

Lessons from losing campaigns

Sarah Simmons October 10, 2011

Why losing a campaign is good for you

You learn from your mistakes

 Winning campaigns don't take time to review actions because they typically have to govern.

Campaign Strategy

Message and Message Discipline

What is your campaign about?

Who are you going to tell?

How are you going to tell them?

Ability to Execute



Functional Issues that Reveal Bigger Problems:

Cohesive Campaign Team

- Trust
- Forward looking
- Focus on the things that matter

Money to Deliver the Message

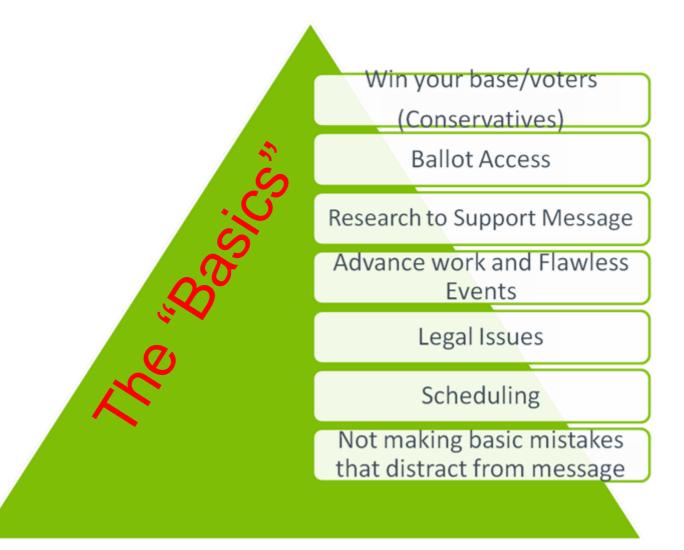
- Do you have enough?
- Do you have it when you need it?
- Are you keeping overhead in check?

The candidate has to be the candidate?

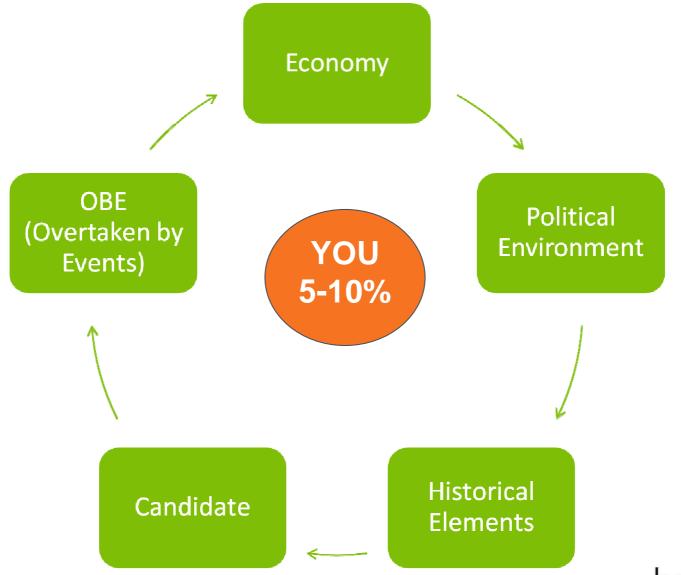
- Deliver Message
- Raise money
- Don't be the strategist, but understand and accept the strategy



Ability to Execute can also be described as "tackling the basics

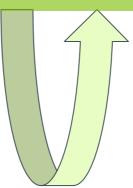


The rule no consultant wants to hear...



Failure to adapt: Tomorrow is another day

- > Events are always changing
- > Every campaign makes mistakes
- Failure to adapt is how campaigns lose, but the ability to advantage of opportunities is how they win.



Overview

- 1. If you can't handle the basics, you will fail at the "big stuff."
 - A. Message discipline, budget, scheduling, ballot access, advance...
- 2. The candidate has to be the candidate.
- 3. Cohesive campaign team.
- 4. Failure to adapt
- 5. It's not all about you.