



Unofficial Guide to Surviving & Thriving in Elected Office

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Presentation Description

Discover the tips, tricks, and truths no one tells you before you're sworn in.

This session shares hard-earned wisdom, from building coalitions to managing crises, to growing thick layers of skin in order to do the right thing.

This will help you to lead effectively while keeping your ego in check, your sanity intact, and your relationships intentional.

Who's In The Room?

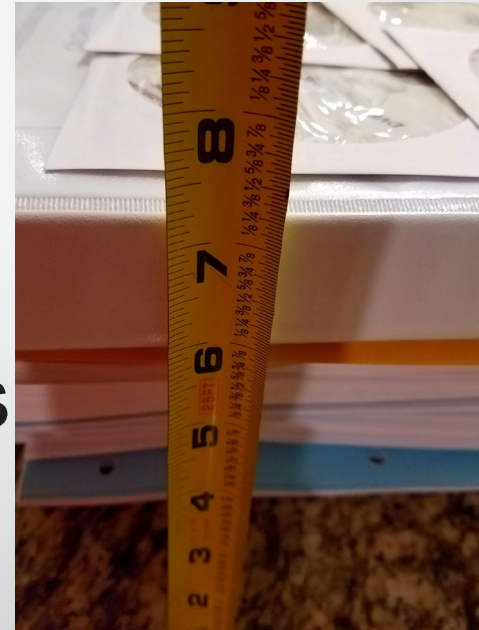
- NOT an elected official (not elected by the public)
- NOT CURRENTLY elected, but are a past-elected official
- An elected official (elected by the public)
 - Newly elected within past year
 - Serving your first term in office
 - Serving on your 2nd or higher term in office
- You know me or my wife... 😊

Who's In The Room? (cont.)

- **You report directly to, or work closely with an elected official** (e.g., city manager, staff, department director)
- You or the elected you work with, serves in a **non-partisan** position
- You or the elected you work with, serves in a **partisan** position.

What They Don't Tell You Before You're Sworn In

- It will be an emotional rollercoaster
- Someone will hate you no matter how you vote
- New “*friends*” – best advice ever!
- Do your homework and ask questions ahead of time to understand...you'll be trusted and respected
- Always...**ALWAYS** do the right thing! You owe campaign donors a listening ear, but not a bad decision for your jurisdiction.



Connecting with the Public

- Get involved! Meet them where they are!
 - Neighborhood groups, HOAs,
 - Retirement communities
 - School parent/teacher groups
 - Business owner groups, downtown businesses
 - Roll up your sleeves and volunteer to help!
 - You serve people of all religious beliefs and cultures
 - Events, events, events! Show up!
- Name badge subtleties
- Thank you cards
- Crisis management (RVF).



"Stay calm, stay transparent,
and stay caffeinated."

Social Media

"I don't tweet at 3 a.m. about people who insult me." - Barack Obama

- Once it's out there, it never goes away
- A trick I learned: facts, kindness, responsiveness
- Count to ten...or maybe a hundred:
Hurt people hurt people
- Be a trusted resource...but beware that it has consequences
- Celebrate others.

Survey Results

- Common Challenges



Survey Results

- Leadership & Vision



Survey Results

- Practical Tips



Survey Results

- Connection Strategies

A word cloud on a dark blue background, tilted diagonally. The words are in various colors (cyan and white) and fonts (sans-serif and script). The words represent different connection strategies.

meetings
respect
newsletters
problem solving
town halls
social media
collaboration
one-on-one

Survey Results

- Reflection & Legacy

A word cloud graphic on a dark blue background. The words are arranged in a circular pattern. The word 'integrity' is the largest and most prominent, written in a light blue, sans-serif font. Other words include 'commitment', 'dedication', 'fulfillment', 'consistency', and 'impact', all written in a white, cursive script font. The words are slightly overlapping and angled to follow the curve of the cloud.

commitment
dedication
fulfillment
integrity
consistency
impact

Survey Results

- Recurring Themes



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