



To: Arts Action Fund Members
From: Americans for the Arts Action Fund
Date: August 2, 2018
Re: Marsha Blackburn and the Arts, 2018 Candidate for Tennessee U.S. Senate



Name: Marsha Blackburn
Party: Republican
Occupation: Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Tennessee's 7th district (2003-present).
Incumbent: No. Open seat held by Senator Lamar Alexander (R).
Born: June 6, 1952 (age 66) Laurel, Mississippi
Previous Public Offices Held: Member of the Tennessee Senate from the 23rd district (1999-2003).
Other Positions: Sales Manager for Times Mirror, Inc. She was named Director of Retail Fashion and Special Events of the Castner Knott Division of Mercantile Stores, Inc (1975-1978). Owner of Marketing Strategies, a promotion-event management and image consulting firm (1980-1994). Executive Director of the Tennessee Film, Entertainment, and Music Commission (1995-1997).
Educational Background: Received her Bachelor of Science in Home Economics from Mississippi State University.

Contact Information:

- Campaign Website: <http://www.marshablackburn.com/>
- Campaign Email: N/A
- Campaign Mailing Address: Post Office Box 3750 Brentwood, TN 37024
- Campaign Phone Number: 615-376-2324

Social Media Platforms:

- Facebook: @marshablackburnforsenate 62.1k followers
- Twitter: @Votemarsha 22.7k followers
- Instagram: @team.marsha 1.1k followers

2018 General Campaign Prediction:

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

Personal Arts Background:

- In 2007 Blackburn was awarded the Congressional Grammy by the Recording Academy and the White Hat award from the Nashville Songwriters Association. (Source: [Vote Smart](#))
- In 2008, Blackburn received the Platinum Award from the Recording Industry Association of America. (Source: [Vote Smart](#))
- Participated in the 2016 annual Congressional Arts Competition recognizing high school visual arts students from each participating U.S. Congressional district. (Source: [2016 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))
- Participated in the 2013 annual Congressional Arts Competition recognizing high school visual art students from each participating U.S. Congressional district. (Source: [2014 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))
- Reps. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) and Daniel Lungren (R-CA) provided leadership on improving the visa process for visiting artists. Rep. Blackburn also met with musicians Ben Folds and Clay Walker on Arts Advocacy Day to discuss arts funding. (Source: [2016 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))

Notable Arts Quotes:

- *“Chairman Goodlatte said I come from music-loving Tennessee, and indeed I do. And we are so pleased that we are known as Music City and that, whether it is classical music or country or gospel, that you are going to hear music from every hill and every valley. And we treasure that creative community and protecting that product that they do create.”* – Marsha Blackburn said during a floor speech on April 25, 2018 concerning the Music Modernization Act. (Source: [Vote Smart](#))
- *“Songwriters and musicians are truly small-business people. They work for themselves. Their stock and trade is their idea. And they have the right to commercialize that idea and to be compensated. The Music Modernization Act and the different bills that it brings together to update this system, to protect those copyrights, and to make certain that the creators are compensated, has been a collaborative effort.”* – Marsha Blackburn said during a floor speech on April 25, 2018 concerning the Music Modernization Act. (Source: [Vote Smart](#))

Arts Action Fund Congressional Report Card:

- [2016 Congressional Report Card](#): Did not receive a thumbs up.
- [2014 Congressional Arts Report Card](#): Did not receive a thumbs up.
- [2012 Congressional Arts Report Card](#): D+

Examples of Actions on the Arts

- **Tax Legislation:**
 - Voted yes 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](#))

- Voted yes 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](#))

Committees:

- Founder and Chair of the Congressional Songwriters Caucus (2003-present). (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))
- Executive Director of the Tennessee Film, Entertainment, and Music Commission (1995-1997). (Source: [Vote Smart](#))
- Co-Chair of the Congressional Rock and Roll Caucus (present). (Source: [Americans for the Arts](#))

Arts Memberships:

- Member of the Smithsonian Libraries Advisory Board (present). (Source: [Vote Smart](#))
- President of the Nashville Symphony Guild (present). (Source: [Vote Smart](#))

Information on Arts and the Economy in Tennessee:

- In Tennessee, arts and culture was a \$13.3 billion industry—equivalent to 4.2 percent of the state economy—in 2015. There were a total of 84,663 arts and culture industry jobs.¹
- A 2017 analysis of Dun & Bradstreet data found 10,518 businesses employed 54,587 people in Tennessee involved in the creation or distribution of the arts—3.63 percent of all businesses and 1.63 percent of all employees.²

Sample Advocacy Questions on the Arts:

- Congresswoman Blackburn, 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?
- 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?
- Currently, the creative economy is an impressive \$730 billion industry, representing 4.2% of the nation's Gross Domestic Product. Would you support federal legislation to strengthen

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.

opportunities for artists, nonprofit arts organizations, and small businesses in the creative sector to fully access economic development programs?

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.