

Political Acumen Self-Assessment



Please rate yourself in each of the following areas:		Ratings 5 = Strongly agree 4 = Agree 3 = Neutral 2 = Disagree 1 = Strongly disagree
1.	I am highly confident in my ability to operate effectively in the political environments in which my agency operates.	
2.	I connect easily and effectively with diverse groups of people.	
3.	I am very knowledgeable about the local political process – i.e., how decisions are made locally.	
4.	All my employees are very knowledgeable about the local political process.	
5.	I am very knowledgeable about the larger political process – i.e., how things get done on the county, provincial, or other level.	
6.	My staff are very knowledgeable about the larger political process.	
7.	I know what motivates my politicians, administrative decision-makers, partners, and other stakeholders to act.	
8.	I meet frequently with my politicians, administrative decision-makers, partners, and other stakeholders.	
9.	I make myself easily accessible to key stakeholders and stakeholder groups.	
10.	My staff keep in close touch with the staff of our politicians, administrative decision-makers, partners, and stakeholder groups.	
11.	I regularly attend business and civic association meetings, even when I am not on the program.	
12.	I am highly visible in the community – i.e., people know who I am and what agency I represent.	
13.	I embrace my role as the “face” of my agency.	
14.	I speak effectively when making presentations – e.g., I put information in contexts the audience can understand easily.	
15.	I cultivate reliable and varied sources of information so I can develop a comprehensive operational picture.	
16.	Labor and management work collaboratively in the political arena.	
17.	We have a process in place for developing and cultivating positive relationships with all stakeholder groups.	
18.	I regularly act as a resource for my politicians, administrative decision-makers, and partners – e.g., educating them about what we do and why, making introductions that benefit them.	
19.	I consistently and liberally give the credit for positive outcomes to those responsible for making them possible.	
20.	I establish strong working relationships with stakeholder groups before I start making requests of them.	
21.	I frame all requests in terms of how the other person/group will benefit by agreeing to do as I ask.	
22.	I consistently “connect the dots” for stakeholders between what our agency does and how it benefits them.	
23.	I regularly make my boss(es) – e.g., commissioners, city manager – look good.	

Any area with a score of 3 or less requires immediate attention!

Resources to help you address those areas you’ve identified as needing attention

The following complimentary resources are available on the Resources page of our website (<http://www.publicsafetyinsights.net/resources/articles>):

- [How to Succeed in Public Safety Politics without Bragging or Begging](#)
- [How to Succeed in Consolidation: The East Naples/Golden Gate Fire Districts’ Experience](#)
- [Political Acumen Isn’t Just for Leaders](#)

Dr. Pat Lynch’s *Public Safety Insights*: [Sign up on our website](#) to receive our complimentary bi-weekly newsletter that contains concise, immediately useful information to help first responders maximize their performance.

Additional Resource:

- [Be Political without Being a Politician](#) - article written with Fire Chief Kingman Schuldts for IAFC’s *On Scene*
562-985-0333 | [Contact Dr. Pat Lynch](#) | www.BusinessAlignmentStrategies.com