

Valerie Wexler

Washington, DC ■ wexlerresearch@gmail.com

Skills and Expertise

- Investigative and political research, organizing, strategic planning, written and verbal communication, policy analysis and development, issue advocacy, project management, narrative construction
- Social media and website content: Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, WordPress, Squarespace
- Online databases and search tools: LexisNexis, Congress.gov, FEC records, public records requests, Archive.org

Work Experience

Consultant, Washington DC

2016-2017, 2020-Current

Provide political, opposition, and investigative research, and strategic advice to progressive organizations and campaigns.

- Wrote research books on congressional and state-level candidates, each examining the candidate's background, financial history, and areas of controversy.
- Assisted organization Good Jobs Nation as it developed a strategy to deal with challenges from the Trump administration.
- Assisted organization Sum of Us in researching ties between police departments and white supremacist organizations and ties between police foundations and corporations.
- Provide guidance on types of narratives that can be constructed using the information discovered.
- Assisting organization Catholics for Choice in investigating the US Conference of Catholic Bishops' lobbying and influence on anti-choice and anti-LGBTQ legislation at federal and state levels.

Organizer, Washington DC

2016-Current

Organizer with local groups in DC focused on racial justice, including Showing Up for Racial Justice DC and Stop Police Terror Project DC.

- Worked with organizers to lead a campaign to mobilize more than 16,000 DC residents in calling for divestment from the DC Metropolitan Police Department.
- Worked with SPTP-DC organizers on a successful campaign to fully fund the Neighborhood Engagement Achieves Results (NEAR) Act.
- One of the leaders of SPTP-DC 's campaign to ban stop-and-frisk in DC.
- Conduct research and lead research teams on policing and other DC issues, including analysis of proposed and current laws and examinations of the DC budget.
- Lead teams working to develop strategy and policy, draft legislation, create workshops and trainings, craft social media content and toolkits, and plan campaigns with partners.

Human Rights Campaign, Political Research Manager, Washington DC

2017-2020

- Conducted research and wrote numerous research briefs on US Senate, House, and state candidates identified as targets by HRC, and consulted with organizers working in the states.
- Conducted research and wrote numerous research briefs on federal judicial nominees.
- Managed and led work identifying people who had been affected by discrimination as part of HRC's campaign to pass the Equality Act.
- Investigated right-wing organizations behind anti-LGBTQ laws and policies.
- Monitored news events and managed rapid response.

American Bridge, Senior Research Associate, Washington DC

2013-2016

- Managed, wrote, and edited major reports on issues and extremist organizations.
- Conducted and directed in-depth research investigating conservative groups and funders, including corporate connections, allegations of wrongdoing, and sources of income.
- Work cited or quoted in outlets including Bloomberg, CNN, NBC, AP, Politico, BuzzFeed, The Hill, The Huffington Post, The Washington Post, and The New York Times.
- Monitored news events and managed rapid response teams.
- Trained and supervised new and less experienced employees.

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Obama for America, Research Fellow, Chicago IL, Alexandria VA 2012

- Worked individually and with a team on in-depth research projects for OFA at Chicago HQ.
- Researched background of President Obama and his previous comments on issues.
- Researched backgrounds of high-profile Romney campaign supporters.
- Researcher and team leader on a number of research projects for Obama for America – Virginia.

Investigative Reporting Workshop, Researcher, Washington, DC 2010-2011

- Researcher for the IRW project and book collaboration with Donald Bartlett and Jim Steele, *What Went Wrong: The Betrayal of the American Dream* (published in 2012 by Hachette and NYT bestseller).

Education

Washington College, MD 2006-2010

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Minor in Creative Writing

- Merit-based \$40,000 Academic Tuition Scholarship.
- February through June 2009 studied at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa.
- Completed a Senior Capstone Project which analyzed the influence of pharmaceutical corporations on U.S. policy toward Africa.
- Founder/Co-Editor college literary magazine, *The Colophon*.