

Dear Congressional Candidate,

In an effort to keep Americans informed on where their candidates for office stand on the National Historic Preservation Program, Preservation Action is surveying all candidates for 2018 Midterm election races for Congressional seats. Across every state and Congressional district, there are dozens of organizations with thousands of members who care about cultural heritage and community revitalization. Please complete this short survey.

In a 2017 grassroots survey of the general public and historic preservation advocates, respondents indicated preservation should be a priority in their community. Respondents said the most important current federal policy issues concerning historic preservation were infrastructure investment, preserving historic tax credits, and maintaining and funding the Historic Preservation Fund. This comes on the heels of a year of celebrating the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act (1966).

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) was enacted after the destruction of numerous buildings, sites, and neighborhoods in the years following World War II. The NHPA established a series of programs to encourage the preservation of irreplaceable historic resources including the National Register of Historic Places and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. The National Park Service operates as a lead participant in the multi-tiered program with other federal agencies, State Historic Preservation Offices, Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, and Certified Local Governments. These partners advance federal programs such as matching grants, the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit program, and others.

During last year's effort to reform the tax code, the Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit was retained after the collective voices of communities across the country spoke of its importance. The historic tax credit works to attract private capital to rebuild our communities. As Ronald Reagan reiterated in 1984, "our historic tax credits have made the preservation of our older buildings not only a matter of respect for beauty and history, but of course for economic good sense." Together, these programs stimulate private investment, spur economic growth, and create jobs, while revitalizing communities and protecting our country's cultural heritage.

Historic preservation has and will remain a bipartisan issue. Historic preservation is recognized as an important federal policy initiative and thousands of voters across the Nation participate in the federal program and carry out preservation activities on their own. If you want voters to know your positions on historic preservation, please return this survey by **September 21, 2018**.

Preservation Action does not assign grades and does not endorse candidates. Instead, we plan to widely disseminate the results of this survey to our national network of preservation advocates, including state and local preservation organizations and individuals, ahead of the November election.

If you have questions, please contact mail@preservationaction.org. For more information about Preservation Action see www.preservationaction.org. To join the House Historic Preservation Caucus, a bipartisan caucus formed in 2003 of members of Congress who understand the value of America's historic places, see Rep. Mike Turner (R-OH) or Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR).

Thank you for returning the survey,

Russ Carnahan
President, Preservation Action

Question 1: Do you support the Historic Preservation Fund?

Support

Oppose

Comment: _____

Background: The Historic Preservation Fund was established in 1976 to help carry out the National Historic Preservation Act. The responsibilities of the HPF are largely done by State and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, who administer the federal historic preservation program including the survey, evaluation, and nomination of historic places to the National Register; grants to Certified Local Governments and others; and the federal Historic Tax Credit. The HPF is funded through a percentage of offshore oil lease revenue, not tax payer dollars. The HPF is allocated at \$150 million annually. In FY 2018, Congress appropriated \$96.91 million for the Historic Preservation Fund.

Question 2: Do you support the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit program?

Support

Oppose

Comment: _____

Background: The Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit (Historic Tax Credit) was created in 1981 as an incentive to catalyze economic development through the rehabilitation and reuse of America's historic buildings. The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act retained but altered the program, requiring the credit to be taken over 5 years.

Question 3: As the 116th Congress convenes in January, infrastructure is a topic that could receive considerable attention. Considering the effect of large infrastructure projects on historic neighborhoods in the 1950s, would you support the consideration of the impact that potential infrastructure legislation could have on our historic resources to ensure sound planning for the Nation's future?

Support

Oppose

Comment: _____

Background: Preservation of our nation's historic resources and repairing our nation's infrastructure are complementary goals. In addition to direct investment in aging and historic infrastructure, investments in other projects can have an impact on historic places. The national historic preservation program is designed as a partnership to allow input from citizens, states, tribes and the federal government. The program also allows for the consideration of impacts to historic places without mandating a specific outcome.



Question 4: Why is historic preservation important to you and your state/district? Is there a specific historic place in your district that is important to you and your constituents?

About Preservation Action

Preservation Action is the only national nonprofit organization dedicated exclusively to lobbying for the best preservation policies at the federal level. We seek to make historic preservation a national priority by advocating to all branches of government through a grassroots constituency empowered with information and training.

Basic Information:

Candidate Name: _____ State/District: _____

Party Affiliation: _____ Campaign Contact: _____

Campaign Website: _____ Facebook/Twitter: _____

Deadline: Please return completed survey by **September 21, 2018**, to:

Preservation Action
1307 New Hampshire Ave. NW
3rd Floor
Washington, D.C 20036

Surveys can also be completed online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PACandidatesSurvey2018>

Completed surveys can also be emailed to mail@preservationaction.org.

Disclaimer: I understand that Preservation Action will publish and disseminate my responses to the survey analyzed with others for educational purposes prior to the November general election.