

Jim, a CEO for the town's local construction company, sits at his office when his secretary knocks on the door, inviting in Hal, assistant to the town council. Hal drops off documentation for Jim, including the first subpoenas for engineers at the company. Hal briskly tells Jim that mayor Leo has begun a closed investigation into alleged fraudulent company practices that have resulted in increased contamination of the town's water supply. Jim excuses Hal and asks his secretary to arrange a meeting with himself and Leo as soon as possible. After quickly checking the mayor's online calendar, the secretary informs Jim that Leo has a booked schedule for the next few days but that Jim can catch Leo if he attends a campaign event ending in an hour.

Jim takes off from work, making angry phone calls to members of his board and the city. Jim walks into a small town hall center that resembles a rec center. At the front of the room is an older man appearing in his early 50s, addressing a small number (ten-ish) people dispersed amongst empty rows of chairs. To his right is a much younger woman, standing behind her own podium. Jim finds a seat next to another person – and asking who the other woman is, learns she is Leo's opponent in the mayoral race. Jim watches what are the two candidates' closing remarks to the debate (Leo's are mid-lengthy and poised yet vague while the woman, Ana, produces long-winded, passionate but fumbling sentences). Jim stands at the end of the debate, joining the end of a short line of people as they shake hands with the candidates. Jim mutters frustration to Leo as their shaking hands, although Leo largely ignores his comment and quickly leaves with other staffers. When he meets Ana, Jim talks with her for a while, congratulating on her candidacy. However, offering some advice, he then goes into the number of things she needs to correct if she ever wants to win a debate, much less a campaign.

Jim begins to head out, but Ana then calls out as he's walking away, challenging the things that he listed. Jim then provides an extended explanation of all the things she's done wrong and what he would do in her position. Hearing this, Ana steps down from her confrontational response and instead asks for his help and advice. Jim brushes this off, explaining his time-consuming role with his company, and wishes her the best of luck. Ana firmly asks again, rebuking his inability to provide her with anything substantive help despite him claiming he supports her candidacy. Somewhat convinced and seeing the potential benefit in helping Leo's opponent, Jim hands Ana his business card and tells her to come by his office tomorrow.

Jim works with Ana at his office over the next several weeks. Seeing Ana's poorly run and understaffed campaign, Jim offers some of his own staff to focus on campaign initiatives. With Ana, he sorts out her political strategy, going through talking points and finding a slogan or the heart for the campaign. In addition, Jim and Ana go out with staffers to canvas the suburban area and make calls, and Ana attends campaign events to speak with constituents and hear their concerns. Jim feeds off of Ana's legitimate passion for her political agenda, and reveals his enjoyment in working on a well-intentioned, morally-grounded project. He stays late to refine policy and occasionally calls Ana to pitch new ideas.

During one night at the office, Ana goes to Jim's office to look for some documents that he told her he had misplaced. Going through drawers in his desk, she finds the original package that Hal gave to Jim and discovers Leo's investigation into Jim's company. Ana feels a

strong sense of betrayal and confronts Jim, demanding that he opens up and tells her if wrongdoing has occurred at the company. When Jim fails to provide a straightforward answer, Ana tells him off, realizing that Jim is exactly what's wrong with her town, and pushes Jim away from the campaign.

For the next several days, Jim returns back to his ordinary job, although he feels tension between himself and his executive board members, who blame him for the investigation. Furthermore, news reports show that Ana's momentum is slowing in the polls.

Feeling compelled to act on his guilt and take responsibility for the consequences of his company's actions, Jim schedules a press conference outside the office, at which he informs the public of the ongoing investigation and explains that the town's water supply is likely a health risk to the town's inhabitants. Jim goes on to announce the company's intention to cooperate fully with the mayor's office and apologizes to the town's residents.

Ana and Jim reconcile, and he rejoins her campaign days before the final debate of the mayoral race. After nights of last-minute prepping, Ana attends the debate in auditorium fired up. Reporters afterward remark on Ana's surprisingly strong campaign and dub her their winner of the debate; shortly after, Jim and Ana win the election.

News of their election victory breaks as Jim, Ana, and other staffers wait nervously in the office, decorated with balloons and the like. Jim tells Ana that he is resigning at his company and would like to work with her in office.