



Researching Yourself and Your Record

These are some of the items to look at in self-research.

Self-Reflection:

- What am I most worried about my opponent knowing about me?
- What else will they say about me?
- What will I say if/when they know this?

Personal Research:

- Tax records – Are they in order? Are there any issues related to income taxes that could be damaging if made public?
- Are there any records – either your own or those connected to your close family that could raise questions if they became public? Remember to consider electronic communications as potentially public records.
- These include records pertaining to:
 - *School*
 - *Military service*
 - *Employment history*
 - *Business history*
 - *Investments*
 - *Drug or alcohol use*
 - *Sexual relations*
 - *Civil or criminal charges*
 - *Physical or mental health*
 - *Membership in organization*

Public Research:

- If you are a voting member of an organization, such as the school board or your homeowners' association, examine your voting record for items that may raise questions.
- Look for voting inconsistencies – has your vote changed over time?
- How is your attendance record?
- Have you made any public statements that could be of interest in a campaign?