

Josh Orton - Policy, Law, Political Strategy, Communications

Senior Advisor, U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, Senate Budget Committee (October 2018 - February 2019; April 2020 - Present)

- Co-managed over a dozen policy staff, directed and oversaw legislative policy creation, research, and legislative drafting
- Served as lead COVID-19 advisor
- Represented the Senator in internal and external discussions and negotiations with other legislative offices, with legislators themselves, and with principals of external organizations in the for-profit, non-profit, and advocacy sectors
- Worked and communicated directly with Senator Sanders on a daily basis
- Did not, unfortunately, oversee any mittens-related initiatives

National Policy Director and Senior Advisor, Bernie 2020 (February 2019 - April 2020)

- Led team of 11 policy staff – several with advanced degrees - to develop, write, and communicate a comprehensive policy platform to support Sen. Bernie Sanders’ run for president
- Accountable for work to both the campaign manager and the candidate themselves.
- Managed the proposed budgeting and “pay-for” plans for over \$15 Trillion in government spending and tax proposals
- Led stakeholder engagement in policy creation – including by overseeing a diversity and inclusion requirement
- Provided all policy briefings for candidate, including in-person debate prep – traveled frequently with the candidate
- Spoke on-the-record in print and on TV and radio

Senior Political and Legal Strategist, NARAL Pro-Choice America (November 2016-October 2018)

- Senior nominations and judiciary consultant for NARAL Pro-Choice America
- Reported directly to the organization’s president, Ilyse Hogue
- Led discussions with Senate members, Senate leadership, and their staff
- Led NARAL’s coalition campaign in support of the California Fact Act, a pro-choice law challenged at the Supreme Court

Senior Advisor and Policy Director, Russ for Wisconsin (2015 - 2016)

- Served as Senator Feingold’s campaign-wide senior strategic advisor; traveled with candidate in-state and nationally
- Supervised and directed policy team to develop all campaign policy material
- Created and directed political strategy based on policy platform

Political Director and Counsel, Progressives United (2011 – 2015)

- Set organization-wide messaging and political outreach strategy for both PAC and 501c(4) non-profit arms of organization founded by former Senator Russ Feingold
- Served as on-the-record spokesperson

Judicial Clerk, Senate Judiciary Committee - US Senator Russ Feingold, Washington, DC (2010)

- Briefed the Senator on various legal issues, including federal court cases and legislative initiatives
- Wrote hearing materials and staffed Sen. Feingold during the nomination hearing of now-Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan

Political Director, Netroots Nation Conference (2008)

Deputy New Media Director, Obama For America, Chicago, IL (2007)

Press Secretary and Progressive Outreach Director, Majority Leader Harry Reid, Washington, DC (2006 - 2007)

Executive Producer, Air America Radio national radio network, NY, NY (2004 - 2006)

Press Secretary, Gwen Moore for Congress, Milwaukee, WI (2004)

Baseball Umpire, American Legion, High School

- Called balls, strikes, outs. Ejected parent hecklers.

Education:

University of Wisconsin – Madison, Bachelor of Arts (May 2004): Political Science, certificate (minor) in Integrated Liberal Studies. Graduated with Honors.

University of Wisconsin Law School, Juris Doctor (August 2011)

Membership:

Wisconsin Bar Association – licensed to practice law