

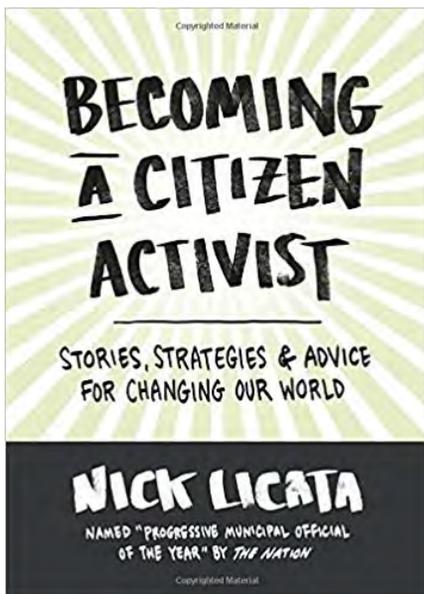
Orcas Island Public Library
presents

Nick Licata
Tuesday

February 13

5 pm

Nick Licata, former Seattle City Councilmember and one of the city's most effective leaders of political and social change, will speak about his new book, *Becoming a Citizen Activist: Stories, Strategies and Advice for Changing Our World*.



Are you unsatisfied with the status quo?

Come to the **Library** and learn how you can change it! Hear Nick explain how to get organized, congregate power, and master the tactics for change.



Books available for signing and purchase courtesy of Darvill's Bookstore.



Orcas Island Public Library
500 Rose Street • Eastsound • WA 98245
360.376.4985 • www.orcaslibrary.org

Nick Licata Biography

Nick Licata is from a working class family where neither parent graduated from high school. Licata, who couldn't read until the age of nine, was the first of his relatives to attend college. He led the local chapter of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) at Bowling Green State University and subsequently was elected student body president.

He became a Seattle city councilmember despite being significantly outspent and the majority of the council, the mayor, and both daily newspapers supporting his opponent. Elected to five terms, in 2012 he was named by the Nation as Progressive Municipal Official of the Year and twice named Best Local Politician by the Seattle Weekly.

While in office he sponsored and had adopted as legislation paid sick leave and a minimum \$15 an hour wage for all employees in the city, a city wide registration and inspection program for all rental units, required registration for all those lobbying city council, and created funding for cultural facilities throughout the city and initiated the city's Civic Poet program.

He authored *Becoming a Citizen Activist: Stories, Strategies & Advice for Changing Our World* Published by Sasquatch Books – January 2016, ISBN: 978-63217-044-6 www.becomingcitizenactivist.org.

Change Makers Endorse *Becoming a Citizen Activist*

Kristin Rowe-Finkbeiner, Founder and Executive Director of MomsRising

“Nick Licata’s book shows how ordinary citizens can find their voices to actually change policy – and how elected leaders can help them create these changes. It’s very valuable guide for anyone working in their communities.”

Paul Loeb, author *Soul of a Citizen* and *The Impossible Will Take a Little While*

“Nick Licata knows that democracy isn’t a spectator sport and that the voices of real people are needed to build the best nation possible. Through stories of successful campaigns, practical tips, and the sharing of hard won lessons, *Becoming A Citizen Activist* guides the reader in how they can be a part of making democracy work for everyone. An inspiring, must-read book for anyone who has ever dreamed of a better world.”

Barbara Moore, Ex. Director of the National Municipal Democrats Organization

“Nick Licata’s new book, *Becoming a Citizen Activist – Stories, Strategies and Advice on how to Change Our World*, brings a new perspective to the category of activism books. His essays on listening, learning, and then taking action are well worth reading, and enjoyable to boot! Too often, inexperienced activists start with the action that should have been the last resort, leaving them no place to go if they don’t achieve success, and often alienating potential allies in the process. Nick shows us how to start smart, to build allies, to listen to the other parties, and to ultimately effect positive change in our world.”

Jim Hunt, former president of the National League of Cities and founder of Amazing Cities

“Nick Licata has delivered a powerful book about becoming a citizen activist. As someone who spent most of my adult life in elected office, it is refreshing to see someone from the ‘inside’ opening the playbook for those seeking civic change and social justice. Too many times we want the home run, when getting solid hits is the most effective way of enacting change. Nick has been extremely effective over his career by building coalitions and doing the background work that produces results. Sharing his wisdom is not likely to win friends within the halls of government, but I think it will help balance the scale for those working in the trenches.”

Booklist Online Exclusive: May 18, 2016

Becoming a Citizen Activist: Stories, Strategies, & Advice for Changing Our World.
Licata, Nick (Author) Jan 2016. 224 p. Sasquatch, hardcover, \$16.95. (9781632170446). 324.20.

This little book is part grassroots-activism and community-organizing textbook and part progressive politics biography. In addition to sharing practical wisdom, ... he motivates the reader by sharing stories of unassuming citizens who started with small steps to become increasingly empowered and bring about significant change in a wide variety of social-justice campaigns.

Epoch Times – Dec 9, 2015

<http://www.theepochtimes.com/n3/1913625-book-review-becoming-a-citizen-activist-2/>

Book Review: ‘Becoming a Citizen Activist’

By Chelsea Scarnegie | December 9, 2015

Last Updated: December 10, 2015 9:45 am

So many people want to change the world, but so few people know how. In his new book “Becoming a Citizen Activist,” Seattle City Council member Nick Licata sets out to help the common man fight powerful entities like City Hall. Licata’s book is filled

with applicable advice, and interesting stories of those who desired to change public policy for the better.

“Becoming a Citizen Activist” is a manual for the budding activist who wants to get his or her cause off the ground. It explains which methods of activism work well, which don’t, and why.

Licata writes that one of the best ways to become an activist is to become an active listener.

The book is broken into 11 chapters that each deal with a certain area of political activism—from social media and protests to the importance of listening and learning what others have to say about an issue.

Licata writes that one of the best ways to become an activist is to become an active listener. Take time to listen to your opposition; many times, the “opponents” are actually on your side. Learn what their goals are. Then you can team up to fight the real enemy.

At a time of great anger and fear in our society, it reminds readers that one cannot base a revolution on anger alone. There needs to be substance behind that anger in order to create change.

The entire book seems to be centered on the importance of organization to supplement passion, and to take a step back and figure out how to use our intense emotions in ways that are constructive, not destructive.

Being informed is one of the most effective ways to strengthen your cause. Aside from listening to the other side, you can listen to fellow citizens and learn what matters to them. Petitions, polls, and public forums are three ways to get the people interested in your cause, according to Licata. They allow the activist to see who cares most about the issue at hand. Once the activist learns who is on board, he or she can harvest that energy into supporting the cause.

With enough public support, it is then possible for those who have influence to lend a more powerful hand. Licata asserts that, although it may come as a surprise, politicians really do want to do what is best for people. But because politics is such a tricky game, it is usually either too difficult or too risky to side with the people.

Yet getting a politician’s support is the most critical step in getting a movement off the ground. Of course, because it is also the most difficult, there are certain ways to do it that will increase the chance of success. Licata emphasizes that politicians don’t like to be lectured to. Rather, it is better to treat change as collaboration between citizen and elected official.

“Becoming a Citizen Activist” includes advice on protests as well, by comparing the Occupy movement to the Tea Party movement. It carefully analyzes what made the Occupy movement fizzle out and what made the Tea Party movement solidify in Congress. As it turns out, activists can learn from both movements in order to strengthen their own.

With plenty of real-life examples, analyses on other movements, and personal stories from Licata’s time on the Seattle City Council, “Becoming a Citizen Activist” is a thorough book that provides an excellent crash course in political activism.

“Becoming a Citizen Activist”

By Nick Licata

Sasquatch Books

224 pages; \$16.95

Chelsea Scarnegie lives and writes in the Chicago area.