

## **Consulting Family and Friends** *Involving those closest to you in the decision*

While it depends on what level of public office you are considering, running for office could affect many aspects of your life. As you are making a decision about running, you should involve the individuals closest to you.

### **The Basics: 5 Questions to Ask Your Family and Friends**

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- 1. Are they prepared to get involved?** For your family, life could change. You may not have the same amount of free time available and your family members may be called upon to participate in different aspects of your candidacy. Will your family be supportive of your new role?
  
- 2. If you decide to run for a high-profile or competitive office, are they prepared for potential scrutiny and criticism of you?** While it is difficult to see loved ones criticized, the nature of campaigning is drawing distinctions between candidates. That process could lead to you being publicly critiqued. Can your loved ones handle it?
  
- 3. Are they prepared for potential public attention?** When you are running for office, the spotlight may not only be on you. Depending on the nature of the campaign, questions could be asked about your family and business partners as well. Are they comfortable with the potential for that type of attention?
  
- 4. Can your family financially afford a change in your income?** Depending on the office you are running for, the role may have an effect on your income while you are running for (or serving in) office. Is your family ready for the financial change?
  
- 5. Are they prepared to support your candidacy?** Your family members, close friends, and professional network will be called upon to give time and money. They will have to step up if you are to be successful. Do they share your vision? Are they willing and able to give ideas, time or money?

#### **Get to Work: 3 Things You Can Do Right Now**

- Make a list of all the ways you think your life will change when running for office.
- Set a date and time to talk with your family about these changes.
- Gather your close friends to get their insight and feedback on this decision.