3 Ways to Enhance Your Political Acumen

Kristina Ray
Communication & Engagement Director
Political Acumen

Demonstrates an understanding of the interrelationships, roles and responsibilities of your organization.
Understanding the power structures, motivations, and influences at play in the municipal decision-making process as well as the implications of these decisions at policymaking and public levels.
Diplomacy and the ability to navigate politically sensitive issues.
Bridging the technical and the political.
Critical thinking and emotional intelligence in the political domain. Understanding the impact of politics on administration.
Why?
Better career prospects
Projects get over the finish line
More opportunities
Resources
Accept politics as a natural, neutral part of work life

Politics is neither good nor bad.

In fact, political skill is a necessity, and when used appropriately, leaders can use their political savvy to create positive outcomes for themselves and others.
Find a mentor

Supervisor

Peers

Industry contacts
3. Do some homework
Who are the decision makers?
Who influences them?
What is important to them?
Where to start?
What do elected officials care about?

They are about what community members care about.
What does the community care about?

- Safety
- Property values
- Financial impact
- Aesthetics
- Cultural issues
- Quality of life
Case study
MAY ELECTIONS - CURRENT TERMS

4-YEAR TERMS - TWO TERM LIMIT

ELECTED | RE-ELECTED | NEXT ELECTION
-------|-----------|------------------------
1      | May 2019  | Deputy Mayor Pro Tem May 2023
Maria Tu

2      | June 2017 | May 2021 | Term Limited May 2025
Anthony Ricciardelli

3      | May 2015  | Term Limited 2023
Rick Grady

4      | May 2017  | June 2021 | Mayor Pro Tem Term Limited May 2025
Kayel Prince

5      | June 2019 | Mayor John Muns
Shelby Williams

6      | May 2021  | May 2025
Mayor John Muns

7      | June 2021 | May 2023
Julie Holmer

8      | June 2017 | May 2021 | Term Limited 2025
Rick Smith

Effective November 2011 Council Terms are four years (two term limit).
City of Plano
Strategic Vision

VISION
Plano is a global economic leader bonded by a shared sense of community where residents experience unparalleled quality of life.

Welcoming and Engaged Community
- Foster a sense of community through social awareness
- Build inclusion through diversity and multi-cultural outreach
- Nurture a spirit of giving back and volunteerism

Multi-Modal Transportation and Mobility Solutions
- Understanding and addressing mobility needs
- Continual investment in transportation infrastructure
- Promote policies that enable innovative solutions
- Engage in regional collaborations and creative partnerships

Safe, Vibrant Neighborhoods
- Collaborative public safety
- Housing affordability
- Quality standards
- Enabling investment partnerships

Excellent, Innovative and Accountable City Government
- High-quality, responsive services
- Well-maintained city
- Responsible financial policies and practices
- Developing and implementing innovative solutions
- Attract, develop and retain engaged employees

Residential and Commercial Economic Vitality
- Business retention and attraction
- Diverse employment options for residents
- Pursue public-private partnerships
- Rejuvenate aging areas
Transportation

Plano will continue to grow and age and we need to make sure that our transportation keeps up. To ensure Plano’s longevity we need to ensure that people settle near our transportation hubs. We should expand our public transportation, whether that means improving our DART access or including people movers to the college and business hubs. Plano is a wonderful city and we must strategically think of how people move in, out, and around.

Pro Business

One of my top priorities is making sure that the Collin Creek Mall redevelopment project continues to move along smoothly and that we, as a city, are not placing any unnecessary obstacles in the way of making that project come to fruition in a timely manner. I am firmly pro-business and I see the Collin Creek Mall development as a huge opportunity to bring jobs and opportunities into Plano. This project will also help to revitalize our downtown Plano Arts District as well as the east side of Plano.

Stay Safe Be Smart

I will commit to keep us safe and to make sure that we are doing everything in our power to protect our citizens and maintain a high standard of healthy living.
City Council Agendas

Meetings
- Executive Session 5 pm
- Regular Meeting 7 pm
- Second and fourth Mondays of each month
- Plano Municipal Center
  - Council Chamber
  - 1520 K Avenue
  - Plano, TX 75074
To approve a Development Agreement (Cont’d.)

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Council Member Holmer and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Prince, the Council voted 6-2, with Council Members Ricciardelli and Williams in opposition, to approve a Development Agreement by and between the City of Plano, a Texas municipal corporation, acting by and through its duly authorized officers, and Plano Public Facilities Corporation, a Texas Public Facilities Corporation authorized to conduct business in Texas for the K Avenue Lofts Project; and authorizing the City Manager to execute all necessary documents.

With no further discussion, the Regular City Council Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

MOTION: Upon a motion made by Council Member Grady and seconded by Council Member Smith, the Council voted 6-0 to ratify the expenditure for the first year of a three (3) year DocuSign subscription term to include installation in the amount of $59,650 and approve the purchase of the remaining two (2) years for Technology Services in the estimated annual amount of $56,500, for an estimated total amount of $172,650, from SHI Government Solutions, Inc. through an existing contract; and authorizing the City Manager to execute all necessary documents.
Council Member Rick Grady

Professional Experience
To devote and donate more volunteer time to the citizens of Plano, Rick Grady retired from Cornerstone Credit Union League where he served as Vice President for Research and Economics. While at the League he led all primary and secondary investigations on economic issues affecting financial institutions and consumers. He advocated on behalf of consumers and community financial institutions, especially during the Great Recession of 2008 to 2009. His 30 years of financial and technology experience provided a platform for spotting future trends and opportunities, and authoring position papers on banking laws and regulations.

In civilian life Rick led public relations, mergers and acquisitions, and intelligence activities for Fortune 500 companies such as Affiliated Computer Services, Computer Task Group, and, for 20 years at Electronic Data Systems, where he spearheaded technological developments in SaaS, microcomputer networks, Internet technologies and cloud-based operations. He also served with the Credit Union National Association (CUNA), The IndUS Entrepreneurs Association (TIE), as Executive Director of the venture-capital trade association, as senior partner of two public relations agencies and, for eight years, a rating-busting rock and roll disc jockey for a leading college-town commercial radio station.

Military Service
Rick started his community service at the age of 13 when he joined the Civil Air Patrol, a United States Air Force Auxiliary that performs three congressionally assigned key missions:
Memberships & Involvement

Rick serves as Chair of the Emergency Preparedness Planning Council of the North Central Texas Council of Governments, and is a member of the:

- Administration and Intergovernmental Relations Committee
- Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition
- Large Cities Committee
- Military Communities Committee
- National League of Cities Finance
- Regional Transportation Council
- Texas Municipal League Resolutions Committee

He is also the Chairman of Friends of Consumer Freedom, a nationwide organization dedicated to financial literacy education, a founder of the Collin County Veterans Coalition, and the former Chairman of Plano’s Planning and Zoning Commission and the Community Relations Commission.
Richard Grady
@RickGrady

Houston! We solved the problem!

Entrepreneur  Plano, TX  facebook.com/GradyForPlano/
Joined March 2009

443 Following  92 Followers

Not followed by anyone you’re following
Richard Grady @RickGrady · Feb 25
Trust is a very delicate thing. Once broken it is difficult to repair.

“Over three months, senior Biden administration officials held half a dozen urgent meetings with top Chinese officials in which the Americans presented intelligence showing Russia’s t...
The Samaritan Inn
@SamaritanInnOrg

We are a comprehensive dignity and independence
#TexansHelpingTexans

Michelle Obama
@MichelleObama

Girl from the South Side and former First Lady. Wife, mother, dog lover. Always hugger-in-chief. #IAmBecoming

Mark Hamill
@HamillHimself

Believe in yourself! Work hard, never give up & anything’s possible! OR: Kick back, relax & aim low: You’ll never be disappointed... 😳 I IGNORE ALL DMs!

Seth MacFarlane
@SethMacFarlane

The Official Twitter Page of Seth MacFarlane - “The Orville: New Horizons” coming to Hulu 2022!

George Takei
@GeorgeTakei

Final Thoughts

Accept it
Treat it like any other job responsibility
Make time
In this exercise, record the number of your fingers across the ink pads before carefully matching them in the correct box.

For example, if you have fingerprints from the three basic patterns and match them as follows:

- Have
- Arches
- Loops
- Not
- Haves
- Arches
- Loops
- People in this class usually have...
You can do it!