

BECOMING A STRATEGIC THOUGHT PARTNER:

A REFLECTIVE GUIDE FOR
BOARD MEMBERS



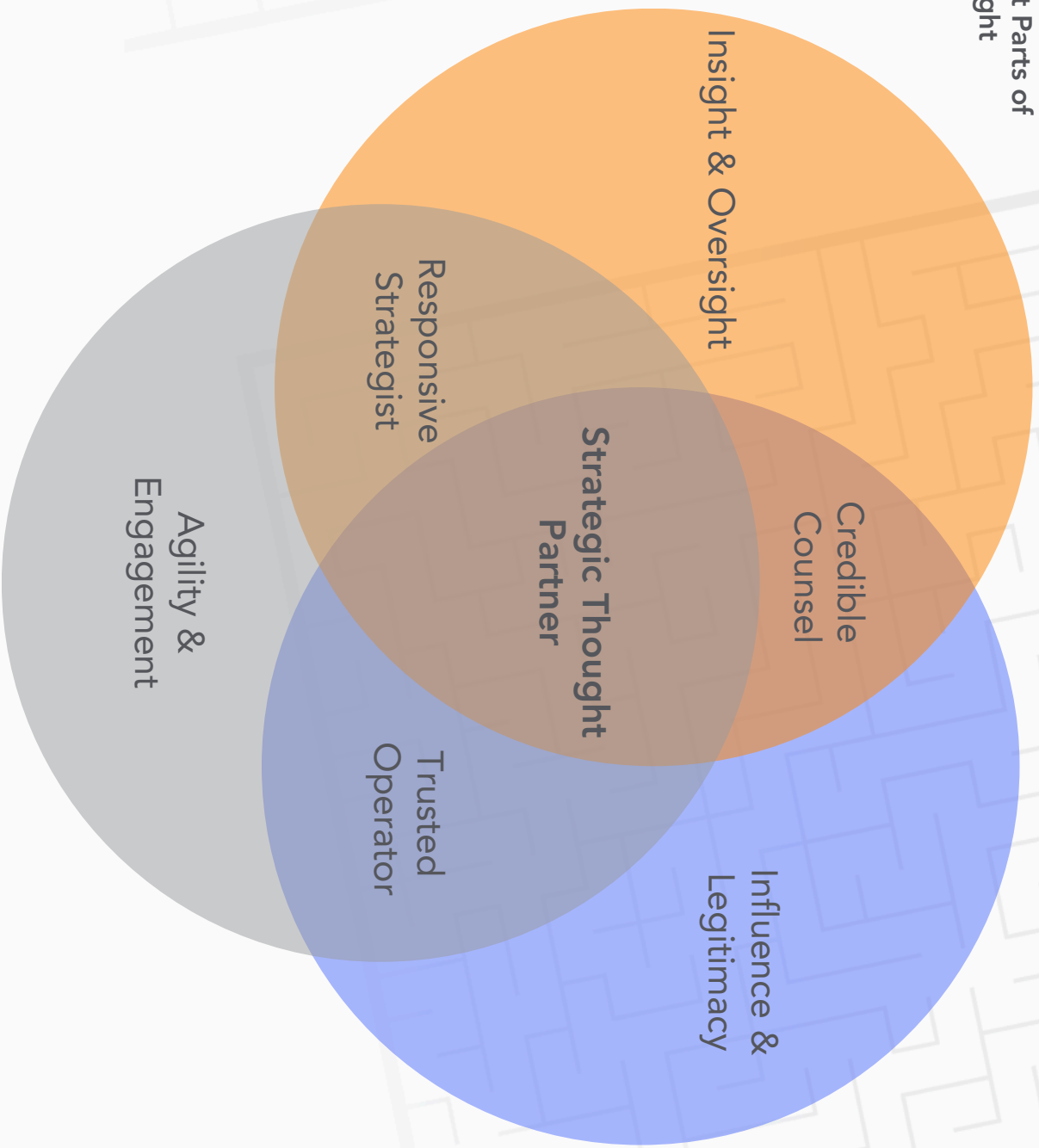
Strategic Thought Partnership

Understanding the Component Parts of Board Member **Strategic Thought** Partnership:

Insight & Oversight
Understanding strategy, asking catalytic questions, and providing meaningful accountability for outcomes.

Influence & Legitimacy
Lending public credibility, leveraging networks, and building sector-specific trust.

Agility & Engagement
Showing up when it matters, making timely decisions, and supporting urgent and important pivots.



Strategic Partnership Inventory & Board Member Self-Assessment

	Never	Rarely	When Possible	Often	Always
1. I am informed enough to contribute meaningfully to strategic conversations, not just financial oversight.	1	2	3	4	5
2. I understand how our board's work contributes to long-term success, not just short-term compliance.	1	2	3	4	5
3. I offer counsel that supports both bold thinking and disciplined execution. I ask questions that sharpen ideas, challenge assumptions, and strengthen plans.	1	2	3	4	5
4. I am someone organizational leadership turns to for clarity or perspective when facing complex decisions.	1	2	3	4	5
5. I use my network, platform, or credibility to advance the mission beyond the boardroom. I help the organization gain visibility, partnerships, or legitimacy.	1	2	3	4	5
6. I represent the organization with integrity and purpose—formally and informally.	1	2	3	4	5
7. I understand how decisions are made, and I help the organization move forward quickly when needed.	1	2	3	4	5
8. I am prepared and present when needed, not just when it's convenient.	1	2	3	4	5
9. I show up as a partner, not just a "reviewer," when it matters most. I am available and engaged during strategic inflection points or moments of uncertainty.	1	2	3	4	5
10. I contribute to a culture of trust, accountability, and shared ownership, and I work in partnership with the CEO and fellow board members to support shared goals.	1	2	3	4	5

HOW DO YOU RANK?

41-50

You are showing up with strategic intention.

You are deeply engaged and operating as a trusted thought partner. Where might you *mentor others* or help shape a more strategic board culture? What's one new area you could stretch into?

31-40

You are a steady contributor with room to expand

You are showing up meaningfully, but there may be moments where your insight, influence, or agility could have a stronger impact. Where are you showing up less consistently? What's one commitment you can make this quarter to grow?

21-30

You care deeply, now it's time to reconnect.

You are supportive but may be missing opportunities to lead strategically. Are there gaps in clarity, context, or confidence? Consider reengaging with the strategic plan, or reaching out for a check-in with the board chair or CEO. What support or clarity do you need to contribute more fully?

10-20

This may be a season to realignment.

It might be time to reflect on your role and how it fits your capacity, skills, and passion. Are you still aligned with the mission and expectations of board service? Consider a conversation with leadership to reframe or refresh your role—or identify another way to support the organization meaningfully.

Adam Lister

Founder & CEO

One Twelve Strategies

615.585.35424

adam@one12strategies.com

www.one12strategies.com