

# NICK LEONARD FOR U.S. SENATE

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## NICK LEONARD ANNOUNCES CANDIDACY FOR UNITED STATES SENATE: Credentialed Lawyer, Civic Leader, Activist, Entrepreneur is Formidable Candidate and Gives Voters a Fresh Choice for Who Will Defeat Anticipated Republican Candidate

Minneapolis, MN – February 5, 2018. Today Nick Leonard, an accomplished lawyer, civic leader, activist, and entrepreneur announced he is a candidate to represent Minnesota in the United States Senate and, specifically, that he will run in the upcoming special election to fill Senator Franken's vacant seat. Leonard's entry into the race gives Minnesota voters a dynamic, forward-thinking choice as they decide who will be the most effective and best positioned to defeat expected Republican candidate. Leonard is a strong and credible candidate and when elected will make history by serving as the first openly gay man in the Senate.

Leonard has deep Minnesota roots, a classic and high-quality Minnesota education, and possesses the dedication, experience and ability to represent Minnesota. He was born and raised by hard-working Catholic parents in the small rural town of Walnut Grove, Minnesota. Leonard's father, a Vietnam veteran, and mother, a retired U.S. Postmaster, instilled core Minnesota values of education, honesty, and ethics. Leonard earned an academic scholarship to St. John's University, graduating with honors. After college, he received his law degree, with honors, from the University of Minnesota Law School and began a successful career as an intellectual property and patent attorney, working with two of Minneapolis' most prestigious and iconic firms -- Robins Kaplan and Faegre Baker Daniels.

"I would be honored to represent Minnesotans on the issues they care most about and fight against the unprincipled Bachmann-Trump Republican Party of hate, division, and exclusion," said Leonard. "I understand the everyday concerns of Minnesota families -- they are the same concerns for my family too. As Senator, I will remain committed to Minnesota values and help families provide for their children, advancing legislation and policies to further strengthen our economy so it benefits all Americans -- increase wages, advance equal pay for equal work, make taxation more equitable, address the student loan crisis, and make healthcare a fundamental right. We'll also pass and enforce laws to keep our environment clean and slow climate change. Together -- and only together -- can we hold the Trump Administration accountable, advocate for truth, and make our laws, elections, and culture fair and equitable."

Throughout his life, Leonard has been a community builder and an advocate for civil rights. As a lawyer, he has represented clients in all walks of life, from advocating for the civil rights of individuals to protecting the patent rights of Minnesota's largest companies that drive innovation and high-paying jobs in our State. As an entrepreneur, Leonard has sought business opportunities to create communities and bring people together.

A lifelong athlete and sports enthusiast, Leonard has served as volunteer coach in both public and Catholic schools for basketball and volleyball and has created sports leagues for traditionally excluded communities. Leonard, an untiring community leader for over 30 years and in the tradition of a true Minnesota progressive, is committed to building strong relationships to pass laws that will address discrimination, sexual harassment, and oppression.

Nick Leonard lives in Minneapolis with his spouse, John Mason.

Visit [www.NickLeonardForSenate.com](http://www.NickLeonardForSenate.com) for information about his candidacy and commitment to Minnesota.

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