

SHOULD I DO IT?

PRESENTATION BY KELLY LINTON

WELLINGTON COUNTY MUNICIPAL
COUNCIL CANDIDATE INFORMATION
SESSION

TOPICS

- A Little About Me
- Roles, Responsibilities & Limitations
- Respect & Teamwork
- Local Government Formality
- Setting Boundaries
- Campaigning Tips
- Your Decision Checklist



A LITTLE ABOUT ME

- Centre Wellington Councillor (2010-2014)
- Centre Wellington Mayor (2014-2022)
- County of Wellington Warden (2018-2022)
- Linton Consulting Inc. (2004-present)
- Husband (1993-present)
- Father (1999-present)
- Dog Lover (1969-present)

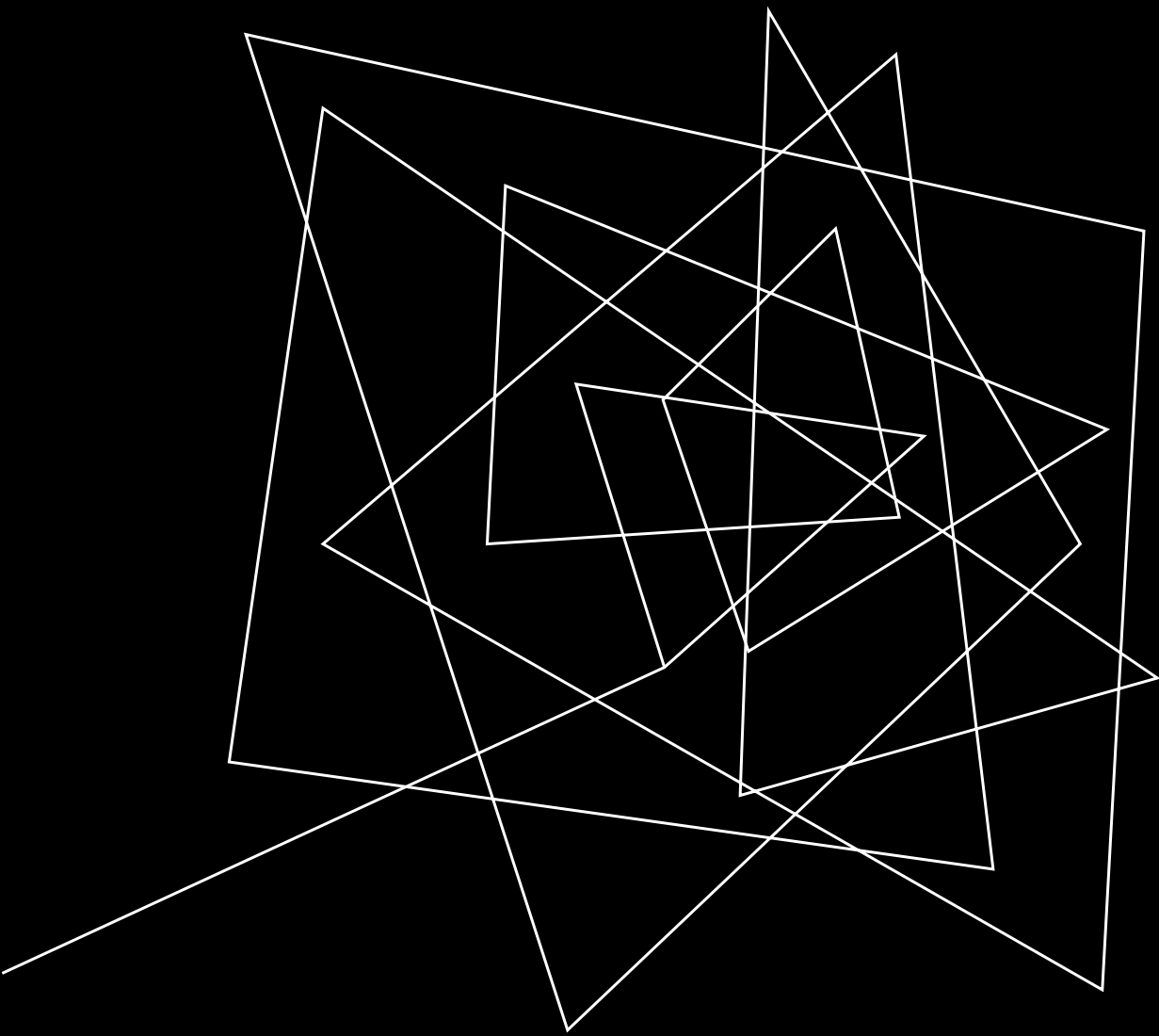


BEFORE WE GET INTO IT ...

I want you to think for a minute, and then write down the following:

1. Two things that interest/excite you about the idea of running for Council.
2. Two things that scare/concern you about the idea of running for Council.

If I don't touch on what you have written down by the end of the session, let's discuss during the question time.



COUNCILLOR ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES & LIMITATIONS



3 ROLES

1. Representative

- Listening to resident concerns, attending community events, and advocating for residents at Council.

2. Policy Maker

- Developing, evaluating, and voting on bylaws, policies, and municipal services, as well as approving the annual budget.

3. Steward

- Ensuring the financial integrity of the municipality and overseeing that administrative practices are in place to implement council decisions.

LEGITIMACY & LIMITATIONS

Being elected as a Member of Council is a big deal ...

- Once elected, you become a member of team of elected individuals who together make decisions and take actions that impact your community and the lives of its residents. **You have legitimacy.**
- While citizen advisory groups, community/neighbourhood groups, special interest groups can provide input, advice, and subject matter expertise, only Council has the legitimacy to make decisions.
- This legitimacy only applies to you as a Member of Council. Outside official Council meetings, your authority is limited. For example, an individual Member of Council cannot direct staff and cannot receive any information outside of what has been provided to all Council to support decision-making.



COUNTY VS. MUNICIPAL

Wellington County Services

- Roads & bridges
- Planning / land division (County Official Plan)
- Economic development
- Social services (Ontario Works, housing, homelessness, childcare) (provincial funds)
- Solid waste & organic services
- Museum
- Library
- Police (OPP)

Municipal Services

- Roads & bridges
- Streetlights & sidewalks
- Planning (municipal official plans)
- Economic development
- Recreation, parks & trails
- Water / wastewater / stormwater management
- Building inspections /permits
- Fire & emergency services



RESPECT &
TEAMWORK

LACK OF RESPECT LEADS TO DYSFUNCTIONAL COUNCILS

Too many Councillors are behaving badly ...

- Ontario Ombudsman Paul Dube reported that between March 2019 – April 2024, he had received 300 complaints and inquiries related to codes of conduct and integrity commissioners.
- Important for all municipalities to establish the ground rules for respectful behaviour for Members of Council.



When someone is elected who seems determined to make life miserable for the “team,” then the absence of effective rules of governance is glaringly evident.

Without these rules, developed at the outset, it is likely that immature behaviour will be allowed to dominate the day.

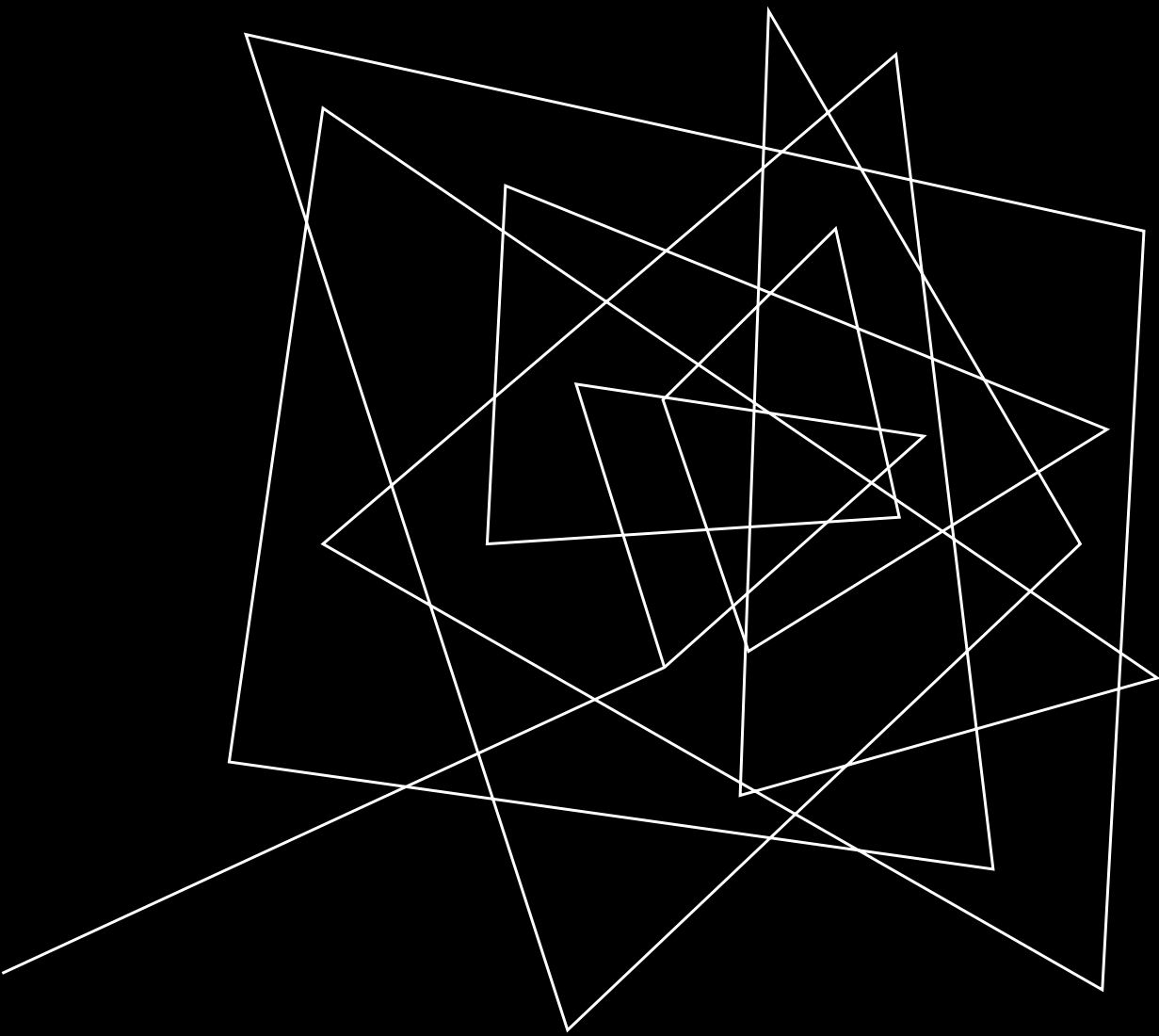
*Sameness is not a virtue. Dissent for its own sake is not a virtue. **However, discussion and debate are the healthy forerunners of best decisions.** A council that thinks group-think is a positive attribute is dysfunctional.*

George Cuff

RESPECT & WORKING TOGETHER

Disagreement is not just OK, it is NECESSARY. But it needs to be RESPECTFUL.

- Positive conflict is good.
- The best teams are the ones that know how to disagree respectfully.
- Give others an opportunity to change your mind. It is OK to be wrong!
- Active listening is important. Ask lots of questions.
- Show respect – always. Respect other councillors. Respect your staff.

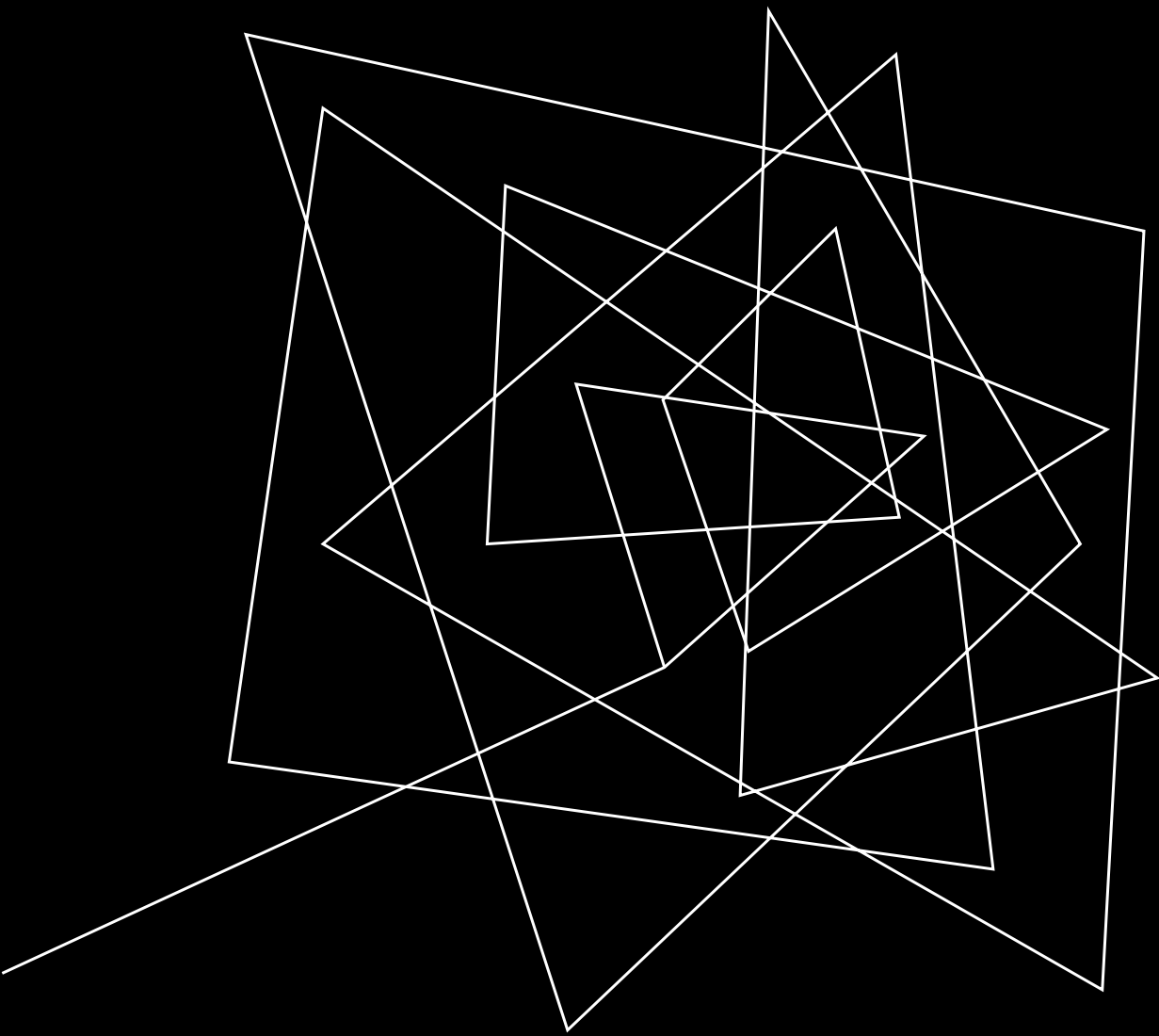


LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
FORMALITY



MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT IS FORMAL

- Head of Council – “Your Worship”
- Dress Code
- Rigid Council meeting agendas & procedures
- Limited/structured/time-boxed discussions
- Formal citizen delegations
- Deliberate (slow) pace to Council meetings

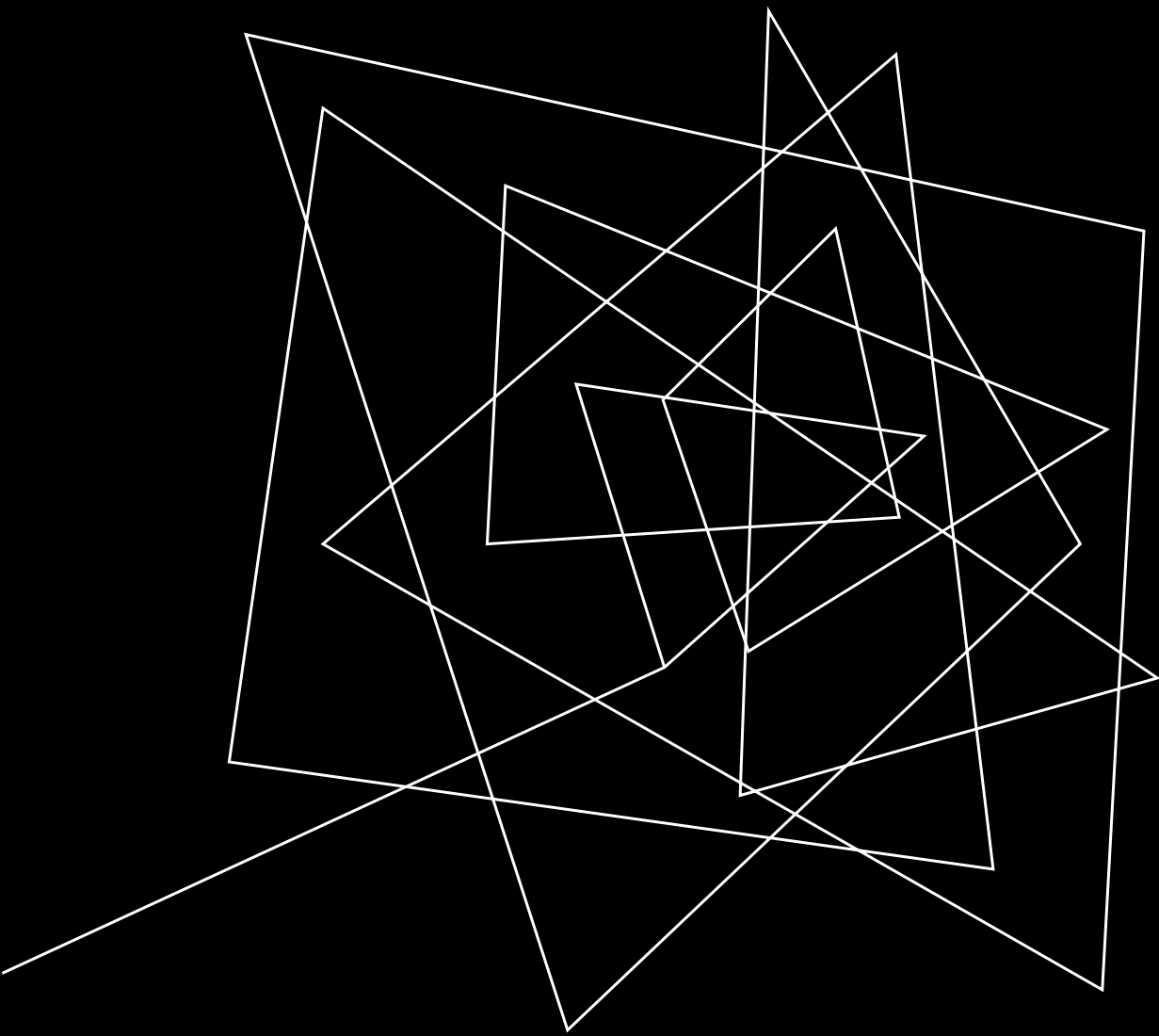


SETTING
BOUNDARIES



Setting boundaries isn't a display of disrespect. It is an expression of self-respect. Other people can't set your limits. They have a right to make requests, but self-preservation is your responsibility.

- Adam Grant

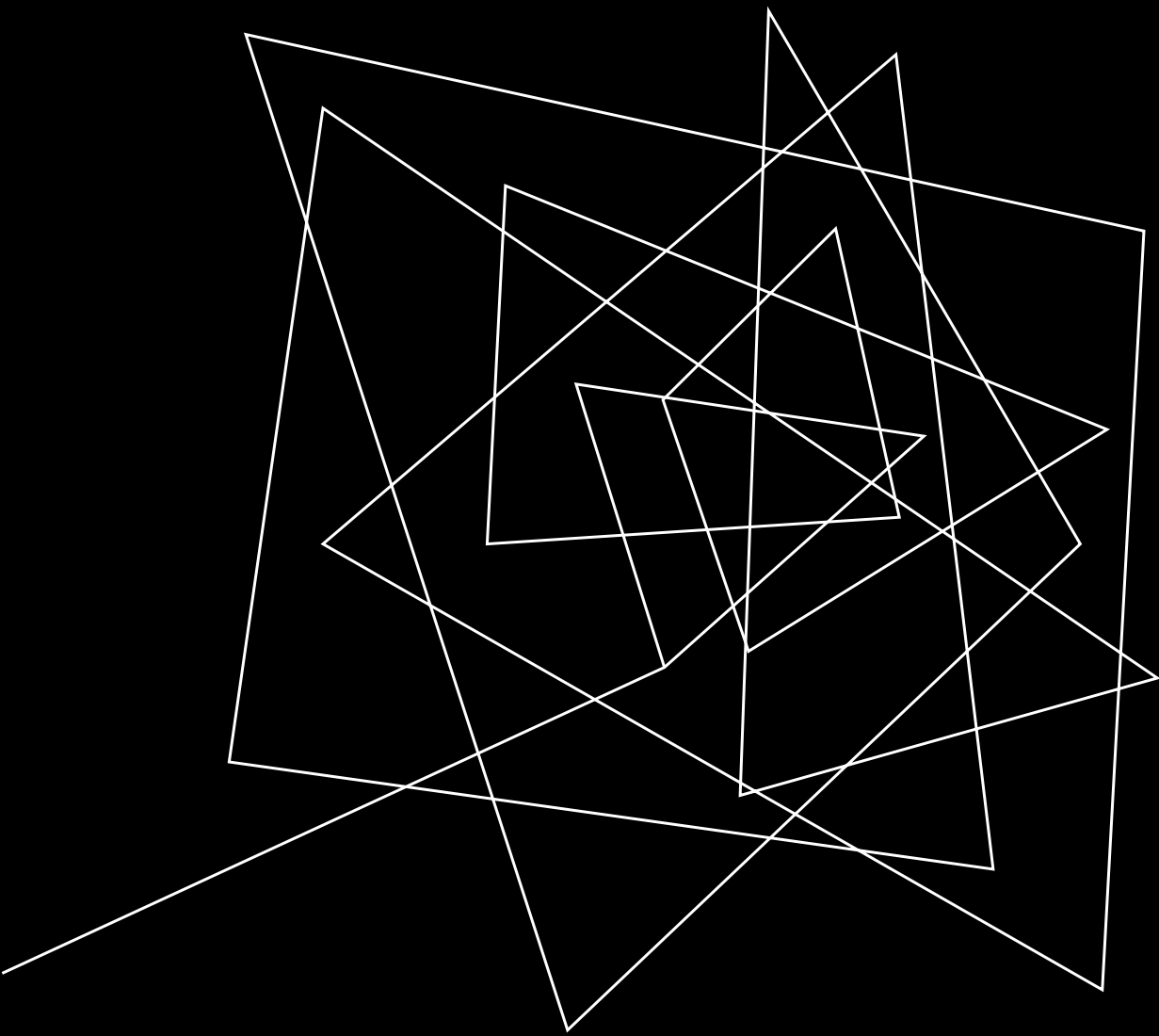


CAMPAIGNING TIPS



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- Meet as many people as possible.
- Expect that some people will be negative – don't take it personally.
- Figure out your key messages and stick to them.
- Be positive. Don't trash your opponents.
- Don't promise things that are outside your control.
- Carefully track your campaign expenses.



YOUR DECISION CHECKLIST



YOUR DECISION CHECKLIST

Personal

- Am I passionate about my community?
- Is my family supportive?
- Can I be patient with the slow speed of government decision-making?
- Can I be a good listener?
- Will I be able to work with people I don't agree with?
- Am I OK with not being liked by everyone all the time?

Professional

- Do I have the time?
- Am I OK with not making much money?
- Am I OK with reading boring reports?
- Does local government services interest me?
- Will I be OK with playing a “governance” role rather than a “management” role?
- Do I have skills/experience that I think would make a positive impact?
- Can I be a team player?



QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU!

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