

# Arts Advocacy Day 2018

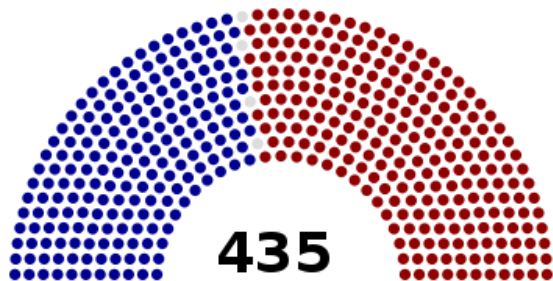
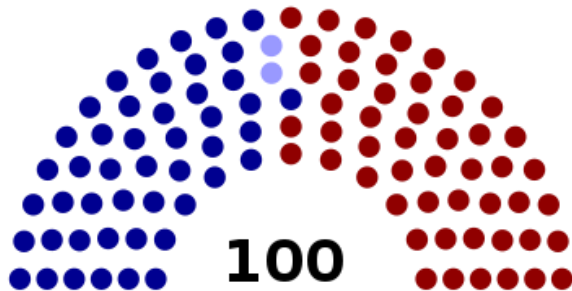
## Legislative and Political Update for Novice Advocates

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# Current Political Power Structure in Washington, D.C.



## Republicans control the executive branch

President Donald Trump controls the White House and all federal agency and judiciary appointments

## Senate Republicans have a slim majority:

Republicans – 51

Democrats – 47

Independent Democrats – 2

Tie-Breaker – Republican V.P. Mike Pence

**Total:** 100 Senators **To Win:** 51 (50 + VP)

*60 to be filibuster-proof*

## House Republicans have the majority:

Republicans – 238

Democrats - 193 Dem

Vacancies – 4 Vacancies

**Total:** 435 House **To Win:** 218 (216 w/ vac)

# Political Mood in Washington

- ❖ **Despite GOP control of legislative and executive branch, very little legislation has been passed. (Exception: Tax Reform Law)**
- ❖ **Republicans are very concerned going into the 2018 mid-term elections:**
  - *History of party control switching in Congress during President's 1<sup>st</sup> term*
  - *Record number of GOP incumbents are retiring in the House*
  - *Young people are being engaged to vote and run for office in record numbers*
  - *Diverse populations are angry about immigration policies, Dreamers Act*
  - *Dismantling of Obamacare and subsidies for health insurance*
  - *Federal deficit continues to increase due to income tax cuts*
  - *Increased pressure for gun control laws following high school shootings*
  - *Growing anti-Trump sentiments, chaos and scandals in the White House*
- ❖ **Chance of the House changing to Democratic control is likely.**
- ❖ **Chance of the Senate changing to Democratic control is possible.**

# Key Political Committees Impacting the Arts

(See AFTA Arts Advocacy Day Event APP: Key Congressional Info)

## NEH, NEH, Smithsonian budgets:

- House and Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittees
- House and Senate Full Appropriations Committees

## IMLS, CPB, Arts Education budgets:

- House and Senate Labor, Health & Education Appropriations Subcommittees
- House and Senate Full Appropriations Committees

## Tax policies:

- Senate Finance Committee
- House Ways and Means Committee

# Key Political Leaders Impacting the Arts

## White House:

- **OMB Director Mick Mulvaney:** *"Can we really continue to ask a coal miner in West Virginia or a single mom in Detroit to pay for these programs?"*

## U.S. Senate:

- **Chairman Thad Cochran (R-MS)** retiring April 1<sup>st</sup>, Full Appropriations
- **Sen. Richard Shelby (R-AL)** likely to become Chairman, Full Appropriations
- **Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)** Interior Appropriations Subcommittee
- **Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME)** new Congressional Arts Caucus Co-Chair
- **Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT)** Senate Finance Committee
- **Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY)** Senate Majority Leader

## U.S. House of Representatives:

- **Chairman Ken Calvert (R-CA-42)** Interior Appropriations Subcommittee
- **Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ-11)** Full Appropriations Committee
- **Rep. Leonard Lance (R-NJ-7)** Congressional Arts Caucus Co-Chair
- **Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX-8)** Ways and Means Committee Chairman
- **Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI-1<sup>st</sup>)** Speaker of the House

# FY 2018 Crazy Legislative Process & Terms

(See Arts Advocacy Day Event APP: NEA/NEH Legislative History)

1. President submits FY 2018 budget to Congress on 3/17/17
  - *President/OMB recommends termination of the NEA/NEH*
2. House Budget Committee sets initial “302B allocations” to the House Appropriations Committee on 5/21/17, but it will be later amended on 2/9/18
  - *Budget Committee removes language recommending NEA/NEH termination*
3. Interior Appropriations Subcommittees set the initial funding level
  - *House Appropriations Committee allocates \$145 million to NEA on 7/8/17*
  - *Full House votes on Appropriations bills and retains \$145 million to NEA on 9/14/17*
  - *Senate Appropriations Committee allocates \$150 million to NEA on 11/20/17*
4. Series of 5 Continuing Resolutions (CRs) passed and Debt Ceiling increased to keep the federal government open until ultimately March 23, 2018 (6 months late!)
  - *Floor votes were on Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>, Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>, and Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>*
5. Budget Reconciliation Act passed on 2/9/18 by House and Senate to create a path to an Omnibus Appropriations bill that puts all spending bills into one large bill.
  - *Retroactively increases FY 2018’s 302B allocation by \$63 billion and increases next year’s FY 2019 302B allocation by \$65 billion.*

# So What's This Mean for Arts Advocates?

1. There's a surprise windfall of additional funds for both FY 18 (this year) and for FY 19 (next year).
2. Lobby boldly for arts funding increases for both FY 18 and FY 19.

# Additional Legislative Lingo

**The Minority** is the party *not* in control (Democrats) of the House or Senate.

**Ranking Members** are the highest ranking Members representing the minority party, who serve on the various legislative committees. (The counter to chairmen)

**Mark-ups** are the official public action made in subcommittee or committee to advance or kill legislation.

**Caucuses** are bipartisan groups of Members who join a club of sorts to show public support for specific policies. The larger the number, the bigger the political clout.

- *Congressional Arts Caucus in the House*
- *Congressional STEAM Caucus in the House*
- *Senate Cultural Caucus*

**Co-Sponsorships** are when Members officially endorse a bill (it's not a vote).

**Dear Colleague Letters** are sign-on letters from one Member of Congress to his/her colleagues asking them to add their signature to a group letter on a policy matter that is usually directed to the President, a committee chairman, or other official.



# Developing Your Advocacy Strategy

1. What's important to my Members of Congress & how can I link it to the arts? [Review the Members' websites](#)
2. What kind of Arts Support Record do my Members have? [See Handbook & APP](#)
3. Which Committees do my Members serve on? [See Member Profiles on APP](#)
4. Which legislative issue overlaps with those Committees? [Handbook & APP](#)
5. Even if no committee connection, can I ask my Member to: [Handouts & APP](#)
  - [Join the Arts and/or STEAM Caucus in House or Senate?](#)
  - [Sign on to the House or Senate Dear Colleague Letter to increase funding to the NEA/NEH?](#)
  - [Co-Sponsor the CREATE Act bill?](#)
  - [Vote for arts funding increases and vote against harmful amendments on the floor?](#)
  - [Do peer-to-peer advocacy to those Members who sit on the key committees?](#)
6. What Kinds of Facts & Figures about the State or District can I share? [Handbook](#)
7. How can I publicize our meeting with pictures, video and quotes? [Social Media](#)
8. How will I maintain contact with both the DC and district offices? [Email](#)

# What's Important

- **Your Story** – be memorable
- **Your Passion** – be emotional
- **Your Connections** – be strategic
- **Your Commitment** – be clear
- **Your Perseverance** – be relentless
- **Your Follow Through** – be trustworthy