



To: Arts Action Fund Members

From: Americans for the Arts Action Fund

Date: August 2, 2018

Re: Joe Manchin and the Arts, 2018 Candidate for West Virginia U.S. Senate



Name: Joe Manchin

Party: Democrat

Occupation: United States Senator from West Virginia

Incumbent: Yes

Years Served: 2010-Present, 8 years

Born: August 24, 1947 (age 70 years), Farmington, WV

Previous Public Offices Held: 34th Governor of West Virginia (2005-2010), 27th Secretary of State of West Virginia (2001-2005), Member of the West Virginia Senate from the 13th district (1992-1996).

Other Positions: N/A

Educational Background: Received his Bachelor of Business Administration from West Virginia University.

Contact Information:

- Campaign Website: <https://joemanchinwv.com/>
- Campaign Email: info@joemanchinwv.com
- Campaign Mailing Address: Post Office Box 5202 Charleston, WV 25361
- Campaign Phone Number: 304-343-0939

Social Media Platforms:

- Facebook: @JoeManchinWV 4.5K followers
- Twitter: @JoeManchinWV 6.5K followers
- Instagram: @JoeManchinWV 586 followers

2018 General Campaign Prediction:

- Toss up (Source: [Cook Political Report](#))
- Manchin won the democratic primary by 69.8% of the vote with 111,589 total votes. (Source: [The Washington Post](#))

Personal Arts Background:

- West Virginia Senator Joe Manchin talks about the positive benefits of the arts for young people and local communities. (Source: [Arts.Gov](#)).
- Sen Joe Manchin said he was raised in a very artistic family and learned from a young age the importance of the arts. Manchin believes in exposing kids at a young age to the arts in school. He used an example of his son Joseph's journey through high school being involved in the arts. Manchin said his son played all the sports, but he also has a beautiful voice and he had the courage to audition as the only male for the madrigal group. After he auditioned, he got three or four other male singers to audition and Manchin said he saw these young boys blossom because of the arts. He concluded saying, the arts really rounded him out, they really completed him as a young man. (Source: [Arts.Gov](#))

Notable Arts Quotes:

- *"As West Virginians, we take pride in our rich, cultural heritage and this funding from the NEA will help preserve our unique history and traditions. These resources will go towards exposing our kids to traditional music and the arts and give them the opportunity to be creative in different ways while expressing themselves."* - Manchin said when announcing nearly \$700,000 for community art programs across West Virginia (Source: [Press Release](#)).

Arts Action Fund Congressional Report Cards:

- [2016 Congressional Report Card](#): Thumbs up
- [2014 Congressional Report Card](#): Thumbs up

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 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 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 April 2, 2014, asking Senate appropriators to support "robust" funding for the Office of Museum Services in FY 2015. (Source: [2014 Congressional Arts Report Card](#))

Arts Membership:

- Manchin has been a member in the Senate Cultural Caucus since 2014. 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 the Economy in West Virginia:

- In West Virginia, arts and culture was a \$1.5 billion industry—equivalent to 2.1 percent of the state economy—in 2015. There were a total of 17,212 arts and culture industry jobs.¹
- A 2017 analysis of Dun & Bradstreet data found 1,647 businesses employed 8,924 people in West Virginia involved in the creation or distribution of the arts—2.36 percent of all businesses and 1.12 percent of all employees.²

Sample Advocacy Questions on the Arts:

- Senator Manchin, 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?

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.

- 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.