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Please return the enclosed envelope to make your Year-End PAC gift. You can also contribute online at ArtsActionFund.org/PAC2018.
Democrats Win House with Most Number of Women Ever Elected

The membership of the U.S. House of Representatives underwent a major shift on Election Day, with Democrats far exceeding the 23 seats needed to gain majority control of the House. Democrats flipped seats in many previously “un-electable” districts such as in Orange County, Calif. and the suburbs of Virginia and Texas. In total, Democratic candidates flipped 40 GOP seats, while the GOP flipped only 3 Democratic seats.

One significant trend on Election Day was the number of women and people of color elected. A record of at least 116 women were elected, which makes up about two-thirds of the Democratic victories in flipped districts. This Congress will see more LGBTQ and people of color than any previous Congress in history. It is also expected that Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), a proven and dedicated supporter of the arts, will reprise her role as Speaker of the House in January.

The turnover saw 13 GOP members of the Congressional Arts Caucus defeated, including longstanding caucus co-chair Leonard Lance (R-NJ). The shift also means that Democrats will take control of the committees overseeing the funding and policy decisions for all legislative issues, including the National Endowment for the Arts, arts education and tax policy—all areas that the Action Fund has active legislative pursuits in.

Senate Remains In GOP Hands: 60 Votes Still Needed to Pass Bills

The 116th Congress will kick-off in January with 53 GOP and 45 Democrats and 2 Independents, who caucus with the Democrats. Republicans had a huge opportunity to significantly expand their control in the 2018 midterm elections. Twice as many Democrats had to defend their seats than Republicans. In the end, the GOP will retain control in the Senate with a slightly larger margin under the ongoing leadership of Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY).

Notably, while Democrats flipped two GOP seats (AZ and NV), Republicans flipped four Democratic seats in FL, IN, MO, and ND. The Senate Cultural Caucus with 34 members will decrease by two due to the retirements of Sen. Thad Cochran (R-MS) and Orrin Hatch (R-UT). Two immediate recruits to the Senate caucus will be Senators-elect Jacky Rosen (D-NV) and Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ)—both coming from the U.S. House of Representatives where they were pro-arts “A” grade members of the House Congressional Arts Caucus.

Without a 60 vote block, the GOP will need to gain the votes of seven Democrats to pass major legislation, ensuring either bipartisan progress or political gridlock. We are eager to see if an “Infrastructure” bill will be embraced by both parties, or if further progress on education, or school construction can be advanced. Many Senators will also have an eye on the 2020 election. Only 12 Democrats will be up for reelection in 2020, while the GOP will have to defend 22 seats in that cycle.

Incoming 116th Congress

Democrats & Independents

47

Republicans

53

Listen to our Post-Election Impact on the Arts Webinar at bit.ly/2Qnpmeq
Message from President & CEO Robert L. Lynch

With so much change coming so quickly, the most effective thing that we can do to promote our vision and positions on the arts is to get our grassroots field organized. Let’s use this holiday season to regroup, refocus, and recommit our goals to protect and expand the arts and arts education in the coming New Year. Now is the time to implement strategies that will turn our goals into action. We already know considerably about the returning incumbents’ records on the arts as a result of the 2018 Congressional Arts Report Card that the Arts Action Fund released just ahead of the election. This one-stop guide allowed our members to make informed decisions at the ballot box.

As we close out 2018, I want to urge all Arts Action Fund members to contribute to our Year-End Appeal to raise $30,000 by December 31st. We will use these funds to build our grassroots efforts in 2019 as we prepare for ArtsVote2020. We’ll be mobilizing our grassroots constituents to weigh in on the most important legislative agendas impacting the arts and arts education in our nation’s capital and in state and local legislatures across the country. We need your support to build our political clout to recruit a million Arts Action Fund members and to raise $250,000 this election cycle to support as many pro-arts congressional and presidential candidates as possible. Please return the attached envelope to make your Year-End gift to support our 2019 efforts.

Dear <<First Name>>,

Midterm elections definitely reshuffled the political deck with Democrats regaining control of the House of Representatives and Republicans increasing their control in the Senate. Female candidates did especially well this year, unseating long term male incumbents and longtime committee chairmen, breaking the previous record of 107 female Members of Congress. Additionally, this freshman class represents the most diverse group in race, religion, age, and profession.

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State and Local Update

The 2018 elections continue a trend towards one party rule in the states. In 23 states, Republicans will control both legislative chambers and the governor’s mansion. Democrats will control 14 (up from seven) with only 13 states with divided control of state government. Further, only one state, Minnesota, has a divided legislature. Every other state (except for Nebraska which has a unicameral legislature), one party controls both chambers. You must go back to 1914 to match this record. In short, blue states have gotten bluer, and red states redder while the divide between them has gotten larger.

Seven Arts Action Fund members decided to take a stand and to run for elected office! Congratulations to Julia Kirt, the executive director of Oklahomans for the Arts, who will now be Oklahoma’s new State Senator, representing the 30th District surrounding Oklahoma City. Further, congratulations to Christine Drazan, who served as the executive director of Oregon’s Cultural Advocacy Coalition. Christine is the new Oregon State Representative from the 39th District. Finally, our gratitude goes out to Guillermina Gonzales, former executive director of the Delaware Arts Alliance, who came up 140 votes short in her race to represent Delaware’s 22nd House District.

In addition to new State Senator Kirt and State Representative Drazan, over 1,700 new state legislators were elected, about 23% of all legislators. They join the 19 new Governors and the 27 new state chamber leaders (senate presidents, speakers of the house, etc). Arts advocates will have to work quickly to educate so many freshman elected officials on facts about the arts.

The Arts Action Fund PAC was pleased to financially support San Francisco’s Proposition E ballot initiative, which passed with over 72 percent of the vote. Proposition E restores the longstanding San Francisco city policy of allocating a small portion (1.5 percent) of the city’s existing hotel tax to fund millions of dollars to youth arts, cultural centers, cultural districts, cultural equity and core operating grants of nonprofit arts organizations.

PAC Update

83% Win Rate

2018 Arts Action Fund PAC Recipients:

- Rep. Betty McCollum $2,500
- Rep. Chellie Pingree $5,000
- Rep. Chris Smith $500
- Rep. David B. McKinley $500
- Rep. David Cicilline $2,500
- Rep. David E. Price $1,000
- Rep. Debbie Dingell $1,000
- Rep. Don Beyer $500
- Rep. Don Young $1,000
- Rep. Elise Stefanik $1,000
- Rep. John Katko $500
- Rep. John Lewis $500
- Rep. Ken Calvert $4,700
- Rep. Leonard Lance $1,000
- Rep. Mark Takano $1,000
- Rep. Mike Simpson $2,000
- Rep. Nancy Pelosi $1,000
- Rep. Paul Tonko $1,000
- Rep. Richard E. Neal $1,000
- Rep. Robert Aderholt $1,000
- Rep. Steny H. Hoyer $1,000
- Rep. Steve Stivers $500
- Rep. Suzanne Bonamici $2,000
- Rep. Ted Lieu $500
- Rep. Tom Cole $1,000
- Sen. Amy Klobuchar $1,000
- Sen. Bill Nelson $1,000
- Sen. Debbie Stabenow $1,000
- Sen. Joe Manchin III $1,000
- Sen. Jon Tester $1,000
- Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand $1,000
- Sen. Lisa Murkowski $2,000
- Sen. Sherrod Brown $1,000
- Sen. Tammy Baldwin $1,000
- Sen. Tina Smith $1,000
- Angie Craig for Congress $500
- Aftab Pureval $500
- Carolyn Bourdeaux for Congress $500
- Chrissy Houlahan $500
- Dan Kohl for Congress $500
- Donna Shalala for Congress $500
- Elissa Slotkin for Congress $1,000
- Gretchen Driskell for Congress $1,000
- Haley Stevens for Congress $1,000
- Harley Rouda for Congress $1,000
- Jacky Rosen for Congress $1,000
- Kathy Manning for Congress $1,000
- Katie Porter for Congress $1,000
- Kyrsten Sinema for Senate $1,000
- Lisa Ring for Congress $500
- Lizzie Fletcher for Congress $1,000
- Mike Levin for Congress $1,000
- Mikie Sherrill $500
- Phil Bredesen $1,000