



As a candidate you should expect to be asked questions about your views local and global concerns and you should be ready to provide satisfactory answers to the questions.

If you plan to make an issue of education, for example, you best need to know what is spent per pupil, how many schools are available, school retention rates, test scores, the number of kids who go to college, teaching conditions, pension and salaries, graduation rates, unemployment rates, migration, and the number and types of jobs available. Most of the voters don't know this information but as a candidate you would be expected to.

To know these things you need to read the newspapers, watch TV and listen to the radio. Don't make the mistake of ignoring the press, bloggers and social media, their importance in politics is growing exponentially.

**Choose a Mentor:** You should find someone with whom you agree politically, or at least respect. Your mentor should be someone whose values, goals, style, ideals, ethics and positions you admire. Make their acquaintance, get to know them, ask for their mentorship and let them advise you. This is the fastest route to beginning your career in politics.

### Start Small

Finally, you need to start out small in politics. You cannot go on straight to becoming President or even Mayor. The best places to start are in local school boards, or with your local party politics and course attending their meetings Volunteer to work in a campaign at some level,

like helping fundraise for the campaign and the cause, or even observe elections. You can then move on to the next level of contesting local elections and climbing up the ladder from there. Be assured, while there is no straight cut path for the engagement and progress in politics, if you take these tips into consideration, you are well on your way. Good luck, your country needs you.

### Specializations in Politics

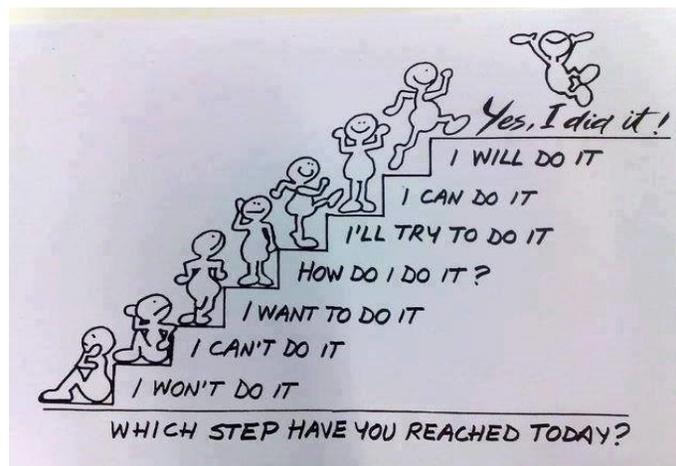
There are various ways to perform in politics

#### 1. Electioneering

- Campaign manager
- Polling agent
- Advertising consultant
- Field organizer
- Convention manager
- Press secretary
- Social network coordinator

#### 2. Advocacy

- Event Planner
- Lobbyist
- Blogger
- Issues analyst
- Internet strategist
- Policy researcher



## Consider a Career in Politics



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## A Career in Politics???

Careers in politics are not very popular among youth in Cameroon, this generation has known nothing but the elderly involved in politics and it is no secret that politicians can be devious...

So why do we encourage you to consider a career in politics?

Simple. Because you are needed.

### Why choose a career in politics?

Times are changing and young people can bring about change in the society by becoming more involved. One way of involving yourself is through politics. Here is why you should consider politics

1- Participating in politics (at different levels) is your legal right and also often a duty (you SHOULD be voting).

2- We often complain about lack of progress in our country. What are we doing to address it? If politics remains a dirty game, that is because the good and responsible people who could make a difference shy away from it. Evil triumphs because of good men fail to act.

3- It affects you either way. Whether you choose to get involved or not, politics affects you. The more young people are disengaged from politics and civic life, the more decisions that affect their future are taken by others.

### How to start a career in politics

Having a career in politics is not a day's job but rather a testament of years of determination and hard work. All the more reason for you to begin while young. Here are some steps you can take as you consider setting up in politics:

◆ **Decide if politics is for you.** Ask

yourself: Are you passionate about making decisions and bringing positive change to society? Are you alright with living a very public life? Can you stick to your opinions in the face of opposition? Do you have good motives for engaging in politics? Can you embrace the outcomes of a political contest? Are you prepared for an unstable employment path? Are you ready to commit to this?

- ◆ **Develop your background.** While you can become a politician despite what ever you study, it is undoubtedly an advantage to your career in politics if you studied or have some background in political science; public administration, international relations, communications, and social work. No matter what background you have academically, you should have knowledge on how the various arms of government operate in Cameroon. Which arm interests you most?
- ◆ **Know the rules of the game!** Do you know the laws? To consider a career in politics you must know the legislation of Cameroon among other issues like; legal age, various political parties, levels of participation and more. The voting age in Cameroon is 20, the minimum age to serve in parliament (Lower house) is 23 (Upper House) is 40. You also need to be at least 23 to run for Council elections.
- ◆ **Be sure of your politics.** Becoming a politician means you have an opinion and stand for something. Let your convictions on issues be firm. Be able to state what you believe should be done on several levels and know how your views differ from those of you oppose.
- ◆ **Build Your Résumé .** Aside from your education what else can prove that you are knowledgeable on the opinions you express?

You need to build a resume that testifies of your involvement in issues you speak of and your eligibility to speak on behalf of your people. In building your resume, you should strive to develop necessary skills such as public speaking, finance management, debating, diplomacy and team building skills.

- ◆ **Get yourself in order.** We urge you to start thinking of this now so as to give you time to get yourself in order. For instance you would need time to develop your finances so they are stable enough if you envisage a political campaign. You will also need time to build a reputation, convince your family and friends to stand behind you and much more!

Youth can be the leaders of tomorrow... if they choose to procrastinate today  
-Unknown

### Do your research!

It is of utmost importance that you have good knowledge on the jurisdiction or area where you plan to run, the functions of the office you aspire after, the political affiliation of the electorate, the turnout of the population by electoral year, the age breakdown of the electorate, income, education, major employers. Know your opponents and the people you expect to vote for you and most of all, ensure that they know you well. You also need to research issues. Basic knowledge of the issues that affect your jurisdiction is very essential unless you enjoy looking stupid in interviews.