building
civic
muscles

Chicago Rotary, September 17, 1998
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Citizen Advocacy Center

Education without social action
is a one-sided value
because it has no true power potential.

Social action without education
is a weak expression of pure energy.

Deeds uninformed by educated thought
can take false directions.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Where Do We Go From Here, Chaos or Community? (1967)

A Practical Civic Bibliography:

* Enough is Enough: How to Organize a Successful Campaign for Change
  Diane MacEachern (1994)

* Not in My Back Yard: The Handbook
  Jane Anne Morris (1994)

* The Quickening of America: Rebuilding Our Nation, Remaking Our Lives
  Frances Moore Lappe & Paul Martin DuBois (1994)

* The Great American Gripe Book: Over 1000 Government Offices You Can Contact to Complain, Right a Wrong, Get Satisfaction!
Fitness Plan for Democracy

Take Stock of Your Civic Health
★ Am I and all eligible members of my family registered to vote at our current address?
★ Do I know who represents my interests at all levels of government and when they are up for re-election or re-appointment?
★ Do I know about public resources available or organizations that work on issues relevant to me?
★ Do I know how to participate on issues of importance to me?

Warm-up on a Daily Basis
★ Did I read the newspaper today?
★ Do I know what is going on in my world, locally, nationally, and internationally?
★ Did I make a phone call or send a letter for democracy today?
★ To my public officials?
★ To/for organizations in which I participate?
★ To my friends and associates?
★ To a radio show or a newspaper?
★ To mobilize anyone?

Follow Proper Technique
★ Am I familiar with how to request government-held information?
★ Do I know about the Open Meetings Law?
★ Did I go to any public meetings?
★ Do I have the facts? Have I read or heard information from more than one source?
★ Have I looked at all sides?
★ Have I reached an educated opinion?
★ Do I have specific recommendations?
★ Do I know the effects of the actions I am recommending?
★ Do I know how my governments operate?
★ Have I made my opinions known to those responsible for the situation?
★ Have I volunteered publicly?
★ Have I told others about the issue?
★ Do I call in to radio programs?
★ Have I written a letter to the editor?
★ Have I volunteered on a cable access show?
★ Did I send e-mail?
★ Do I belong to any civic organizations?
★ Have I circulated or signed a petition?
★ Do I know how to put a question on the ballot?
★ Have I set an example for others?
★ Have I organized others to become active?
★ Have I made a contribution of time or money to organizations dedicated to my concerns?
★ Have I become or encouraged others to become a leader?

Build Endurance
★ Have I followed through on my program?
★ Do I need to make revisions to make participating on a regular basis possible?
★ Am I happier leading an active civic life?
★ Have I made a contribution to my community and country and world?

Evaluation of Program