

# SWING LEFT “HOW WE WIN” PODCAST

## Art, Activism, and Impeachment with Barbara and Nicole Boxer

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### **Mariah Craven (Co-Host) 0:00**

Barbara Boxer served as a US Senator for California from 1993 to 2017 and was a Member of Congress from 1983 to '93. She's also the founder of the Political Action Committee PAC for a Change. And Nicole Boxer is an award-winning documentary filmmaker who's worked on game-changing projects like The Hunting Ground, How I Got Over and 14 Women. Together, they co-host The Boxer Podcast, which is just as entertaining as it is informative. Senator Boxer and Nicole, thank you for taking the time to talk to us.

### **Sen. Barbara Boxer 0:32**

Thank you.

### **Mariah Craven (Co-Host) 0:32**

Absolutely. Our pleasure.

I kind of want to start at the beginning. Senator Boxer, it's often said that women are asked, like, half-a-dozen times to run for office before they consider it. Was that your experience?

### **Sen. Barbara Boxer 0:48**

In my day, women weren't asked to run. At all.

The reason that we had the Year of the Woman in 1992, when Senator Feinstein and I got elected, and Patty Murray and Carol Moseley Braun, it was a banner year. And we tripled our numbers in the Senate. But we went from only two to only six. And the only reason we ran was honestly, most of us, because of Anita Hill. And the only reason we won, at least, I won, was because of Anita Hill.

And let me explain. I don't think people recognize how underrepresented women were in the United States Senate till they looked at that hearing, over Clarence Thomas's nomination to the court, and they saw not one woman, then they looked at the whole Senate, they saw one Democratic woman and one Republican woman. So I guess what I'm saying is, we weren't even asked to run. We were looked at as, you know, very odd when we did run then. So it has gotten better--at least women are being asked to run, and they are running more and they are making change.

**Nicole Boxer 2:11**

And there's a great story about when Barbara ran for local office in 1972. How they were all anti-war activists and living in Marin County, California. And there was a seat opening up on the local Board of Supervisors. And the whole group, the anti-war group came to my dad and said, Hey, Stu, I really think you should run for this open seat. And he said, Well, how much does it pay? And it was some like ridiculously low amount, right. And so he looks over at Barbara and says, you know, you should do it. So that was how she got into politics in the first place.

**Sen. Barbara Boxer 2:50**

It's true. That's how I got to run. I was an activist, but Nicole's story is spot on.

**Steve Pierson (Co-Host) 2:56**

And as an activist, what kind of stuff were you working on back then?

**Sen. Barbara Boxer 3:00**

Well as Nicole said, it was the anti-war--that was the Vietnam War--trying to bring that to an end. And then I had the environmental mantra, I had tried to save our county because we had a plan that was not good for development. And we had so many marshlands, and rivers and streams and mountains to protect. And so I'd say it was the environment. It was the peace movement. It was also a women's right to choose because remember, in--this is probably before you were born, or no, maybe right after--but in the 70s is when Roe v. Wade became the law of the land and it was very controversial. So those were the three main issues. One last one was since my kids were little I noticed there were no after-school programs. So I really wanted to move on that.

**Nicole Boxer 3:57**

So women could work, and the kids would be taken care of. And she did in fact, open the first after-school program when I was little. "I guess I'm going in!"

**Mariah Craven (Co-Host) 4:08**

Nicole, did you ever feel pressure to follow in her footsteps? Did you ever get the question?

**Nicole Boxer 4:12**

I never did. And, you know, I think everyone could tell, just from observing me for five minutes, that I was a bit of an artist and I was a bit out there and I was, you know, maybe not cut out for politics, but I really have to say how much I've enjoyed being in the family and getting to have all these incredible experiences meeting all these presidents and politicians and, and observing things from, like, standing right next to my mom. It's been amazing.

**Steve Pierson (Co-Host) 4:20**

Were you involved in your mom's campaigns as well?

**Nicole Boxer 4:41**

Always, always involved and it was always just really fun. I mean, back in the day when it was fun to stuff envelopes, and it was fun to knock on doors--

**Steve Pierson (Co-Host) 4:50**

It still is fun!

**Nicole Boxer 4:51**

It is fun, but there's so much at stake now. It really feels, you know, and just reading what's going on in Iowa today...So there is that you're right. It is fun. And it's fun when you love the candidate. And in my case with Barbara, of course, I loved her very much.

**Sen. Barbara Boxer 5:07**

Well, I could also just want to say something that we really don't talk about much. Your children, your family, it's essential to your candidacy. And, you know, Nicole will tell you, because we have a relationship where, when we're aggravated we tell each other and, you know, regardless what it's about, and so when you're a mom, and, to a lesser extent, a dad, it's still a little bit different, you know, when your kids are going through hard times, when there are things in the family that are difficult it, it makes it so much harder to do your job because politics and holding office, it's 24/7, you're never ever, ever away from it ever. And I think it's important. It's funny when you said, Nicole, stuffing envelopes, we hardly stuff envelopes anymore.

**Nicole Boxer 5:48**

It's true. Yeah.

**Sen. Barbara Boxer 6:03**

Just push the send button.

**Nicole Boxer 6:05**

We had, you know, growing up in Marin and being in local politics in Marin was really cool because we had a lot of rock stars in Marin. You know, we'd have the Grateful Dead at, at events or we'd have Robin Williams at an event and they were just our neighbors, Santana, and it just made it more fun. And a lot of my friends would want to be at everything because they didn't want to miss out on that. It was really fun. And spaghetti feeds and all those things that we used to do that were really locally-based in the community which I'm sure is still going on.

**Steve Pierson (Co-Host)**

And I'll make a plug actually for stuffing envelopes now because that sort of did go away, as you said, Senator, but now we're using these letter-writing campaigns to reach voters that's really effective because they're not used to getting these handwritten letters, especially, like, younger voters, college students. Yeah, they actually get excited when they get a handwritten letter in the mail, they read it and they've been...It's a kind of a new old tactic for engaging voters.

**Sen. Barbara Boxer 7:09**

It's like a vinyl record.

**Nicole Boxer 7:12**

My mom is hip.

**Steve Pierson (Host) 7:13**

That's right.

**Sen. Barbara Boxer 7:14**

So beautiful. There is nothing thing like--and Nicole, you know this is true. You and Kevin have your son Sawyer, who's now about 11, he always writes me letters. I love it.

**Nicole Boxer 7:27**

Yeah, he's a big letter writer.

**Sen. Barbara Boxer 7:29**

And I love that. It's the sweetest thing. And, and so I think your point is well-taken. This is an old new idea for politics. I love it.

**Steve Pierson (Co-Host) 7:38**

Well, let's get Sawyer writing some letters to voters too.

**Mariah Craven (Co-Host) 7:45**

Steve and I were recently on The Boxer Podcast and one of my favorite moments, Senator, was when you talked about how critical high voter turnout was for you and your campaigns. How did you get more volunteers--or more voters, rather--to show up so that you could cement your wins?

**Sen. Barbara Boxer 8:07**

You know, there's a magical thing that happens with a candidate and voters, it's hard to describe it, most so-called experts and commentators demean it and don't understand it. You have to make a connection with voters so that they really trust you and care and know you're going to make a difference. And otherwise, they're not going to make the effort. So I

would say the candidacy is critical to make the connection, but the campaign has to carry that out. The whole campaign has to take on this air that it makes a difference. It's a magical potion.

**Nicole Boxer 8:49**

I would just add that I think one of the things Barbara did very well was she carried the issues that were core to her from the beginning. So it was choice, the environment, being anti-war, and these things were running so personally through her and in voters, that when she lifted her voice and she was pissed, they felt that that was authentic and real. And I think authenticity is always going to inspire voters. They can see through you if you're not being real. And she put her heart on her sleeve and everyday on the Senate floor and people saw that.

**Sen. Barbara Boxer 9:25**

Thank you, Nicole.

**Steve Pierson (Co-Host) 9:27**

Well, I think that's absolutely true. I mean, authenticity does shine through and even for volunteers working on campaigns, you know, sharing your personal story, like why you're there knocking on doors, why you're contacting voters. That's how we really connect with people, those authentic connections.

**Sen. Barbara Boxer 9:45**

Absolutely. When someone knocks on your door and the work that you're doing, makes that personal contact, writes that letter--as Nicole said: You know, we have a good radar for, Is this real? Does this matter, is this person at my door because they get paid to be at my door or is this person at my door because they are a believer in this candidate? So it's exciting. You know, the one thing I was going to ask you when you were on our show is, if you agree with me that, and I don't know how Nicole feels, we haven't discussed it, what I love about being an activist in this area, is that you make friends with people of every age. All the diversity that comes forward. And I love that because when you're young and you meet an older person, and maybe normally wouldn't talk to an older person, you find that common ground. And so I've always loved that about being an activist in politics. That it's a broad range of ages. Lots of diversity in terms of ethnicity, but also what you're working on. And what binds you together is this common vision of what the country should look like.

**Mariah Craven (Co-Host) 11:01**

That's spot been my experience as a volunteer, so it's really cool to hear it said it that way.

**Steve Pierson (Co-Host) 11:08**

Yeah, nothing to add to that, absolutely 100% my experience,

**Sen. Barbara Boxer 11:12**

And that's why people should get involved, because it enriches you.

**Mariah Craven (Co-Host) 11:17**

Yes, definitely. Nicole a few minutes ago, you talked about being an artist. But it feels like you found a way to do art and political activism at the same time and have a, you know, big impact that way. Was that intentional? And like, how did you sort of come to realize you could marry the two?

**Nicole Boxer 11:39**

Well, you know, I think that I was in the right place at the right time, in many ways, and had the right experience. I went to film school, when I came out, I was working in the feature film industry. I worked on the film Rudy and So I Married an Axe Murderer, some really great '90s movies, and took a break, got married, had kids. When I came back in, it was during the Bush years and there was, we forget, but there was an anti-war movement going on with George Bush and the Iraq war. And I feel like things started to change around then. So my entry back in was making a documentary about AIDS as a national security threat. And again, I wouldn't say at that time that this news-ish documentary was art, but in fact, it was. Because the backdrop to what we were filming was so, so different. And the people that I work with, were capturing these images that were so stunningly beautiful, but also forced you to look and forced you to pay attention. And that just continued to go on and on with the movies that I made with Kirby Dick and Amy Ziering about sexual assault. And so I think that I was built for that. That, that really that became more and more important to me as I could see people being affected by these films and actually getting hope around an issue like sexual assault. I mean, you know, it's, we still have a long way to go. But I think these films are really showing that we can make a difference through culture change, not just through politics, and getting to the Oscars certainly helps...yeah.

**Sen. Barbara Boxer 13:17**

I just have to chime in as a mom here, not a former Senator. Watching Nicole marry her skills, because she's got, she's got that training and that eye for, you know, how to use your artistic view of the world and put that into a documentary. And, and the one thing that happened at the time, is our newspapers started to cut back in terms of how many reporters they could have, how many in-depth stories they could have. And, you know, I said to Nicole at the time, you're in this field now, and you were really filling a gap. For example, her film about How I Got Over--which you can see on what, Nicole, Netflix? (Yes.) How I Got Over--it's a beautiful film about something that you know, they don't write about much anymore. What happens to, to people, especially women, who get caught up in addiction and poverty and mental illness and all of these things, how can they or do they ever pull themselves out of that basement and it's, it's a beautiful story, but it's also

something we need to look at and not look away from. So in many ways, I think her skill set, you know, if she chooses to stay here because you never know, she could march in another direction but--

**Steve Pierson (Co-Host) 14:42**

She seems like a wild card to me.

**Nicole Boxer 14:44**

I'm going to become a volunteer at Swing Left full-time.

**Sen. Barbara Boxer 14:51**

But you get my drift, and I think it's so important, not just the work Nicole does but so many other people are doing in that space. To fill in the gaps that we have with, with newspapers cutting back on doing these very deep dives into social problems.

**Steve Pierson (Co-Host) 15:09**

Yeah, no doubt that the arts have a huge role to play. And it's not just spreading different kinds of messages. But you know, I, I've always been, I grew up in DC, and I've been out here in Los Angeles for a long time. But I've always been fascinated with the connection between the two places, between DC and LA. And we need to support each other to really galvanize the nation behind all of these issues that are that we have in common. I mean, and, you know, politicians don't have the ability always to cut through the noise, especially now in this hyper-partisan environment. So artists can really go a long way to doing the work we need to bring our country together on the foundational issues that bind us together.

**Mariah Craven (Co-Host) 15:58**

Well it goes back to what we were saying earlier, which is how powerful storytelling and authenticity are. And I think that it's an opportunity--

**Nicole Boxer 16:05**

And artists being able to--they feel like they're more unleashed now, to talk about issues that they care about, like you'll see people go up at the Oscars and use their time to talk about climate change. And you know, what Jane Fonda is doing on climate change and galvanizing her people and they have such deep reach. If we talk about influencers--and that's such a buzzword now--what do you do with it? You know, are you going to sell a piece of clothing or some Gucci? Or are you going to talk about climate change, right, because I want to follow the person who's talking about climate change.

**Steve Pierson (Co-Host)**

Yeah. Having said all that, despite your great work, I'm thrilled that you're joining Swing Left, so I--

**Nicole Boxer 16:42**

I can't wait. Sign me up.

**Steve Pierson (Co-Host) 16:46**

So there's another thing going on right now that we need to ask you about, Senator Boxer. I'm sure you've got the TV on in the background. The impeachment trial is going on right now. You sat through an impeachment trial in 1999. What's it like sitting in the Senate chamber through that testimony? And what, what parallels are you seeing with this moment?

**Sen. Barbara Boxer 17:09**

Yeah. Well, the first non-parallel is the difference in the subject matter. In the Clinton impeachment, it was lying about sex. It was an ugly thing to look at. It was terribly disappointing, and especially on the women members, but this is about national security. This is about abuse of power surrounding a president shaking down a foreign leader who desperately needed his help, and using his position for his own personal gain, trying to slime Joe Biden. So right off the top it's a different topic. But I'll tell you it's very tough sitting in that room, because the emotions are flowing from both sides. And it's adversarial. You can't really do much except sit there. It's tough, I'll tell you right now. It's tough.

**Mariah Craven (Co-Host) 18:13**

That's interesting about the, you know, we kind of imagine, we've heard all these things, like you can't have coffee, you can't have your phone, you're just sitting there. But people aren't talking about whether or not it's contentious inside the room. And you kind of always hope that maybe it's not, but I guess that's not the case.

**Sen. Barbara Boxer 18:32**

Well, look. If you feel in this case, very strongly already, on one side or the other, and you feel you've looked at this 100 ways to Sunday, and, and then you're sitting through questioning, and it's, it's almost like you know what the people are going to say. I can't describe it. It's, it's very tough. You have to sit there and you have to listen. I'm not saying, you know, there's hostility in the room. But it's a lot of--it's hard to hear the opposing side because you've already pretty much decided, let's be clear. You know, I used to work for a guy named John Burton, Nicole knows him well, and he was in the Congress. And when he left, I ran for a seat and won. And John used to say there's not a dry eye in the house, meaning everybody already knows. The only unknown here is how many people are going to vote for witnesses. So I would say it's frustrating. It's difficult. It's somber. It's not pleasant. Wouldn't it be great if I could say Oh, it was a wonderful..? No, it wasn't. I mean,

for me at that time, having to hear that having consensual sex and lying about it is a high crime and misdemeanor according to the Founders? That was pretty tough to take.

**Nicole Boxer 20:06**

And I mean, not to get too personal, but at the time, I was married into the Clinton family, and Bill Clinton was my brother-in-law. So you know, listeners can imagine what that felt like.

**Sen. Barbara Boxer 20:18**

Yeah, and I had gotten to the Senate because of Anita Hill. And I was so disappointed in Bill Clinton's actions here in this whole thing. It was, it was really--it was so awful. I got the flu. The only time I ever got the flu was doing that.

**Nicole Boxer 20:38**

Yeah. And I felt bad because every article that mentioned Barbara would say, Barbara Boxer whose daughter is married to Tony, who's Hillary's brother, I just felt terrible.

**Sen. Barbara Boxer 20:51**

The Republicans [said], How dare you not recuse yourself? And I basically said, I was totally sincere. I said you know, this was terrible, I even used the word immoral. And I said, for me, the question is, does it rise to the level of a high crime and misdemeanors, as the Constitution requires? So I said, No, I'm not going to recuse myself.

**Mariah Craven (Co-Host) 21:15**

It sounds like you all as a family have pretty open and honest conversations. So was that the case at that point in time? Or did you feel like you--you know, there were things that you didn't want to talk about?

**Nicole Boxer 21:27**

I mean, I think we were pretty open about it. I think, you know, there was no doubt that Bill Clinton was guilty of what you know, of what happened. And you know, that was an open secret, certainly within the family. And my thoughts were that he should just be open and honest about it. Now, of course, I was a minority of one, I mean, majority of one, the only one in the family saying that, but I do think that my mom had a job to do and, you know, for me, I certainly was not political at that time, it was more about supporting my family and just wanting to get through it. And seeing that, you know, my mother in law was having a really hard time and you just want to love the people around you when the spotlight's on you like that, but we all have to be personally responsible for our parts in it. And that's where I think this impeachment differs, you know, lies and cover up.

**Sen. Barbara Boxer 22:25**

And as I said, the other day when I went on Fox News, which was shocking, I hadn't gotten there in 20 years, but I wanted those people to hear the truth, if I might say that. If a Senator had done what Trump did, they'd be kicked out of the Senate because you cannot use your official position to help your campaign or your personal life in any way. And that's the truth. And so just as a different thing. And so to hear, you know, the Republican counsel just do this scattershot defense, throwing all the spaghetti on the wall to see what sticks. They can't defend what he did. And now they're trying to stop Bolton's book. The White House put out a statement that they're seeking to stop the publication.

**Nicole Boxer 23:15**

Yeah. And Steve, you said something earlier about how Mitch McConnell's wife is part of the Cabinet. I mean, right there, you sort of have a conflict of interest. You had a series of the senators who are currently the jury on trips to Ukraine with this administration. So there's a lot of, there's a lot of just mixing up the situation with people's personal agendas. And so, you know, I don't know how you parse through all of that when you have people that literally were on these Ukrainian trips, as part of the President's delegation, who are judges.

**Steve Pierson (Co-Host)**

Yeah, they're not just covering it up for the President. In many cases, and we don't know because all the information, all the subpoenas have been squashed--in many cases, they're covering it up for themselves. And they're just--

**Sen. Barbara Boxer 24:04**

That's such a good point.

**Steve Pierson (Co-Host) 24:05**

Yeah. They're never gonna let that information come out if they have any power to stop it, and they do have a lot of power to stop it right now.

**Sen. Barbara Boxer 24:12**

Well in 40 years we'll find out.

**Steve Pierson (Co-Host) 24:14**

Yeah. Yeah. Well, hopefully sooner, because in November we have an opportunity to vote these Republican senators out of office.

**Sen. Barbara Boxer 24:21**

Thank you for mentioning that.

**Steve Pierson (Co-Host) 24:22**

That's right. So, you and your mom seem to communicate very well. You have over the years, through some very difficult times. After Trump was elected, you decided to communicate in public for everybody with this podcast. Tell us about The Boxer Podcast and why you started it and what you do with it.

**Nicole Boxer**

Well, I mean, I, as my mom was, you know, getting ready to retire from office and move back to California, it was clear that we would want to do something together. So I pitched the idea of a podcast to her--

**Sen. Barbara Boxer 24:56**

And what did I say, Nic?

**Nicole Boxer 24:57**

And she was like, "What's a podcast?" Like it's a radio show that comes out of your phone. And yeah, it was something we were really interested in doing. And we thought how it that it would be cool, mother daughter taking this on, and certainly wanting to keep our voices out there. I don't think we could have ever predicted how gnarly it was going to get. But the original idea was that Barbara would have on these guests that are friends of hers that are senators and that I would have on people who are running for office, mostly women, and for the first time. So I interviewed a ton of that huge wave of women that went in and it was just so exciting. And I feel a part of it because I feel like oh, I had Lauren Underwood was my second guest. And so BB what do you think?

**Sen. Barbara Boxer 25:45**

Well, I mean, Nicole came up to me, it's absolutely--I'll never forget it. We were in DC, in our little Victorian place there. And she said, I've been thinking we ought to do--and I didn't know what a podcast was, I'm so embarrassed to tell you, but it was several years ago.

**Mariah Craven (Co-Host) 26:02**

Nobody knew what they were a few years ago.

**Sen. Barbara Boxer 26:05**

I didn't know. And so she then explained it and I said, Well, why don't we just do a radio podcast? The part I love the most, most, most, most is when we do our banter at the start of the show, because I think it's, it's almost like every family banter, because we don't act like senator and documentary filmmaker, we act like we are mother daughter, and it's real. And sometimes we get annoyed with each other, which I think that's real. And so we let that go. And then and then we do an interview and we do it with interesting people like you guys. We have some wonderful guests. We have Nancy Pelosi on her daughter, Christine now and then, we have some regulars that come on.

**Nicole Boxer 26:55**

We're having Jane Klee on the show today.

**Sen. Barbara Boxer 26:57**

We have activists, particularly Nicole finds these really interesting people who are working in the space you're working in, and candidates, etc, etc. My feeling, and I tell this to Nicole, is this. You know, I had my voice out there on a public stage for 40 years. That's how long I was in elected life. And it's nice to just still have it out there in a little bit of a different way, a more personal way. And then I also do a lot of TV, a lot of MSNBC and sometimes CNN and a rarity, FOX. So it's just a way of keeping our thoughts out there, our views out there, and also doing what you do, to the extent that we can, and Nicole is really terrific at this, which is getting people to understand what's at stake and why they need to step up. They need to volunteer and step up. That's the key. And as we said before, the key to victory for Democrats--there's only one key. It's voter turnout. We have huge voter turnout, we win big. We have terrible voter turnout, we lose big. We have medium voter turnout, it's too close to call. That's the truth.

**Steve Pierson (Co-Host) 28:17**

And the medium voter turnout that's too close to call gets edged to the Republicans who cheat and disenfranchise and marginalize. Yeah. And suppress.

**Sen. Barbara Boxer**

Exactly.

**Mariah Craven (Co-Host) 28:28**

Yep. We've been talking a lot lately, including on your podcast, about how, you know, the presidential field for Democrats is getting smaller. It's getting a little bit more contentious. It feels like, how do we avoid repeats of the last presidential cycle, when some voters felt like the DNC maybe picked sides too early? And the National Convention was kind of tense at times. How do we avoid repeating our mistakes of the past?

**Sen. Barbara Boxer 28:58**

Okay, I'll take it and then I'll swing it over to Nicole. First of all, structure does matter. I mean, let's have a very transparent, fair structure. And I would hope the DNC would do that. I don't know what that is. That's, that's not my thing. It's not my lane, but it's got to be fair, it's got to be clear and hopefully agreed to by the major candidates. But let's be clear, elections are contentious. They're contentious. Look back at the Republican nomination fight last time. Little Marco, and Lyin' Ted, and all of this crazy stuff.

**Steve Pierson (Co-Host) 29:39**

They're all Trump's best friends now.

**Sen. Barbara Boxer 29:44**

But I want to say this, no matter how contentious it gets, and it will be ugly, and I'm, I know that it will be. It will be ugly. It's not going to be near as ugly as what Trump's gonna throw at our eventual nominee. So you have to go through this stuff, you have to go through it, then you have to let it roll off your back. But you've got to handle it. You've got to step right up. If you're one of the candidates being slimed, you gotta stand up there and give it right back. So, I mean, I hope I don't sound like a Pollyanna, but I'm not a whiner. I'm not a crybaby. I took such garbage in every one of my races, and you have to stand up to it because I'll tell you why. Voters want someone who can beat Donald Trump. That's far and away--You know, Cory Booker, who is so wonderful, Nicole supported, beautiful human being. One thing I didn't agree with when he said, he said, Well, the 2020 election, that the floor is beating Donald Trump, not the ceiling. I think it's the floor and the ceiling, and everything in between, beating Donald Trump. So we have to, we have to go through this hell. We've got to have a candidate that can take it, dish it back in the best of ways, we have to have a fair structure. And then the big thing I know you'll be working on along with me and Nicole, uniting, uniting, uniting, uniting.

**Nicole Boxer 31:17**

Yeah, I mean, the only thing I would add is what I can control myself, which is when I talk to voters, I listen to them. I, you know, there's a lot of "what about" ism, and there's a lot of well, he did that. But you did that. And they did that. And everybody...there's a lot of confusion over what's real, what's true. So I think listening to someone and then talking to them about the issues, because I've been saying this even on the Head Count board, you know, for years, that we can't become about the cult of personality as voters, we really have to identify the issues that resonate with us that connect to us, and advocate for those things. So I don't know. I just I just think we have to speak our truth on the issues that that we care about. We're talking about things that are so much bigger than who called who, what. We're talking about this, you know, survival of species on the planet, including our own. So you know, I want to learn from people what they care about, and then remind them, Oh, my goodness, by the way, you actually, we've so much in common.

**Steve Pierson (Co-Host) 32:24**

Well, I know that you all have to go. You're doing wonderful work to that end and also with PAC for A Change. So we want people to get involved there as well. But just one last question to ask both of you. What gives you hope for this coming year?

**Nicole Boxer**

Oh, my goodness. Well, what gives me hope is, the thing that sort of has fueled my tank is 2018. And what we were able to achieve, and the number of young people that are now dialed in, they're tuned in they're voting in higher numbers than they ever have before. So that's what's inspiring me are young people using their voices, the people closest to the

pain, using their power to articulate the vision of the world that they want to see. So with their leadership, I feel really inspired to go out there and help whoever becomes our nominee.

**Sen. Barbara Boxer 33:17**

I would say, I'm so glad you mentioned 2018, because so many people, including me, I sometimes forget it. It was huge. It was transformational. It was a commentary on the need to change direction. So we must, must, must build on that. And you know, I would say there's always going to be a group of people who are grumpers and stay on the sidelines and throw bricks if they don't get their way and they don't get their candidate in there because that's going to happen. The way to deal with it, I think is to say, do what you want, but you know what, we're going to go out there, we're going to get new voters, we're going to get new people, we're going to make it...And I would say don't him give too much attention and, and time, sometimes we do too much of that. I would just say everyone has the right, you know, to do what they want, but I know what I want to do. Beat Donald Trump. And I'm going to just ignore the negativity and move forward. You know, that may be where we wind up. But I have great hopes, too. And we haven't mentioned Nancy Pelosi except in passing. I think I mentioned her name. I think she's one of the great strategists of all time. You know, I think we've got the talent. We've got people like you who are out in the field. This is where it's going to matter. So I'm so happy you invited us on your show.

