



To: Arts Action Fund Members

From: Americans for the Arts Action Fund

Date: August 2, 2018

Re: Dean Heller and the Arts, 2018 Candidate for Nevada U.S. Senate



Name: Dean Heller

Party: Republican

Occupation: U.S. Senator from Nevada

Years Served: 2011-Present, 7 years

Incumbent: Yes

Born: May 10, 1960 (age 67) in Castro Valley, California.

Previous Public Offices Held: House of Representatives, Nevada's Second Congressional District (2007-2011); Secretary of State of Nevada (1995-2007); Nevada State Assembly representing Carson City (1990-1994).

Other Positions: He worked as a stockbroker and as a broker/trader on the Pacific Stock Exchange and a Senior Commercial Banking consultant for Bank of America.

Educational Background: He received his B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Southern California.

Contact Information:

- Campaign Website: <https://www.deanheller.com/>
- Campaign Email: info@deanheller.com
- Campaign Mailing Address: Post Office Box 371907 Las Vegas, NV 89137
- Campaign Phone Number: N/A

Social Media Platforms:

- Facebook: @DeanHeller 22K followers
- Twitter: @DeanHeller 23.9K followers
- Instagram: @deanheller 1.4K followers

2018 General Campaign Prediction:

- Toss Up (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))

Personal background: N/A

Arts Action Fund Report Card:

- [2016 Congressional Report Card](#): Did not receive a thumbs up.
- [2014 Congressional Report Card](#): Did not receive a thumbs up.
- [2012 Congressional Report Card](#): No Rating.

Arts Membership: N/A

Examples of Actions on the Arts:

- **Funding for National Public Radio**
Voted yes on *Prohibiting Federal Funding of National Public Radio* (HR 1076) sponsored by Douglas Lamborn (R-CO) to prohibit federal funding of National Public Radio and the use of federal funds to acquire radio content. The House of Representatives voted 228 to 192 on March 17, 2011 to pass the bill in a party-line vote. (Source: [votesmart.org](#))
- **Tax Cuts and Jobs Act:**
 - Voted yes on *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act* (HR1) sponsored by Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX) to adopt a conference report that amends the Internal Revenue Code to reduce certain tax rates and modify policies, credits, and deductions for individuals and businesses. This will double the standard deduction, limiting specific incentives for income tax deductions of gifts to charities. Tax incentives would become 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). Bill passed Senate with a vote of 81 to 17 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. Final legislation passed with a vote of 85-12 on December 9, 2015. (Source: [2016 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))

Information on Arts and the Economy in Nevada:

- In Nevada, arts and culture was a \$6.2 billion industry—equivalent to 4.4 percent of the state economy—in 2015. There were a total of 39,304 arts and culture industry jobs.¹

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.

- A 2017 analysis of Dun & Bradstreet data found 4,942 businesses employed 28,551 people in Nevada involved in the creation or distribution of the arts—4.44 percent of all businesses and 2.18 percent of all employees.²

Sample Advocacy Questions on the Arts:

- Senator Heller, what arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?
- Currently, the creative economy is an impressive \$730 billion industry, representing 4.2 percent of the nation's Gross Domestic Product. However, the artists, entrepreneurs, small businesses and nonprofit organizations that support them are often disconnected from our nation's economic and assistance programs. Would you support federal legislation to strengthen opportunities to artists, nonprofit arts organizations, and small businesses in the creative sector to fully access economic development programs?
- 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 that you supported. 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.

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.