

# Surviving & Thriving While Dealing With Difficult Board Members

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# A little about me

- First elected in 2016
- My first term the Board of Trustees faced deep division due to:
  - Corruption charges brought against two board members
  - Hiring of employee the majority voted for and I voted against
  - OMA Violation
  - Lawsuits against the board
  - Claims of breach of voter information
  - Personal and professional lawsuits against me and another member of the board 3 weeks before the election

# Politics

It's not a bad word.

**It's simply people working with people.**

**It's another word for partnership.**

**In order for us to be successful, we must think politically at all times.**



# | Thriving: Key Aspects to Thinking Politically

- **Partners**
- **Behavior**
- **Opposition**
- **Conflicts**

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# Partners

- Find Partners who share the same goals internally and externally.
- These relationships are critical because we can't do this alone.
- These partners bring other alliances with them, allowing you more opportunities to build relationships.
- Can be difficult and time-consuming but worth the effort.



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# Behavior

- Demonstrate the risk you are offering others to take by taking on the risk yourself.
- Demonstrate the standards you establish and expect.



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# Opposition

- Keep them close; they deserve more of your attention because they have more to lose.
- Partnerships do not necessarily translate into friendships. The attainment of a common goal is the issue.
- Do not forget the people in the middle, the uncommitted. These are the ones you want to move.



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# Conflict

- There is always the potential for tensions to arise that may affect cooperation.
- Establishing roles and responsibilities and dealing with egos can be sources of tension.
- We must be aware of our partner's agendas and goals.
- Tension and conflict can be reduced through establishing trust and communication.





## — The Key to My Success

“Never argue with stupid people. They will drag you down to their level and beat you with experience.”

MARK TWAIN

