

**Resources for Citizen Activism 101– Making Change Happen  
[Massachusetts version]**

***Strategies and Tactics***

**Becoming a Citizen Activist: Stories, Strategies & Advice for Changing Our World.** Licata. Sasquatch Books. 2016

**How We Win: A Guide to Nonviolent Direct Action Campaigning.** George Lakey. 2018.

**You're More Powerful than You Think: A Citizen's Guide to Making Change Happen.** Eric Liu. 2017.

**Community Tool Box** <http://ctb.ku.edu/en>

All, but, especially, Conducting a Direct Action Campaign <https://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/advocacy/direct-action>

**New Rules for Radicals: 10 Ways to Spark Change in a Post-Occupy World.** Robinson. Feb 1, 2012. Useful as general advice for any serious social change endeavor. <http://www.truth-out.org/opinion/item/6482:new-rules-for-radicals-ten-ways-to-spark-change-in-a-postoccupy-world>

**What's It Like to Be the Target of A Book Banning Effort? School Librarian Martha Hickson Tells Her Story.**

Hickson. School Library Journal. Feb 03, 2022

[https://www.slj.com/?detailStory=from-the-breaking-point-to-fighting-anew-school-librarian-martha-hickson-shares-her-story-of-battling-book-banning-censorship&fbclid=IwAR3WLvD\\_ULY0t0h9okAFI4PJAQg6oj-oWSkS\\_2RsIxLpFlsZhC6bEt5n0U](https://www.slj.com/?detailStory=from-the-breaking-point-to-fighting-anew-school-librarian-martha-hickson-shares-her-story-of-battling-book-banning-censorship&fbclid=IwAR3WLvD_ULY0t0h9okAFI4PJAQg6oj-oWSkS_2RsIxLpFlsZhC6bEt5n0U)

***Civil Disobedience and Non-Violence***

**198 Methods of Nonviolent Action** Albert Einstein Inst. <http://www.aeinstein.org/nonviolentaction/198-methods-of-nonviolent-action/>

**Nonviolent resistance proves potent weapon.** Nicholasen. Harvard Gazette. Feb 4, 2019

<https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2019/02/why-nonviolent-resistance-beats-violent-force-in-effecting-social-political-change/#:~:text=Recent%20research%20suggests%20that%20nonviolent,with%20a%20story%20behind%20it> .

**New Study Shows Riots Make America Conservative.** Chait. 5/21/2015.

<https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2015/05/new-study-shows-riots-make-america-conservative.html>

**Opinion: Mass civil disobedience is our best tool for climate fight.** Zuckerman. 3/11/20.

<https://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/2020/03/opinion-mass-civil-disobedience-is-our-best-tool-for-climate-fight.html>

**Want to Have an Effective Protest? Disrupt, Expert Says** Sicorsky 11/1/2016.

<http://www.wupr.org/2016/11/01/want-to-have-an-effective-protest-disrupt-expert-says/>

**A Guide to Effective Non-Violent Struggle. Centre for Applied Nonviolent Action and Strategies (CANVAS).** 2007.

[https://www.nonviolent-conflict.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/CANVAS-Core-Curriculum\\_EN4.pdf](https://www.nonviolent-conflict.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/CANVAS-Core-Curriculum_EN4.pdf)  
[CANVAS-Core-Curriculum\\_EN4.pdf \(nonviolent-conflict.org\)](https://www.nonviolent-conflict.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/CANVAS-Core-Curriculum_EN4.pdf)

**How Violent Protests Change Politics.** Chotiner. New Yorker. 5/29/20.

[https://www.newyorker.com/news/q-and-a/how-violent-protests-change-politics?utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=onsite-share&utm\\_brand=the-new-yorker&utm\\_social-type=earned&fbclid=IwAR16O6-aHknQfWwFD6N2lmEIXGqOVh\\_veOWFV6TTQRzSLavtxGwKeb-Vn68](https://www.newyorker.com/news/q-and-a/how-violent-protests-change-politics?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=onsite-share&utm_brand=the-new-yorker&utm_social-type=earned&fbclid=IwAR16O6-aHknQfWwFD6N2lmEIXGqOVh_veOWFV6TTQRzSLavtxGwKeb-Vn68)

**Know Your Rights.** ACLU.

<https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/>

***Lobbying Advice / Communication with Legislators***

**Former Georgia House Minority Leader, Representative Stacey Abrams, on Effective Advocacy.** 2011.

This is quite good.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r1-np2iYxOY>

**How to Effectively Lobby Your Congressperson.** Ellsworth. Nov. 15, 2016.

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[www.civichinker.info](http://www.civichinker.info) <https://www.facebook.com/Civics-for-Adults-1490728887922036/> 1/2023

<http://theslot.jezebel.com/how-to-effectively-lobby-your-congressperson-1788958124>

**How to Petition Lawmakers, From a Former Congressional Staffer.** Dwyer. Teen Vogue. 11/14/2015.  
<https://www.teenvogue.com/story/how-to-petition-lawmakers-state-local-congressional-staffer-advice>  
<https://www.teenvogue.com/story/how-to-petition-lawmakers-state-local-congressional-staffer-advice>

**How to Most Effectively Contact Your Representative.** Kal. Daily Kos. Nov. 14, 2016  
<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2007/11/14/410611/->

**What Calling Congress Achieves.** Schulz. New Yorker. March 6, 2017  
<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2017/03/06/what-calling-congress-achieves>

**A Guide to Working with Members of Congress.** American Hospital Association. 2019.  
<https://www.aha.org/system/files/media/file/2019/12/Guide-working-with-congress.pdf>

### ***Government - Federal***

**Congress.gov** Find and track bills, legislators, committees <https://www.congress.gov/>

**The Legislative Process.** Videos of 9 areas of how Congress works. "Overview" gives a nice, well, overview!  
<https://www.congress.gov/legislative-process>

**USA.gov** Basic citizen-oriented federal government site <https://www.usa.gov/>

**LLSDC Legislative Sourcebook** [Law Librarians' Society of Washington, DC]. Research guides  
<http://www.llsdc.org/sourcebook>

**My Congressional District** – from the Census Bureau. Quick and easy way to find demographic and economic stats about your district. <https://www.census.gov/mycd/>

### ***Government - State***

**Massachusetts Government Citizen Page**  
<https://www.mass.gov/>

**Open States.** [Non-governmental source] Because of its graphical nature, a nice way to get a quick snapshot of the state's legislature by chamber, including recently introduced legislation. <https://openstates.org/>

### ***Government - Local***

**Town of Stoughton** <https://www.stoughton.org/>

**Town of Sharon** <https://www.townofsharon.net/>

**Norfolk County** <https://www.norfolkcounty.org/>

### ***Initiative Petition Process - Massachusetts***

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/the-initiative-petition-process>

### ***General Public Policy Guides***

**Harvard University Research Guides.** Scroll to Government & Public Policy and Government Documents.  
<https://guides.library.harvard.edu/?b=s>

**American Policy Directory** Find analysis and advocacy from all perspectives on US national public policy.  
<https://researchguides.uoregon.edu/american-policy-directory>

### ***Resources on Racial Equity***

**Community Tool Box Justice Action Toolkit**  
<https://ctb.ku.edu/en/justice-action-toolkit>

**Merriam-Webster To Revise The Definition Of Racism After Receiving Recent Graduate's Letter.** Mosley. 6/20/20  
<https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2020/06/12/merriam-webster-racism-definition>

### **Equitable Development as a Tool to Advance Racial Equity**

<https://www.racialequityalliance.org/resources/equitable-development-tool-advance-racial-equity/>

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[www.civictinker.info](http://www.civictinker.info) <https://www.facebook.com/Civics-for-Adults-1490728887922036/> 1/2023

**Racial Equity Toolkit: An Opportunity to Operationalize Equity.** Goal: to integrate explicit consideration of racial equity in decisions, including policies, practices, programs, and budgets. Local and Regional Government Alliance on Race & Equity. <https://www.racialequityalliance.org/resources/racial-equity-toolkit-opportunity-operationalize-equity/>

**Equal Justice Initiative.** Goal: committed to ending mass incarceration and excessive punishment in the United States <https://eji.org/>

### ***Historical Perspective***

**The 28th Amendment to Restore the American Promise.** Referenced in the workshop. Created to support an Amendment against Citizens United, the first part is a wonderful, succinct narrative of all the Amendments passed in the 20th Century. 2016. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K6igolnTvqA>

**The Woman Who Took on the Tycoon.** King. Smithsonian. July 5, 2012. [About Ida Tarbell taking on Standard Oil] <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/the-woman-who-took-on-the-tycoon-651396/>

**Jacob Riis: Revealing “How the Other Half Lives”** co-presentation of the Library of Congress and the Museum of the City of New York. <https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/jacob-riis/riis-and-reform.html>

**His Photos helped abolish child labor.** Jessica Contrera. Washington Post. Sept 3, 2018. About Lewis Hine, another documentarian of conditions during the Gilded Age. [Access via library database.]

**Theodore Roosevelt, Health Care Progressive.** Patricia O’Toole. NY Times. Jan 6, 2019.

A good review of Roosevelt’s policies in the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. [Access via library database.]

[Note: Articles not available on the web can often be acquired via your public library’s free research databases.]

**Histories of Work and Working Peoples.** National Park Service.

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/labor/index.htm?fbclid=IwAR1AqilMBy8QmoXdoaLRimyM1c3Fa266WuEH1Rgyxubv8diFHSYQ435mwqo>