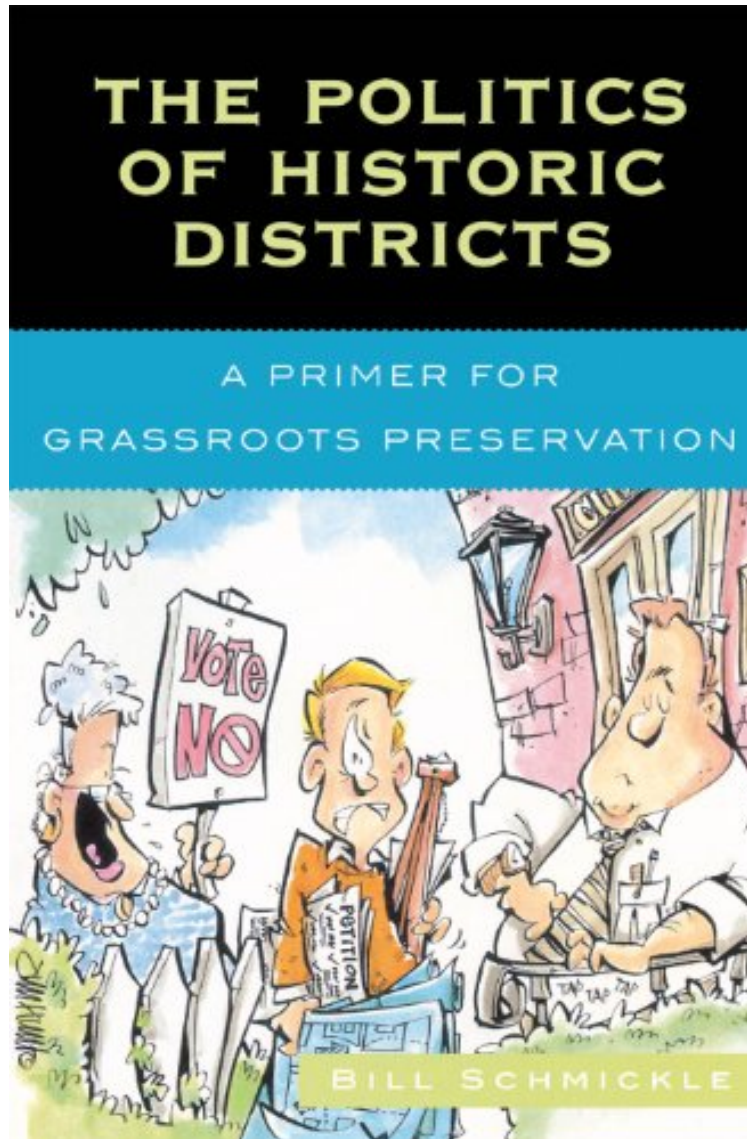


(Free pdf) The Politics of Historic Districts: A Primer for Grassroots Preservation

The Politics of Historic Districts: A Primer for Grassroots Preservation

Bill Schmickle

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Bill Schmickle : The Politics of Historic Districts: A Primer for Grassroots Preservation before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Politics of Historic Districts: A Primer for Grassroots Preservation:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Political AwakeningBy LandcruiserThis book is a great introduction to the world of politics of historic preservation, as well as historic districts. Much of the information within this book rings true, as experienced from this reader. The book will ready the reader for the road ahead when attempting to

establish a historic district. Although the cover looks comical, the information contained within is very serious. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Stanley Steamer An entertaining and eye opening book for any local preservationist or activist. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. The cookbook for any historic designation battle By Donna A. Harris Many colleagues had recommended this book to me as a classic in preservation literature. I just finished it and they are right. This book gives enough information that can be generally applied to most any local preservation battle. What is new is that it gives preservationists a clear view about what elected officials respond to when pressed by competing interests. This is what makes this book valuable. It is not a book about how to write a historic district nomination. Rather it is how to get an historic district passed, so that local citizens can regulate their historic resources. The book is all about winning the battle, and acknowledges that compromises may have to be made. The chapters are short and informative. I say a cookbook, because if you follow Schmickle's written instructions, you can reproduce his successes in your own town.

The worst thing in politics is to be right and to lose. This how-to guide will give citizens who are fighting to designate a local historic district the political know-how to win the support of fellow residents and city hall. Everything is here: learning to think politically, mastering the political process; planning and strategy; campaign organizing and leadership; framing a practical vision; anticipating and handling the opposition; conducting community meetings; skirmishing with property rightists; managing issues, petitions, and public opinion; dealing with public officials; strategizing for public hearings; and winning the vote for district designation. *The Politics of Historic Districts* is an indispensable resource whose practical, hands-on lessons are informed by extensive research and the author's own experiences in winning a district designation, chairing a historic preservation commission, and teaching political science. By showing how and why communities make political decisions to designate historic districts, Bill Schmickle encourages preservationists to ignore the traditional tensions between preservation and political action and points the way to a fuller understanding of the politics that shape local historic districts.

Living with politics and historic preservation has always been unpredictable and controversial. This book will make it easier to navigate the treacherous path of creating a local historic district. Bill Schmickle's adventurous and often humorous approach to demystifying the citizen's journey is a must read for the seasoned or novice preservationist. (Pratt Cassity, Director, Center for Community Design, Planning Preservation at the University of Georgia) It's not enough to be passionate about protecting historic resources you have to be strategic. This book is a great 'how-to' guide for the novice or even the experienced community activist. Bill Schmickle really zeroes in on what you can anticipate and how you can succeed. It is a 'must-read' for anyone who contemplates leading a citizen campaign for historic district status. (Karen Gordon, Historic Preservation Officer, City of Seattle) Food for thought! What first appears to be an hors d'oeuvres tray of thirty-four quick-bite chapters turns out to be a deeply satisfying multi-course meal of substance and insight. Bill Schmickle has jumped out of the fire of his own historic districting experience to grab the handle of the political frying pan. Follow his practical and easy-to-read recipe and you too can blend the complex ingredients of political advocacy into a home-cooked feast of preservation success. (Dan Becker, executive director, Raleigh Historic Districts Commission; former Chair, National Alliance of Preservation Commissions) One of preservation's biggest threats is relying on the reactive approach. Bill details why this is not good preservation and then moves on to provide the tools to become a true preservationist who is passionate all the time, not just when the threat becomes public knowledge and front page news. . . . In those democratic systems that Americans cherish, there can be very little long term preservation without politics. This book could just as easily be called "When reality meets preservation!" (Nita Parry, former Chair, City of Richmond Commission of Architectural and City of Richmond Urban Design Commission.) *The Politics of Historic Districts* would be a useful volume for any historic preservation commission's library. (The Commissioner) "Think globally, act locally," can have no more practical application than historical preservation. While virtually everyone favors preserving the best of the past for future generations in the abstract, putting concrete plans into action engenders some of the most basic political instincts and conflicts. While this well-written and lively book can effectively be used as a 'how to' manual for historic preservationists developed by someone who has been there in the trenches, it also provides a myriad of insights on the general topic of effective political activism. If nothing else, the book is worth it for the pithy quotes that begin its succinct 34 chapters. Its author brings a political scientist's perspective and a participant's passion to a policy realm where today's decisions clearly preclude future reversal. (Stephen Frantzich, U.S. Naval Academy) This how-to guide gives citizens who are struggling to designate a local historic district the political wherewithal to gain the support of fellow residents and city hall. A former professor of political science, the author pushes preservationists to disregard the long-established conflicts between preservation and political action and points the way to a more comprehensive understanding of the politics that fashions local historic districts. (The Courier) Through thirty-four brief, often lightly humorous, rapid-fire chapters, the author engages readers in the battles over historic zoning so they understand the necessary steps on a path to victory. They will learn how to engage in and use politics to good effect throughout the lengthy process of shaping sound public policy... If you decide to make a difference in preserving your community's sense of place, then decide to

win by reading this book. You will be more than prepared for the fight. (AASLH History News)About the AuthorBill Schmickle currently chairs the Annapolis Historic Preservation Commission and was a cofounder of the Oak Ridge, NC, Historic District. He and his wife, Charlotte, own and operate Flag House Inn in the Annapolis National Landmark Historic District. A former professor of political science, he now writes and consults on preservation issues.