



watched elections. Trackers followed him to events where he spoke, even though McCullough said they didn't rattle him.

"It's win-at-all costs at that level, and quite frankly, to me, it's somewhat disappointing, some of their strategies (that political strategists) use," said McCullough, the longtime Republican mayor of Egg Harbor Township.

Frank Mahoney, who has worked for Democratic state Sen. Jim Whelan's 2nd District campaigns, said he recalled in 2008 when members of the New Jersey Education Association held a coordinated protest outside Whelan's and other legislators' local offices.

The Republican tracker followed a familiar routine, Mahoney said. "They just get a spot as close as possible and just tape and tape until (the candidate) says anything."

Mahoney said that throughout the 2011 state Senate campaign, both Whelan and Republican candidate Vince Polistina hewed close to message while the cameras relentlessly rolled.

"(Trackers) didn't get anything on them. That was just effort and time wasted, and it could have been time spent knocking on doors or time spent making phone calls to get votes," Mahoney said.