DO YOU WANT TO RUN FOR POLITICS?

Making the Decision to Run

By Wendy Landry

1 What is motivating you to run?

Think about this clearly and make your decision based on reasons that the voters can relate to, but keep it positive, realistic and what you can speak to. Having no personal agenda is best.

2 Create a Support System

This isn't going to be easy, make sure you have positive and supportive family. They will be exposed to everything you do, and they didn't run for office you did. Prepare them and talk to them and be sure that they are supportive. Find a mentor who can help you along the way, even after you are elected.

3 Get your name out there

Attend as many events as you can to get to know people and have people get to know you. Reach outside of your comfort zone and speak to as many people as you can about your decision to run. Start building your team, as folks if they would be willing to help you out, and to "talk you up" to others. This is where your story of motivation is critical, you have to be able to connect with people and convince them you are who they should vote for, especially if they are going to put their word out for you.

4 Do your research

Attend council meetings if you are running for Municipal council, reach out to present or past politicians for advice. Research topics of the region or the Municipality; be able to speak to what the issues are and what your approach is. Learn about how the government process works where you are considering running. Find out your legal requirements for campaigning, finances time frames etc.

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5 Build a budget

Ask advice on costs for a campaign, build your own budget as well of what you can afford. Find a person to handle the financial aspects of your campaign. Learn how to ask for help!

6 Glass Windows/ Put your best foot forward

You have now opened yourself up to the public, and people will know who you are. You will be open for public judgment, comments and opinions of you. Put your best foot forward. Know your constituents, what they can expect from you and who they want representing them. Its ok to have an opinion, be mindful of how opinionated you become, without being controversial. Be prepared for the Media, grow thick skin, and be ready for the sport without affecting your team!

7 Start Early

Find out the date you can register and begin campaigning, be ready to knock on doors (many doors) the voters like face to face. Get Photos done, people need to get to know your face.

8 Be Strong

This is where you will need your support system, and **REMAIN POSITIVE!**

GOOD LUCK!!!

PARO Centre
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