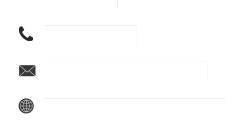
# TERESA ACUÑA

#### POLITICAL & POLICY ADVISOR



#### EDUCATION

Master in Public Administration & certificate in Management, Leadership and Decision Sciences Kennedy School of Government Harvard University 2017

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science & Chicana and Chicano Studies San Diego State University 2007

Study Abroad Oxford University 2006

#### SKILLS

- · Fluent Spanish speaker
- Democratic manager who values team's diverse ideas and needs
- Exceptional collaborator and multi-sector relationship manager
- Results driven project manager and evaluator
- Trained negotiator and exceptional communicator
- Adaptive leader, catalyzing organizational systems change

#### PROFILE

Experienced government, legislative, and programmatic strategist at the state and federal level. Served in senior advisory roles with policy expertise in economic justice, future of work, and democratic governance innovations. Managed diverse teams through organizational change and in fast-paced work environments.

#### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

# Associate Director, Democratic Governance Jul 2017-Present Ash Center, Harvard University

Lead program at Harvard-based think tank bridging multi-disciplinary academics and practitioners in reimagining democracy through civic engagement, economic equality, responsive governance, and research.

- Manage project based cross functional teams of 10+ people and oversee programmatic and pass-through funding of <\$1 million</li>
- Direct Technology and Democracy Fellowship, democratic governance incubator focused on improving citizen engagement
- Co-found the Harvard Votes Challenge, the first university-wide civic engagement initiative, recipient of the Harvard Presidential Administrative Innovation Fund Award and Dean's Award
- Convert theory into practice for real world use by political stakeholders

# **Deputy Coalitions Director Biden for President**

Aug 2020-Nov 2020

Served in inaugural coalitions team in the battleground state of Arizona, delivered critical votes to help flip the state and secured Arizona's electoral votes to first Democratic presidential candidate in over 20 years.

- Directed Arizona Women's Vote Program and Out for Biden Program, built intersectional coalitions reflective of the state's diverse populations
- Managed and expanded program organizing capacity by converting
   <1,000 supporters into recurring volunteers</li>
- Cultivated relationships with key in-state and national stakeholders

# Director, Policy & Leadership Programs Mar 2015-May 2016 National Hispanic Leadership Agenda

Served historic coalition of 40 prominent national Latino organizations, advocating on behalf of 56 million Latinos living in the United States.

- Directed advocacy strategy between coalition members, consultants, and national decision-makers including Congress and Obama administration
- Led national program to increase diversity in presidential appointments and co-managed *Latinas Represent*, to embolden Latinas to run for office
- Managed cross functional teams of 7+ people and programmatic budget of approximately <\$250 thousand

#### LEADERSHIP

National Board Member League of Women Voters 2020-Present

Executive Board Member New American Leaders 2019-Present

Executive Committee Member Student Learn Student Vote 2020-Present

Board Member Harvard Kennedy School Alumni Board 2018-Present

#### AFFILIATIONS

At-Large Delegate Hillary for America 2016

Fellow Partnerships for a Secure America 2014

Fellow Wilson Foreign Policy Fellowship 2013

Fellow New Leaders Council-Sacramento 2011

#### PUBLICATION

Be Counted in Our Democracy: 2020 Census and the Latinx Community. Harvard Kennedy School Journal of Hispanic Policy. 2020.

#### INTERESTS

Proud daughter of immigrants, democracy futurists, avid traveler, host of technology and democracy podcast.

#### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (CONT'D)

#### **Legislative Director**

#### Jan 2013-Jan 2015

#### U.S. Representative Gloria Negrete McLeod (CA-35)

Established legislative office for freshman member of Congress, developed policy agenda, and identified leadership opportunities.

- Managed policy team of six aides and interns, negotiated legislation as staffer to the Farm Bill conference committee
- Built strong rapport with congressional leadership and their staff, supported member's creation of bipartisan caucus, assisted member with crafting and introducing bipartisan bills and amendments
- Developed communication strategies, wrote editorials, speeches, talking points and translated press material to Spanish

### Legislative Representative California Special Districts Association

Jun 2012-Dec 2012

State registered in-house lobbyist to statewide association representing over 1,000 local governments in California.

- Testified at legislative hearings, educated policymakers, legislative staff, and regulatory agencies on client's priorities
- Led coalition of over 20 local government interest groups and developed an effective rapid response communication campaign
- Executed workshops on best practices for public governance

### **Legislative Director**

Dec 2010-Jun 2012

#### California State Assemblymember Luis Alejo (D-28)

Established legislative team for freshman member of the California State Assembly, developed policy agenda reflecting constituent needs.

- Generated new legislative ideas that advanced the member's progressive agenda, managed policy team of five aides and interns, oversaw 20+ bills each session
- Introduced legislation to raise the state minimum wage and secured \$2.1 million in state and federal infrastructure funding for project in farmworker community
- Managed the California Latino Legislative Caucus Subcommittee on Governor Appointments, served as on-the-record spokesperson
- Met strict legislative deadlines while negotiating amendments with stakeholders including labor groups, the private sector, and the governor's administration

### Legislative Aide

Oct 2008-Dec 2010

#### California State Senator Gilbert Cedillo (D-22)

Created bold public policy solutions reflective of the legislator's economically diverse and largely immigrant constituency.

- Managed policy and projects for the California Latino Legislative Caucus, including economic policy forum series and green jobs summit
- Staffed legislation granting right to obtain driver's licenses to almost 1 million undocumented immigrants
- Primary staff liaison to Senate Health Committee and developed expertise around complex health policies