Support NJ Arts Education Programs (Source: [Press Release](#)).

Arts Action Fund Congressional Report Cards:

- [2016 Congressional Report Card](#): Thumbs up
- [2014 Congressional Report Card](#): Thumbs up
- [2012 Congressional Report Card](#): A+
- [2010 Congressional Report Card](#): A+

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](#))
- **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 "Dear Colleague" letters in 2015 and 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 April 8, 2014, asking Senate appropriators to fund the NEA and NEH at \$155 million. The letter was initiated by Senator Tom Udall (D-NM). (Source: [2014 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))

Arts Membership:

- Menendez has been a member in the Senate Cultural Caucus since 2008. He is currently serving as a member in the 115th 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 New Jersey:

- In New Jersey, arts and culture was a \$22.1 billion industry—equivalent to 3.9 percent of the state economy—in 2015. There were a total of 133,174 arts and culture industry jobs.¹
- A 2017 analysis of Dun & Bradstreet data found 19,264 businesses employed 80,233 people in New Jersey involved in the creation or distribution of the arts—4.06 percent of all businesses and 1.58 percent of all employees.²

Sample Advocacy Questions on the Arts:

- Senator Menendez, 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?
- 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

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.

collection of arts education programs by the states and advocating for the integration of the arts into STEM education?

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.