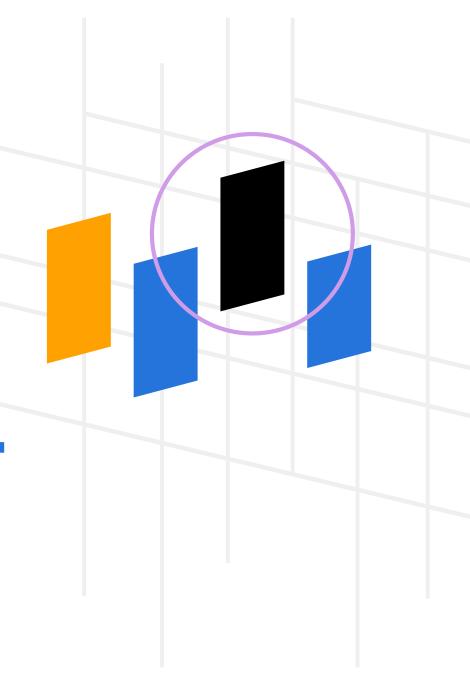


Master Class

# Generating the MOST Revenue from your Ballot



### Welcome



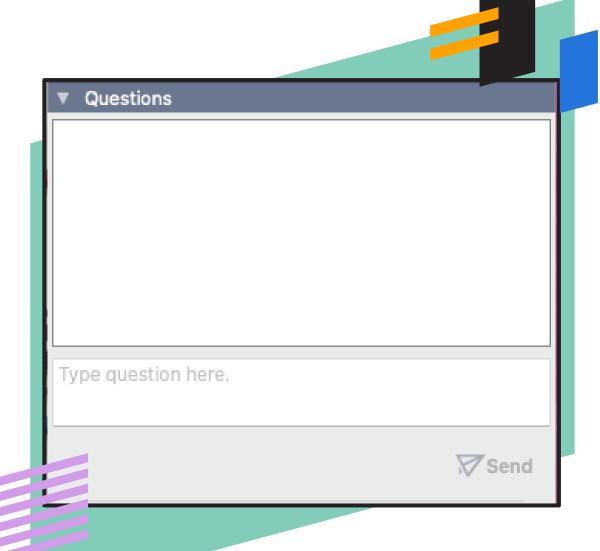
Julie Foley
Senior Customer Success Manager
jfoley@uplandsoftware.com



Matt Hummert
Customer Success Manager
mhummert@uplandsoftware.com

# Do you have questions?

Ask in the GoToWebinar Panel during the webinar, and we will answer them at the end!





# The Opportunity



# It is the top AUDIENCE initiative of the year!



# It is the top DATABASE GROWTH initiative of the year!

# It is the top REVENUE initiative of the year!



# Average revenue growth 30% year over year



## **Case Studies**

from partners who follow best practices



### The Pilot | Southern Pines, NC

- 90+K Nominations
- 226+K Votes
- 19+K Registrations
- 2,399 Daily Newsletter opt-ins
- 1,788 Perks Newsletter opt-ins
- 1,733 Promotions opt-ins
- **\$208,000** in revenue
- 45% YOY revenue growth
- 15% over revenue goal







## **Boone Newspapers, Inc**

- 83 community newspapers
- 12 states
- Circulation ranges from 1K-17K
- Best Of:
  - 10 markets first year running
  - 5 markets ran print and digital versions
  - Everyone else brand new to digital ballots
- \$1,025,000 in year ONE!





# But **HOW** do you generate the most revenue?



## **Mission Statement**

What is your purpose?

### **Mission Statement**

- Purpose
- Value
- Goal

Example: "The Best of Ballot is a year-round celebration that recognizes the best businesses, people, and places in our community."



"It's important that we include a mission statement so that we define what Best of the Pines stands for in our community. It allows our sales team to better overcome objections and allows our business owners and voters to understand what we hope to accomplish"

- Samantha Cunningham, Marketing

Consultant, The Pilot



## **How to Execute**



# Run a 3-phase ballot

### **Nomination**

- Write-in nominations
- Top 5-10
   nominees move
   on to Voting
   Ballot
- Time Frame: 3-4 weeks

### Voting

- Seeded entrants
- No write-ins
- Time Frame: 3-4 weeks

### Winners

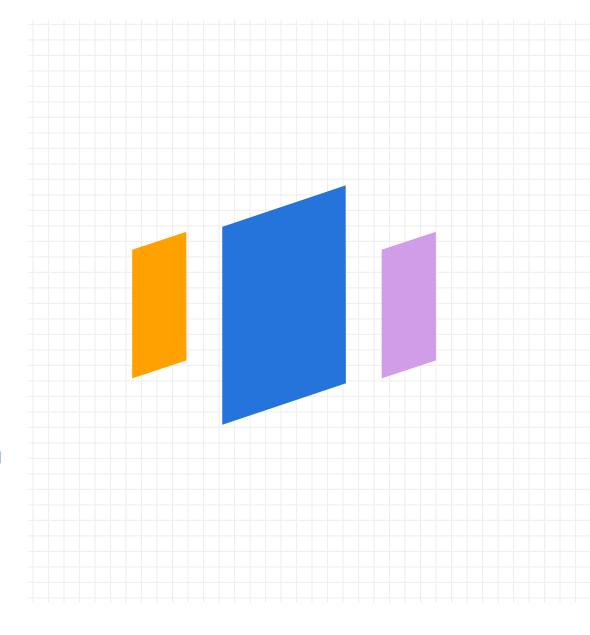
- One Winner
- Two Finalists
- Online Winner's Directory



# Designate a Champion

## Designate a Champion

- Project manager:
  - Set goals, plan, and execute
- Work with other departments
- Having a leader will grow your program



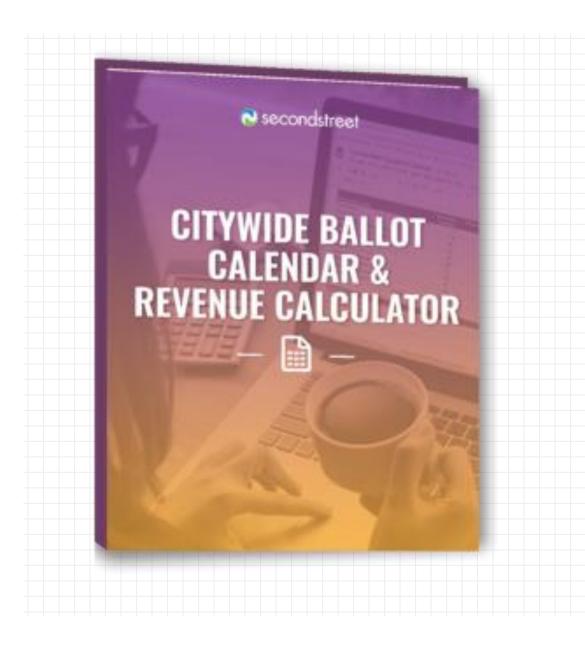


# "We see **50%-450%** YOY revenue growth in markets with a ballot champion"

- Sara Gilbert, Director of Contesting and Promotions, Lee Enterprises

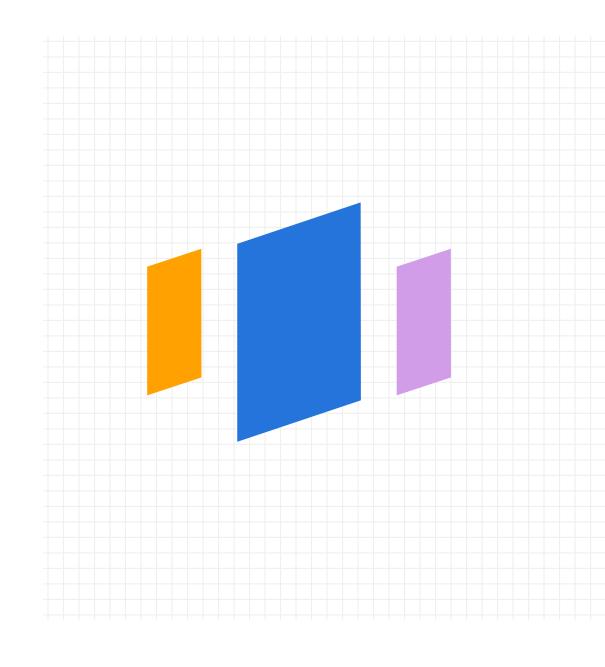
# Your Project Management Timeline

- 6 months out:
  - Create ballot timeline
  - Designate market champion
- 3 months out:
  - One on One weekly calls with local market champion
  - Make sure the timeline is on track
- 1 month out:
  - Sales Kickoff and Training

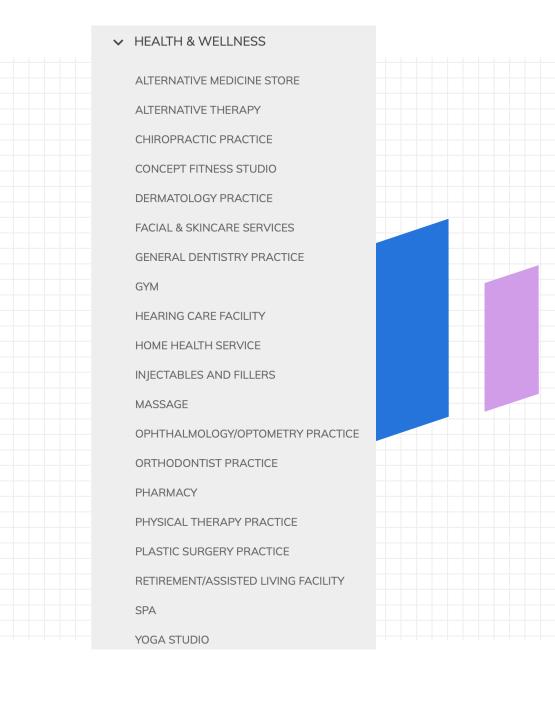




- When looking over categories
   there are three things to consider:
  - Engagement
  - Current Revenue
  - Potential Revenue Opportunities



- Review categories YoY:
  - What categories can you toss?
  - What categories should you add?
- Did the categories perform well?
  - Relevant within the community
  - Competitive



- Current Revenue
  - Where did you see the most revenue?
  - Don't lose categories that are generating revenue
- Potential Revenue
  - Where could you grow within current categories?
  - What categories should you add?
    - Home Services, Legal, Real Estate

#### **Best Attorney**



#### Featured Entrants



#### Colin Gerstner -Gerstner Adam Law

Thank you for your votes!

Gerstner Adam Law represents injured Montanans, fights for the rights of consumers with integrity, and always acts as a strong and trustworthy advocate.

We fight for the...Read more

9 2702 Montana Ave #201b, ...

(406) 969-3100

CALI

G gerstnerlawoffic... VISIT SITE

f facebook.com/g... VISIT PAGE

SHARE



#### Andrew Van Arsdale -Ava Law Group

AVA Law Group Inc. represents the people against the powerful! We're a Montana personal injury law firm on a mission to connect you with the topnotch legal representation your case deserves. At AV...Read more

27185 Montana Ave. Suite ...

(800) 777-4141

CALL

avalaw.com/

VISIT SITE

facebook.com/A... VISIT PAGE

SHARE



# **Audit Your Audience**

## **Audit Your Audience**

- As soon as your ballot is over, you should analyze the data:
  - Entrant report
  - Nomination report
  - Voting report
- Look for trends in participation
  - Total number of users
  - Average nominations per user
  - Average votes per user
  - YoY comparison





# **Audit Your Sales Packages**

## **Audit your Packages**

NOMINATION ROUND				
PACKAGE LEVEL	PACKAGE SALES GOAL	COST/PACKAGE	REVENUE	TOTAL REVENUE BY ROUND
PREMIUM	4	\$995	\$3,980	
DELUXE	6	\$549	\$3,294	\$5,286
BASIC	8	\$249	\$1,992	
				\$9,266
VOTING ROUND				
PACKAGE LEVEL	PACKAGE SALES GOAL	COST/PACKAGE	REVENUE	TOTAL REVENUE BY ROUND
PREMIUM	10	\$995	\$9,950	
DELUXE	20	\$549	\$10,980	
BASIC	15	\$249	\$3,735	
				\$24,665
WINNERS ROUND				
PACKAGE LEVEL	PACKAGE SALES GOAL	COST/PACKAGE	REVENUE	TOTAL REVENUE BY ROUND
PREMIUM	8	\$995	\$7,960	
DELUXE	20	\$749	\$14,980	
BASIC	25	\$395	\$9,875	
				\$32,815
GRAND TOTAL				\$66,746

## **Audit your Packages**

- When looking over your sales packages, there are three things to consider:
  - What sold and performed well?
  - Feedback from clients
  - Where can you add value?

#### **2021 BEST OF OXFORD**

#### **VOTE PACKAGES**

Congratulations! You received enough nominations to move forward to the VOTING PHASE and an opportunity to win the 2021 BEST of OXFORD TITLE!

#### IMPORTANT DATES:

FINAL VOTING ROUND: APR 14- May 8, 2021

WINNERS ANNOUNCED: OXFORD MAGAZINE JUL/AUG 2021



Platinum	Silver	Gold
Campaign runs for 4 weeks Print Campaign: Quarter page full color nominate us" ad runs 4 times ligital Campaign: sponsor a group and up to five categories on the ballot during the nomination phase and 300x 250 ad on pallot's right-hand rail and run of site \$995 Value \$1,750	Campaign runs for 4 weeks Print Campaign: Eighth page full color "nominate us" ad that runs 4 times Digital Campaign: Sponsor up to three categories on the ballot during the nomination phase and 300x 250 ad on ballot's right-hand rail and an ad The Oxford Eagle website \$549 Value \$1,200	Campaign runs for 4 weeks Digital Campaign: Campaign runs for 4 weeks Digital Campaign: Sponsor one category on the ballot during the nomination phase and 300, 250 ad on ballot's right-hand rail and a an ad on The Oxford Eagle website \$249 Value \$750
Best of Oxford Categories	List Published Each Wed. in Oxford	Eagle. All Voting Online.

#### \*ENHANCED LISTING ONLY: \$95 EACH

YES, IF I AM NOMINATED I AM INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING IN THE WINNERS SECTIO

#### Deadline Apr 8.

Company \_\_\_\_\_ Authorized by



Call your multimedia consultant at 662-234-4331 to reserve your space

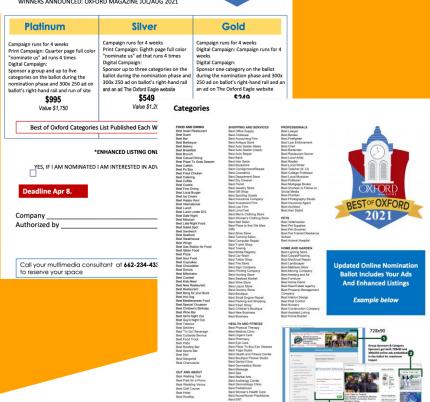
THE OXFORD EAGLE

## Sample Sales Sheet

#### What to include

- Keep on one sheet (front and back)
- Ballot Logo
- 3 packages
- Dates for each round, deadlines
- Package details
- Value + investment
- Option to "keep it going to next round"
- List of all groups/categories
- What ads look like on the ballot
- QR Code to a live/test ballot to "test drive" it







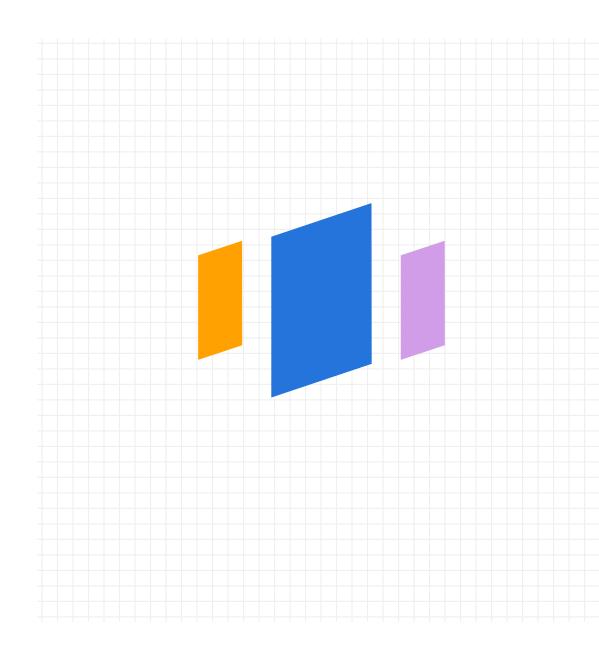




# **Sales Training**

## **Sales Training**

- Sales launch party make it fun
- Who to prospect
  - Categories that will deliver
- What to say
  - We don't sell votes, we sell audience!
  - Practice your pitch
- 2<sup>nd</sup> training workshop
  - Overcome objections/close more sales
  - Feedback from reps/business owners





# FAQ Page

## **FAQ Page**

- A resource for sellers
- Everything business owners need to know
- Helps OVERCOME OBJECTIONS
- Landing page for ballot, previous year's winners and current toolkit



#### 2022 Nominations FAQ

#### 7. Do businesses have to pay to get on the ballot?

No way! It is 100% free to participate. We do have options to give your business more exposure, but purchasing advertising does not guarantee anything for the contest. If you are interested in getting your business logo on the ballot, you can email <u>click here</u> to request our media kit.

#### 8. What happened to that one category from last year?

You sent us hundreds of notes during and after last year's Best of the Pines, and we used that feedback to create this year's ballot. Some categories have been expanded, others have been tweaked for clarity, and a couple were put on the shelf. These changes refresh the ballot so it's not the exact same, year after year. We did our best to consider the impact of these changes, but we'd like to hear from you if you have comments or suggestions for the 2023 ballot. Please email those messages to <a href="mailto:bestofthepines@thepilot.com">bestofthepines@thepilot.com</a>.

#### 9. Do advertisers automatically win?

No! Best of the Pines results are based on our reader voting. Some winners may be advertisers or later choose to be one, but being an advertiser does not guarantee a win.

We work hard to maintain the integrity of this contest because it means so much to our community. We do NOT sell votes! Any business/nominee that is flagged for fraudulent activity will be removed from the ballot for the remainder of the 2022 campaign. No cheating!





"We see the most revenue from 7 advertising categories across our organization. We train our reps to focus on those in each market."

- Candi Davis, Sales Trainer/Facilitator, Boone Newspapers, Inc.

- Target top business categories that:
  - Show up in 3+ categories
    - Best Commercial Real Estate Company
    - Best Real Estate Agent
    - Best Residential Real Estate Company



**All Categories** 

- > Eat & Drink
- > Entertainment

#### → Financial & Real Estate

Best Commercial Real Estate Company/Agent

Best Credit Union

Best Drive-Thru Banking

Best Farm and Ranch Real Estate Company/Agent

Best Financial Advisor/Planner

Best Home Builder

Best Home Inspector

Best Insurance Agency

Best Insurance Agent

Best Loan Officer

Best Mortgage Company

Best Place for Banking

Best Real Estate Agent

Best Real Estate Agent - Lake

Best Real Estate Company

Best Real Estate Company -Lake Texoma

Best Residential Real Estate **Property Management** Company

## **Best Commercial Real Estate** Company/Agent









"Best **Commercial Real Estate** Company/Agent"

Easy Life Realty

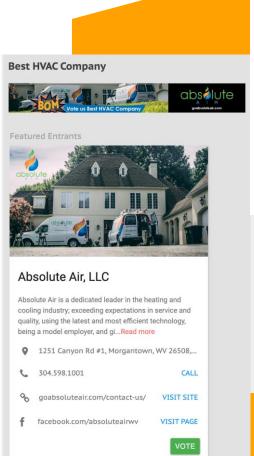
SHARE



- Target top business categories that:
  - Are competitive/Egos
    - Legal
    - Real Estate
    - Automotive
    - Specialty Healthcare



- Target top business categories that:
  - Historically buy "Best Of" packages
    - Home Services
    - Real Estate
    - Automotive
    - Financial
    - Specialty Healthcare
    - Legal



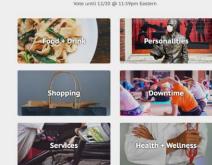


The 10th annual Best of Morgantown is here! Through BOM, Morganto magazine highlights the best shopping, dining, recreation, services, and from October 26-November 8, then choose their favorites in a final round that runs from November 30-December 20. Winners will be recognized in our BOM issue in February 2021.

Vote by clicking the categories below and selecting your favorites from the final ballot. You can vote once per day per category.



Vote until 12/20 @ 11:59pm Eastern















# The Pitch

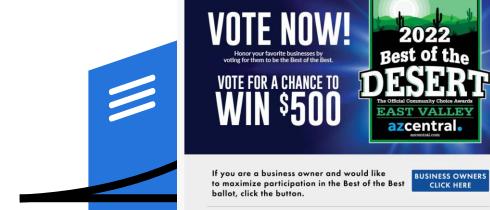


"A key to success with Best of Ballots is to have a great value proposition that includes some of your best media packages of the year, and then to train your sales team well on communicating the value proposition. We include talk track tracks, strong sales collateral and email templates in sales rallies for every program."

- Rebecca Capparelli, VP of Promotions, PromotionsiQ, Gannett

# **Value Proposition**

- Focus on the benefits to the advertiser
  - The value in advertising in a promotion that engages the entire community
  - Multimedia campaign that will not only reach our readers and audience but will reach engage the entire region
  - Audience reach is exponentially higher (see stats!)
  - Free to participate not pay to play but competition is fierce and your presence on the ballot helps your exposure
  - Remind community of your past wins that you are the best
  - You'll find new clients, customers and supporters
  - It will help with recruitment efforts
- Share stats 2020 vs 2021
  - Total Users % increase
  - Nominations % increase
  - Votes % increase



VALLEY ards! best our

### Go Ahead, Claim Your Title As The Reader's Choice

There is no doubt the key to your success has been hard work. Let us help you drive awareness and increase your sales by encouraging the local community to choose you as their pick for the

Take advantage of specially priced advertising packages that will work with your budget and may include:

- Print ads in Arizona Republic
- Run of site digital impressions on azcentral.com
- Category sponsorship ads on the ballot
- Nomination Page ads
- Opt-in email marketing
- And more!

The Nomination round is 1/28/22 - 2/16/22 and will determine the Top 5 businesses in each

The Top 5, Vote for Me round is 4/6/22 - 4/25/22. Businesses with the most nominations from the previous round advance to the Top 5. Vote for Me round.

A special section will be published this June in print and online. The special section will remain online throughout the year. All winners and finalist nominees will have an opportunity to purchase advertising within the publication.

Ask us about a hi-resolution "Nominate Us" and " Vote for Me" logos you can use in your marketing.

Go ahead, claim your title

#### Claim Your Title Here!

Simply submit the form and one of our media consultants will reach out to you to discuss

your opt	ions and help you start your on.
First Na	me:
Last Nar	ne:
Compan	y Name:
Email Ac	ddress:
Phone N	lumber:
Postal C	nde
rustal C	oue.

United States

nade it to the final es to determine

vas overwhelming!

dozens of egories, you'll be a \$500 gift card!

April 25th.

act vour voto and

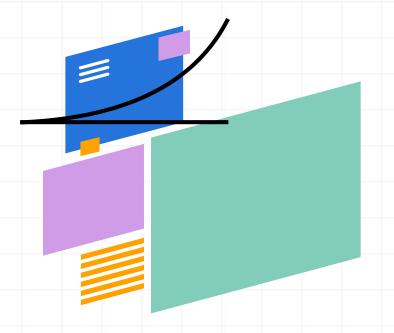


# DON'T BE BASIC

When you're pitching don't start with the basic package

# **Bad Pitch**

"Hey our 'Best Of' is back. Packages start at \$299. Want to get one?"

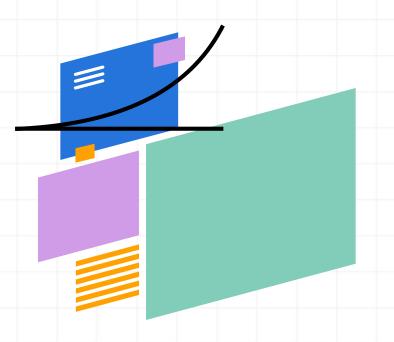


# **Good Pitch**

"Congratulations on being a winner in our 2021 Best of Ballot. Now it's time to **defend (or claim)** your title as we launch the contest for 2022. We had a **75% increase** in nominations and votes from last year and **over 25,000 users** participate. We have integrated packages available, let's set up a time to talk!"

-Sally Seller, The Best Media Company

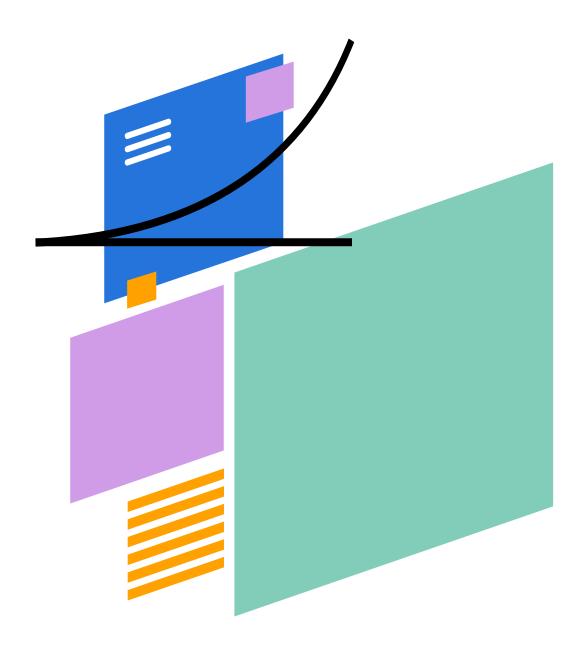






# **Be Prepared**

- Have scripts ready for common objections
- Know your stats
- Know your value proposition/benefits





"It's rigged"

Its free to participate in 'Best Of'. We are presenting this package to you because it's truly good for your business.

Our audience is exponentially bigger and more valuable right now - and always during 'Best Of' Season. We promote this program everywhere. We also use a 3rd party and check IP addresses if we suspect fraudulent voting.



"What if I buy a package and don't win?"

"What if I buy a package and don't win?"

That could happen. But as a sales rep you can help them spread the word with not only the presence on the ballot (as part of their package) but with how they can solicit votes from their current customers. The key is to explain that they aren't paying for votes. They are paying for an integrated package that reaches your audience when it's at its peak. For example, we had a 300% increase in votes this year and 20,000 unique users! Share how many nominations you had in last year's ballot. Share success stories of other advertisers.

"I don't need to buy a package to win.

I AM the best."

"I don't need to buy a package to win. I AM the best."

That's correct. It's free to participate in 'Best Of'. But your competitors want to claim your title. We are presenting this package to you because it's truly good for your business. Our audience is exponentially bigger and more valuable right now - and always during 'Best Of' Season. If you win every year, would you like to THANK your supporters for making you the best?



# Key Takeaways



# Create a Mission Statement



# Execute 3-phase ballot



# Designate a Champion



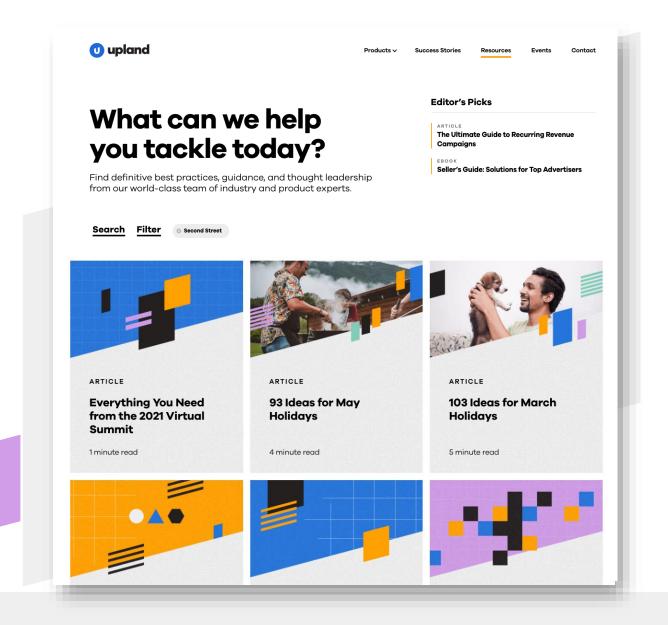
# **Audit your Ballot**



# Train your Sales Team

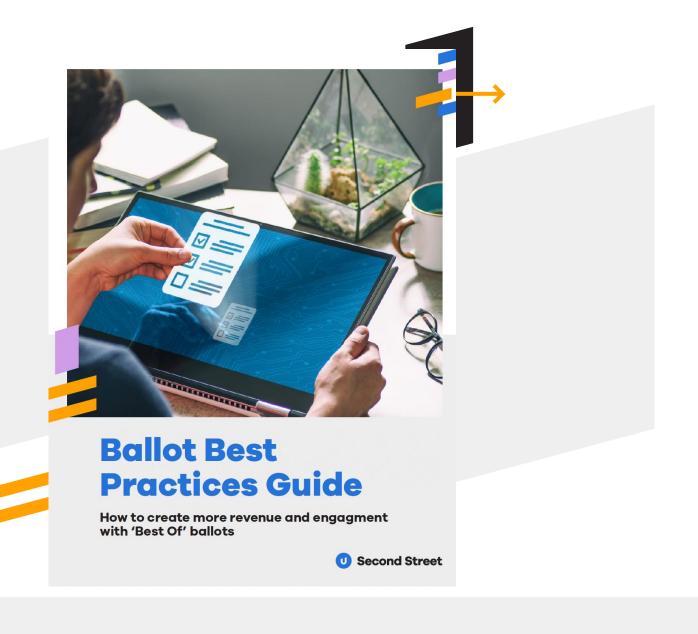


# Resources

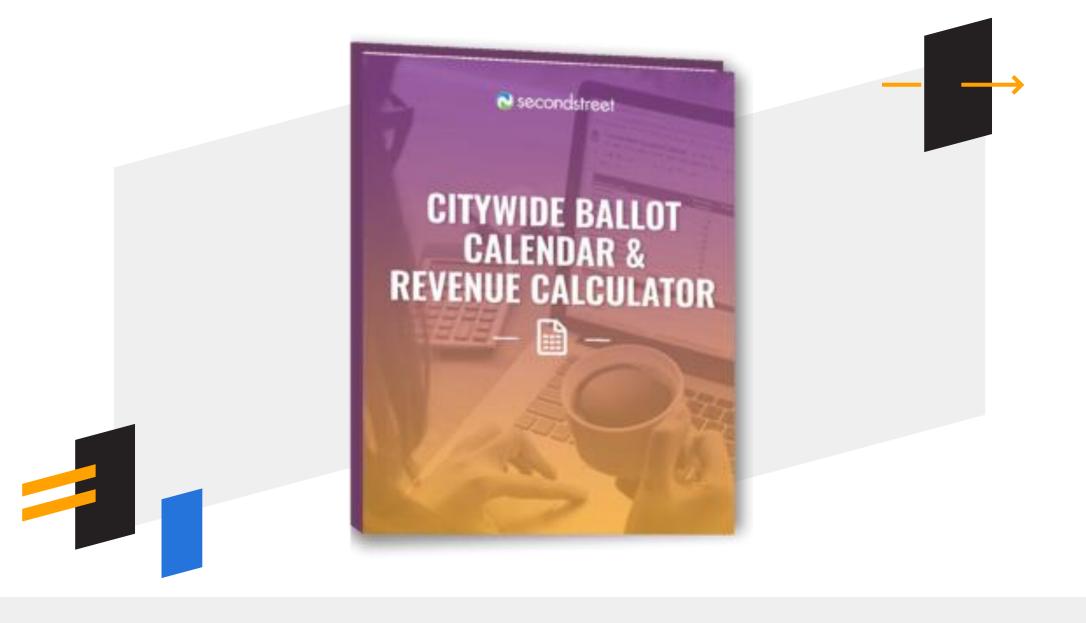








# uplandsoftware.com/ballots-guide



U

uplandsoftware.com/ballots-calendar

## **Best of the Best Nomination Packages**

Your Logo Here

We are highlighting the best of the best. Our readers will nominate their favorite businesses in our community to tell us what they want to see in the voting round. To promote your business, we have created 3 promotional packages.

### **Important Dates:**

Nomination Round: Enter Dates Here Voting Round: Enter Dates Here

Winners Announced: Enter Dates Here

**REACH OUR BIGGEST AUDIENCE** OF THE YEAR

**Premium Package** 

Campaign runs for 4

Digital:

#### **Basic Package**

Campaign runs for 4

#### Digital:

- Sponsor 1 category on the ballot
- 300x 250 ad on ballot

### **Deluxe Package** Campaign runs for 4

#### Digital:

- Sponsor up to 3 categories on the ballot
- 300x 250 ad on ballot' page

### TV:

- 20x:30 on-air commercials weekly (M-F 6a-7p)
- Audio/Video ID in :15 promotional spots (M-F 5a -5p, minimum 10/week)

#### **INVESTMENT: \$349**

INVESTMENT: \$549

YES, I'M INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING IF I MAKE IT TO THE VOTING ROUND.

more information, contact your Account Representative or call 000.000.0000

## Campaign to Win

## **Arts & Entertainment**

Art Gallery Cultural Event Dance Club Family Entertainmen

Live Music Event Live Theater Grou Movie Theater

Nightclub Outdoor Event

#### Diace for Kide' Birthday Darty **Eating & Drinking**

Bartender (Name & Place Bed & Breakfast

Buffet Restaurant Catering Chef (Name & Place)

Coffeehouse Donuts Food Truck

Fried Chicke Hamburger Happy Hour Japanese Restaurant Kid-Friendly Restaurant

up to 5 categories on the ballot 300x 250 ad on ballot page

40x:30 on-air commercials weekly (M-F 6a-7p)

Sponsor 1 group and

Audio/Video ID in :15 promotional spots (M-F 5a -5p, minimum 15/week)

#### **INVESTMENT: \$999**

## Pick Your Categories &

#### Outdoor Patio Hair Salon Sports Bar

Take Out Thai/Vietnamese Restauran Upscale Bar Vegetarian Restauran

#### Health & Fitness

Acupuncturist Chiropractor

Cosmetic Dermatologist Cosmetic Surgeon Day Spa Dentist

Hospital In-Home Care Elder Services Laser Eye Center

Massage Therapis Medical Spa Personal Trainer

#### Weight Loss Clinic/Cou Services

Accounting Firm Auto Loan Provider Bank Bookkeeping/Tax Service Car Wash Carpet Cleaner

Child Care Commercial Real Estate Computer/IT Services

Financial Planning leating & Air Compan Home Lighting Home Security

Jeweler Kitchen & Bath Remodele

## Mortgage/Home Loan I

Motorcycle Shop Oil Change Pest Control

Photographe Piercing Studio

Real Estate Agenca Real Estate Agen Shoe Repair Store Tanning Salon Tire Shop

#### Sports & Recreation Bowling Alley

Driving Range Golf Course 3ym Health & Fitness Club Pilates Studio

Shooting Range Shopping Antique Store Appliance Store Bicycle Shop Book Store

Bridal/Formal Wear Children's Clothing Store Consignment Store Department Store Garden Store/Nursery Gift Store Golf Shop Grocery Store Health Food Store Home Electronics Store

Home Furnishing Store Home Improvement Sto Mall/Shopping Center

Mattress Store Men's Clothing Store Outdoor Outfitters Place to Buy a Used Car Show Store

Toy Store Women's Clothing Store Local

Local Actor ocal Actress Local Author

ocal Cause ocal Clothing Designer Local Legislator Local Radio Personality

ocal Sports Team Local Television Person Local Twitter Feed ocal Website/Blog

Neighborhood Place to Get Married Place to Take Out of Town Guest

Place to Work Scenic Spot

### Sample Ballot





# Welcome



Julie Foley
Senior Customer Success Manager
jfoley@uplandsoftware.com



Matt Hummert
Customer Success Manager
mhummert@uplandsoftware.com