



To: Arts Action Fund Members
From: Americans for the Arts Action Fund
Date: August 2, 2018
Re: Kirsten Gillibrand and the Arts, 2018 Candidate for New York U.S. Senate



Name: Kirsten Gillibrand
Party: Democrat
Occupation: United States Senator from New York
Incumbent: Yes
Years Served: 2009-Present, 9 years
Born: December 9, 1966 (age 51) Albany, New York, U.S.
Previous Public Offices Held: Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from New York's 20th district (2006-2009). Former Special Counsel, Office of the Secretary, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.
Other Positions: Gillibrand joined the Manhattan-based law firm of Davis Polk & Wardwell as an associate. Served as a law clerk to Judge Roger Miner on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in Albany. She became a senior associate while working on Philip Morris litigation.
Educational Background: Received her Bachelor of Arts in Asian Studies from Dartmouth College and later received her Juris Doctor from UCLA School of Law and passed the bar exam in 1991.

Contact Information:

- Campaign Website: <https://kirstengillibrand.com/>
- Campaign Email: <https://kirstengillibrand.com/contact/>
- Campaign Mailing Address: 215 Park Avenue South, 15th Floor New York, NY 10003
- Headquarters Phone: N/A

Social Media Platforms:

- Facebook: @KristenGillibrand 486.6K followers
- Twitter: @SenGillibrand 1.2M followers
- Instagram: @KristenGillibrand 87.9K followers

2018 General Campaign Predictions:

- Solid D (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))
- Kirsten Gillibrand ran unopposed as the incumbent Democrat Senator. (Source: [Politico](#)).

Personal Arts Background:

- Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand released a children's book this fall about ten suffragists who fought for women's right to vote, *Bold and Brave: Ten Heroes Who Won Women the Right to Vote*. The book will be released November 13, 2018 (Source: [USA Today](#)).
- *"The lessons of these incredible women leaders are ones of perseverance and determination and a willingness to never give up, especially when it's really hard. Our history teaches us that each new generation builds on the last, and I hope this book will inspire young readers to be bold and brave in dreaming big and never giving up."* - Gillibrand said about her new children's book (Source: [USAToday](#)).
- Author of *Off the Sidelines*, a playbook for women who want to step up, whether in Congress or the boardroom or the local PTA. If women were fully represented in politics, national priorities would shift to issues that directly impact them: affordable daycare, paid family medical leave, and equal pay. Pulling back the curtain on Beltway politics, she speaks candidly about her legislative successes and disappointments (Source: [Amazon](#)).

Notable Arts Quotes:

- *"There's no fat in arts, humanities, sciences and museums. It doesn't exist. We use every dime that is publicly available to do amazing things."* -Gillibrand said about president Donald Trump's proposal to eliminate funding of the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities in the FY 2018 budget proposal (Source: [WRVO](#)).
- *"The budget as written is destructive, not just for the arts, humanities, sciences and libraries, but for a whole host of ways. This budget cannot be replicated by the House or the Senate. But they are only not going to include those cuts if we fight hard. We're going to need to raise our voices, stand up and demand something different."* -Gillibrand said about president Donald Trump's proposal to eliminate funding of the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities in the FY 2018 budget proposal (Source: [WRVO](#)).

Arts Action Fund Congressional Report Cards:

- [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](#))

- **Letters:**

- Sen. Kristen Gillibrand coordinated a letter signed by 24 U.S. Senators sent to President Trump outlining their support for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))
- Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand annually leads the funding request letter for the Office of Museum Services. (Source: [2016 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))
- 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 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](#))
- 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](#))
- 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:

- Gillibrand has been a member in the Senate Cultural Caucus since 2003. She 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 Economy in New York:

- In New York, arts and culture was a \$114.10 billion industry—equivalent to 7.8 percent of the state economy—in 2015. There were a total of 462,584 arts and culture industry jobs.¹
- A 2017 analysis of Dun & Bradstreet data found 50,337 businesses employed 396,666 people in New York involved in the creation or distribution of the arts—5.25 percent of all businesses and 3.61 percent of all employees.²

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.

Sample Advocacy Questions on the Arts:

- Senator Gillibrand, as you know 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.