

CYNTHIA J. ARAGON

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An experienced and bilingual government affairs professional with demonstrated ability as a strategic thinker who works successfully with diverse constituencies, from all walks of life and perspectives. Extensive and diverse background with proven ability to promote effective collaborations and strong networks. Thrives in a fast-paced environment, balancing multiple priorities and a willingness to get the job done. An unwavering resilience which results in a unique flexibility to any circumstance and the ability to adopt, adjust, strategize and seize opportunities. Strengths include:

Creative	Problem solving
Government affairs; local, state and federal	Policy development
Negotiations	Management
Charismatic/energetic	Political strategist / Strategic planning
Community service	Business and financial acumen

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Problem Solving:

- Transformed a team of 24 policy advisors from functional to strategic thinkers and contributors.
- Identify unique interests of elected officials and provided internal and external strategy plan to increase effectiveness.
- Leverages stakeholders and community support to enhance caucus reach and community involvement.
- Negotiated salary increases of at least 85% for historically underpaid minority policy advisors over a 3- year period.

Policy Development

- Developed strategic plan for Democratic caucus and negotiated with Republican caucus and governor's office for legislation that has resulted in historic bipartisan agreements on opioids legislation and investment, water rights agreements and medical expansion that have benefited Arizonans.
- Managed the creation of the Legislative Native American Caucus and assisted in the creation of the Legislative Veteran caucus to identify, develop and introduce legislation representative of their constituencies.
- Oversee the strategic development of the caucus annual budget priorities to guide and influence budget process to effectively utilize state resources.

Relationship Building

- Build effective relationship with constituents, stakeholders, lobbyist, Republican caucus and executive branch to identify common ground solutions such as bipartisan opioids legislation, water rights and Medicaid expansion.
- Coordinated statewide grassroots volunteer's recruitment efforts for the Hillary Clinton for America campaign.
- Established and managed all aspects of a three-month long effort as the campaign coordinator for the Protect Arizona's Freedom Coalition in which I hired, supervised and managed 25 staff members. Coordinated with local coalition partners and national organizations. Recruited, trained and coordinated nearly 1,000 volunteers.
- Spearheaded the Ya Es Hora Arizona coalition.

Strategic Partnership and Community Service

- Coordinated with law enforcement agencies and community organization to facilitate the 24 hours protests to SB1070 at the state capitol.
- Fostered and oversaw the constituents outreach efforts for the House Democratic Caucus through the development, planning and execution of statewide hearings, public forums, stakeholder meetings, legislative events and tours to state agencies.
- Spearheaded the Ya Es Hora Arizona coalition. Led a comprehensive campaign to incorporate Latinos as full participants in the American political process through naturalization, voter engagement and census participation.
- Supervised the logistics committee and coordinated with community organizations and law enforcement agencies for the April 10, 2006 Immigration March (the largest political march in the state) and the Labor Day Rally in 2006 which mobilized an estimated 250,000 people.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

EDUCATION —

University of Arizona – 2017

Executive MBA

Arizona State University – 2012

*Bachelor's Degree, Interdisciplinary Studies
in Business & Public Administration &
Management*

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT —

- Unidos US, Board of Directors, 2019
- Flinn-Brown Leadership Academy, 2015
- JFK School of Government at Harvard, Executive Leadership Certificate, 2014
- National Hispana Leadership Institute, Executive Leadership Program, 2014
- Center for Creative Leadership, Leadership Development Program, 2014
- FBI Citizen's Academy Association, 2012
- Anti-Defamation League GLASS Leadership Program, 2011
- City of Phoenix Census Minority Outreach Committee, 2010
- Center for Progressive Leadership, Arizona Fellowship Alumni, 2008

Biden for President

July 2020 – Nov. 2020

Arizona Political Director

- Developed and executed an aggressive political strategy to build one of the largest, most diverse coalitions that helped drive up engagement and support for the Biden-Harris ticket and Democrats up and down the ballot.
- Managed a statewide political team that worked collaboratively with local leaders, grassroots coalitions and Biden for President Headquarters.
- Served as liaison to and maintained external relations with elected officials, stakeholders, labor, and partner groups.
- Secured endorsements from key AZ leaders from diverse backgrounds, such as Latinos, Republicans, Independents, labor and law enforcement to achieve our strategic imperatives in a culturally competent manner.

Arizona House of Representatives

Dec. 2008 – Present

Democratic Chief of Staff

Dec. 2016 – Present

- Navigates the political environment and strategically guides the staff and advise Democratic Caucus members.
- Develop and implement political strategy for House Democrats; navigate external and internal politics impacting the caucus to help members achieve successful results.
- Facilitate an array of policy development and budget priorities with significant social and economic impact to Arizona.
- Manages relationships and collaboration with stakeholders – both proponents and opponents – to magnify priorities of the caucus. Manage internal and external bipartisan relationships to ensure effective communication and advancement of caucus goals; strengthen community relations.
- Oversees the message platform by preparing briefing materials, including talking points and tailored collaterals that are consistent with the overall legislative priorities of the caucus.
- Manage the hiring, firing and development of a team of 36, including 12 policy advisors, 10 seasonal policy associates, and 14 administrative assistants.
- Leads crisis management strategies for Caucus members and staff.
- Navigate external and internal politics impacting the caucus to help members achieve successful results.
- Manage relationships with Labor, allied groups, and constituency groups to build coalitions to advance common goals.
- Leads policy negotiations on behalf of the Caucus with Legislative Republicans and Governor's office to build consensus and strategic alliances.
- Oversee the Caucus staffing budget and oversee state budget annual proposals.
- Establishes and maintains bipartisan relationships to ensue effective communication to advance caucus goals. Manages stakeholder relationships.

Democratic Senior Policy Advisor & Outreach Director

Dec. 2008 – Dec. 2016

- Provided policy advice, committee support and extensive legislative research to members. Drafted bills, amendments, and written summaries of proposed legislation. Briefed elected officials, stakeholders, and staff on a range of legislative matters.
- Coordinated statewide reports and outreach with critical AZ information concerning the Affordable Care Act.
- Specialized in policy regarding transportation, health and human services, immigration, economic development, public financing and budgeting, and federalism and states' rights. Tracked and coordinated weekly immigration legislation updates.

Democratic Senior Policy Advisor & Outreach Director Cont.

Dec. 2008 – Dec. 2016

- Assisted with planning and execution of New Member Orientation.
- Fostered and oversaw the constituents outreach efforts for the House Democratic Caucus.
- Coordinated with law enforcement agencies and community organization to facilitate the 24 hours protests to SB1070 at the capitol to ensure protests and prevent confrontation.
- Fostered and oversaw constituent outreach efforts for the House Democratic Caucus.
- Developed, planned, and executed statewide hearings, public forums, stakeholder meetings, large legislative events, and engagements with state agencies and business industries.
- Managed the creation of the Legislative Native American Caucus and assisted in creating the Legislative Veteran Caucus.
- Coordinated with law enforcement agencies and community organizations to facilitate protests to SB1070 at the Capitol.

LEGNA Consulting, LLC

July 2007 – Dec. 2008

Owner, CEO

United Food and Commercial Workers

- Directed community outreach and represented the organization in public hearings, collaborative partnerships, advocacy efforts and community meetings.
- Developed partnerships with community allies and managed field organizing staff.

Protect Arizona's Freedom Coalition, Campaign Coordinator

- Responsible for all aspects of a three-month campaign effort. Organized and coordinated local coalition partners and national organizations.
- Hired and managed 25 campaign staff members; recruited and trained nearly 1,000 volunteers.

Mi Familia Vota / NALEO Education Fund, Project Coordinator

- Successfully coordinated and implemented a youth get-out-the-vote project in which 10,000 first-time voters were contacted over a six-week period.
- Recruited, trained, and managed hundreds of volunteers.

Service Employees International Union, Local 5

June 2004 – June 2007

State Administrative Director

- Supervised and managed all aspects of opening three new local offices. Oversaw operations and developed administrative procedures to facilitate the implementation of programs. Planned, built, and executed local and national conferences.
- Maintained the financial records and managed the accounts for multiple political campaigns.

CONCURRENT EXPERIENCE

Maricopa County Elections

2014-2016

Elections Troubleshooter

- Directed operations and compliance of seven polling locations and 42 poll workers for primary and general elections.
- Provided equipment and training as necessary for set up and on Election Day.

Hillary for America

May 2015 – Aug. 2015

Arizona Statewide Grassroots Coordinator

- Coordinated the statewide grassroots volunteer recruitment efforts for the Ready for Hillary Campaign.
- Leveraged support from key champions, including Arizona officials, community organizations and local partners.

Kyrsten Sinema for Congress

Sept. 2012 – Nov. 2012

Field Director

- Effectively directed the "on-the-ground" organizing plan for direct voter contact through canvassing, phone banking, and local campaign events.
- Hired, trained, and managed up to 100 field organizers and canvassers.
- Maintain the voter file to strategically target voter persuasion and maximize voter turnout.
- Oversaw field organizers and was responsible for all organization goals and budget management.
- Coordinated relationships between coordinated campaigns and DCCC.

COMMUNITY & ACCOLADES

- AZ Undocumented Workers Relief Fund – *Founder & Advisor* April 2020 – Present
- Best Capitol Staffer Award – *Arizona Capitol Times* June 2019
- Flinn-Brown Leadership Fellows Council – *Member* Jan. 2017 – 2019
- Leading for Change – *Board of Directors, Vice Chair* Dec. 2012 – June 2015
- No Dream Deferred Coalition – *Outreach & Logistics Coordinator* July – Oct. 2012
- Phoenix Business Journal “40 Under 40” – *Community Leadership Award Recipient* 2011
- Ya Es Hora – *Campaign Coordinator* April 2007 – June 2008
- Somos America Coalition – *Founding Member, Executive Member* March 2004 – Nov 2008