

## John Houle Author Press Kit



John Houle, a regional public relations consultant, marketing agency owner, and author, officially releases his second novel, *The Siberian Candidate*, on December 5th. This fictional story is the much-anticipated follow-up to his breakout novel, *The King-Makers of Providence*, published in March 2023.

*The Siberian Candidate* continues the chronicles of Henry Mercucio, the protagonist of both novels, who has proven in the past that he is not above putting his career, personal life, and reputation on the line in the pursuit of power. *The Siberian Candidate* picks up where Henry's story left off. Now at the helm of his father-in-law's business empire, Henry is playing by a new set of rules—his own. With his candidate installed as mayor of Providence, he manages to gain an appointment on a major defense contractor's board, but his foray into

corporate takeovers is short-lived as he discovers this world is just as shady as the political sphere he has escaped.

Houle's breakout novel, *The King-Makers of Providence*, has been described as a tour de force in five acts, a fast-paced novel for our times. It follows campaign craft to all out political warfare, uniting the Machiavellian with the Shakespearean to answer one looming question: **When you only play to win, how do you keep from becoming your worst enemy?**

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

#### John Houle

John Houle founded JH Communications in 2002 after working as a political consultant. He rebranded the agency as Main St. Media in 2022 to reflect the agency's new mission to deliver Madison Avenue marketing to Main Street businesses, while JH Communications continues to serve as a public relations company. John has successfully managed numerous private and public sector campaigns, representing hundreds of clients across a wide spectrum of industries.

Specializing in communications, John has worked closely with organizations to direct their marketing initiatives. Over the past 20 years, he has managed the marketing programs for numerous insurance agencies, medical practices, companies, and trade associations. He also has helped candidates seek elected office and worked on numerous local and statewide referendums and bond initiatives.

John believes in the importance of giving back to his community. He was Chair of the Board of Directors of the Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce and is a member of the Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island. In 2004 and 2007, Gateway Healthcare awarded John with their Community Leadership Award for providing families and children in need with thousands of holiday gifts. He also served as Chair of the Board Development Committee for the Girl Scouts of Southeastern New England, where he also served three terms on their Board of Directors.

A graduate of Boston College (BA, 1994), he lives with his wife, Susan, and children, Jenna and Christopher, in Cranston, RI. His first novel, *The King-Makers of Providence*, released on March 3, 2023, and his second novel, *The Siberian Candidate*, releases on December 5, 2023.

### QUOTES TO CONSIDER AND PARAPHRASE DURING INTERVIEWS

*John Houle's Siberian Candidate combines and illuminates the classics and modern fiction to weave a vivid contemporary political thriller leaving you on the edge of your seat wanting for more....A cult classic!.*

- Kris Meyer, American film and television producer

*The King-Makers of Providence was a perfect blend of politics, power, greed, love, karma, and facades. The book was a lesson that people could indeed be more than the eye could see....No matter how dirty the political game had been, this book showed that being honorable and honest in politics was possible. I'd rate it **four out of four stars**.*

- Sam Ibeh, OnlineBookClub.org

*Those who enjoy more than a light dose of political insider detail within a thriller format that moves through cat-and-mouse games and different layers of political special interests will find The King-Makers of Providence thoroughly engrossing. All that's required from readers is a basic interest in political processes, morals and ethics, and an appreciation for thriller formats that bring all these elements and associated dilemmas to life. Such defines The King-Makers of Providence.*

- Diane C. Donovan, Senior Reviewer, Midwest Book Reviews

### STORY ANGLES ON SIBERIAN CANDIDATE AND JOHN HOULE

Some initial story angles include –

- **Local Politicians are Spinning. Is that me?** – John Houle's *The Siberian Candidate* brings back many of his beloved characters and introduces new personalities, many of which are fictional composites of people he met during his former political career.

- **PR consultant by day, novelist by morning and night** – Local consultant and Ad man John Houle writes the next brick in his road to Hollywood, following the path so many in his profession seek. But, could he just do it?
- **Where do TV series come from** – Some start with locally based novels. That's what PR consultant John Houle is dreaming of. His newest novel, *The Siberian Candidate*, the sequel to *The King-Maker of Providence*, brings him one step closer.
- **Boston had Spencer; Could Providence have Mercucio?** – In *The Siberian Candidate*, John Houle's sequel to *The King-Maker of Providence*, Henry Mercucio stakes an even bigger claim to power in Providence, RI, and soon emerges on an international stage to help preserve American freedom.

### THE SIBERIAN CANDIDATE SYNOPSIS

For former political fixer Henry Mercucio, business has always been personal. Now at the helm of his father-in-law's business empire, Henry is playing by a new set of rules—his own. With his candidate installed as mayor of Providence, he manages to gain an appointment on a major defense contractor's board, but his foray into corporate takeovers is short-lived as he discovers this world is just as shady as the Machiavellian political sphere he has escaped.

Meanwhile, Rhode Island Lieutenant Governor Charlie Braverman stumbles across a sinister, nationwide Russian plot to undermine America's electoral system, already fully operational. With Henry licking his wounds after being double-crossed in business, he and former Congressman McNally are recruited to scramble up a new Democratic gubernatorial candidate in defense of national stability.

With his state's political future in jeopardy and his marriage and future in question, Henry must bootstrap it again while navigating new revelations from his past to deliver the only candidate that could prevent his state and country from falling to dark forces. To teach their enemies an ultimate lesson, Henry will organize his biggest plot yet.



(click on image to play video)

## **THE KING-MAKERS OF PROVIDENCE SYNOPSIS**

*Gone were the days of neighborhood rallies and volunteer-packed halls, only to be replaced by high-end fundraisers and professional phone banks. It was the cold, unattached politics of the present Henry didn't like.*

Seven points down with two weeks to close the gap on Congressman Ray McNally's bid for Governor of Rhode Island, ex-lawyer and campaign wizard Henry Mercucio meets Councilman John Campagna at his father's funeral amid a veritable who's-who of Providence politics. As he watches the numbers and questions the wisdom of his career choice, little does he know that this one meeting will lead to the greatest test of his life...Then rumors of extortion and embezzlement hit sitting Providence Mayor Jack Donovan.

With the authorities closing in, he abandons his post to abscond to Europe, where shady characters set him up to spend his ill-gotten savings in comfort and style. Back home, however, the vacancy leads to an emergency referendum for which the dogged Henry is recruited as a consultant, and it looks like the job may require tactics just as shadowy as the man his less-than-scrupulous team is working to unseat.

To make a name for himself, Henry will put everything he's earned on the line—his place at the table, his wealthy fiancée, and his strong values—but when his arch-nemesis joins the opposition, forcing Henry to play both sides beyond the pale, will the people he loves remain with him while he walks the tightrope between devious righteousness and moral corruption?

*The King-Makers of Providence* is a tour de force in five acts through campaign craft and all-out political war, a fast-paced novel for our time that unites the Machiavellian with the Shakespearean to answer one looming question: When you only play to win, how do you keep from becoming your worst enemy?



(click on image to play video)

**Contact Information**

***JOHN HOULE***

**JH COMMUNICATIONS, LLC**

19 Bassett Street, Suite 220

Providence, RI 02903

O (401) 831-6123 | C 401.952.7214

[john@jhcom.net](mailto:john@jhcom.net)

[www.johnhoule.net](http://www.johnhoule.net)

[www.MainSt.Agency](http://www.MainSt.Agency)