PERSONAL ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

Before you can decide to run for office, you must take a critical look at yourself.

The following questions help you paint a clear picture of yourself, and your commitment to running for public office.

As you answer the questions below, BE COMPLETELY HONEST WITH YOURSELF.

**1. Why do you want to run? (The hardest question you’ll be asked!)**

**2. What experience do you bring to the table?**

**3. What are your strengths and weaknesses?**

**Are you prepared?**

A thoughtful evaluation of your personal circumstances should help you determine if the decision—and the timing—are right for you.

* Does your family support your decision to run?
* Are you willing to ask friends and family for help and money?
* Are you able to take time off from work?
* Are you in good physical health?
* Do you have a realistic understanding of what it will take to win and are you willing to make the necessary commitment?

**Research Yourself – what is on your public record? What will voters learn about you?**

As you consider running for public office, it makes good sense to take a hard look at yourself. What does your public record look like when it comes to your personal and professional background? Candidates who don’t do the research can be caught off guard by something that they make have overlooked! Don’t make that mistake!

**School**

* Where did you go to high school, did you graduate? Where did you go to college? What degrees did you earn? Did you actually complete your degree?
* Have you repaid student loan?
* In what campus organizations were you involved? Did you hold any leadership positions of interest?
* Did you write any controversial papers? Publish any racy articles? What things have been published about you? What things have been published in your own voice?

**Business/Employment**

* What is your complete work record? Go back and recreate a timeline of your work history.
* What was your relationship with your employers like? Did you win any awards professionally? Hold any leadership position? Hold a position with your union?
* Were you ever fired for misconduct?
* Are there business deals you have been involved with that may raise questions?
* What key relationships do you have in your professional life that may want to support your run for public office?

**Financial**

* Are you in default on any loans? Do you have any liens or recent judgments against you?
* Have you always paid your income taxes in full and on time?
* Do you have a good credit rating? Does your spouse?
* Have you made all applicable child support and alimony payments?
* If you have had bad credit in the past, what have you done to correct it?
* Who do you make contributions to? Political contributions? Organizational support?

**Personal**

* Have you or anyone in your family ever had problems with law enforcement?
* Do you have a record of anything occurring in court?
* What organizations are you associated with or volunteer at?
* Do you serve on any local boards? Hold a position at a child’s school? All of this is good and demonstrates leadership!
* Are there any articles that have appeared in newspapers where you are directly quoted? Have you written letters to the editor?
* What personal strengths to you offer your community that you are seeking to represent?
* Have you voted consistently in recent elections?