

Candidate: Susan Collins  
Party: Republican  
State: ME  
District: □□□□□



1. **Question:** What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?

Music     Theater     Visual Arts     Dance     Literary Arts     Other     None

Additional Comments (optional):

2. **Background:** The budget of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) was cut in half during the 1990s. With its current funding of \$144.7 million, the NEA spends just 48 cents per American—about the cost of a pack of gum.

**Question:** Do you support a significant funding increase for the National Endowment for the Arts, so that arts organizations in your district can present more high quality arts programs for all of its citizens?

Strongly Agree     Agree     Disagree     Undecided

Additional Comments (optional):

As someone who grew up in a rural setting I understand the value of accessibility to the arts for all Americans. The arts present opportunities -especially to the young people - that show us other cultures, other lives, other ways of looking at the world and at ourselves. As a former member of the National Council on the Arts, I am well aware of the value of the mission of the NEA.

3. **Background:** Prior to the budget cuts of the 1990s, the NEA partnered with local arts agencies to re-grant funds in their communities, ensuring strong local input and control over artistic programming, especially in rural and underserved areas. After the cuts, however, the re-granting partnership ended because of insufficient funds.

**Question:** Do you support dedicated funding for an NEA re-granting program for local arts agencies?

Strongly Agree     Agree     Disagree     Undecided

Additional Comments (optional):

4. **Background:** The *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB) defines the arts as a core academic subject, allowing school districts to use federal funding for arts education instruction. However, implementation of NCLB has dramatically reduced the time spent teaching the arts around the country and increased the need for federal-level research measuring the status and condition of the arts.

**Question:** Do you support strengthening arts education and research through the reauthorization of NCLB?

Strongly Agree     Agree     Disagree     Undecided

Additional Comments (optional):

A recent study by the Dana Foundation shows a strong correlation between a child's study of certain performing arts and his or her ability to apply those skills to academic pursuits. That said, a strong education in the arts - either the direct study to acquire skill or study to learn about and appreciate various art forms - gives a child greater ability to be creative, to use his or her imagination, to solve problems, to understand the world beyond his or her purview - in short to be more fully developed, well rounded person.

5. **Background:** The Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which has been level-funded at about \$400 million for several years, is a major provider of arts programming on public television and radio.

**Question:** Do you support increased funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting?

Strongly Agree     Agree     Disagree     Undecided

Additional Comments (optional):

6. **Background:** Currently, art collectors can claim a fair market value tax deduction for works that they donate to cultural organizations, but artists can claim only the cost of materials when they donate work that they have created.

**Question:** Do you support bipartisan legislation to correct this inequity and to ensure that museums, libraries, and other cultural organizations receive donations?

Strongly Agree     Agree     Disagree     Undecided

Additional Comments (optional): This is a matter of simple fairness.

For more detailed information on these arts policy issues, please visit:

[www.ArtsActionFund.org/sc/LegislativePriorities](http://www.ArtsActionFund.org/sc/LegislativePriorities)

Completed By: Senator Collins

Date: 7/21/2008