

Erika L. Van Croft

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Biden for President/Biden-Harris 2020

April 2019-November 2020 Various Locations

- Original supporter promoting the candidacy of Joseph R. Biden, Jr. And later the Biden-Harris ticket
- Political focus on PA and AZ

Boswell Communications, LLC

2005-Present Philadelphia, PA/Washington, DC

Founder and President

- Boutique firm specializing in Political Risk, Communications, and Energy, focusing on Renewable Energy - with emphasis on biomass and solar sources
- Interim Vice President for Communications - NAACP. Chief Communications Officer and spokesperson responsible for all communications activities for the nation's oldest civil rights organization with over 2000 chapters (\$27 million annual budget)
 - Developed and executed press strategy for the NAACP's "**Save Troy Davis**" campaign - secured appearances and consistently generated stories on BBC, MSNBC, CNN, and coverage by LA Times, Washington Post, New York Times
 - Responsible for strategic development and execution of all national and international publicity efforts including staff supervision, public relations and external relations for national NAACP, including publishing, website, magazine and chapters
 - Managed successful public relations launch during Martin Luther King Memorial inauguration and significantly increased major media coverage for NAACP, including coveted CNN stories with NAACP President & CEO, board leadership and senior management
- Delivers customized leadership and strategic counsel; develops and executes advocacy strategies in alignment with organizational/client goals
- Monitors and researches policy on client specific issues – domestic and international- including environmental, national security, energy, politics and trade
- Provides analysis and issues briefs, reports on relevant client matters and challenges, provides solutions
- Frequently represents clients in meetings with U.S. government officials, embassy staff, think tanks, agency personnel and relevant actors/institutions; negotiates client participation in regional and international events

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

2008 - 2012

Philadelphia, PA

Public Information Officer

- Oversaw strategic communications and publicity efforts for FEMA on disasters, including as JIC manager; led team publicity efforts, strategies and launches for disaster relief initiatives
- Managed and secured media for senior executives, developed and managed highly successful launch events and press coverage for a major organizational rebranding effort. Promoted successes, positioning FEMA as the premiere emergency management entity
- Served as on-the-record spokesperson for FEMA during disasters and disaster recovery efforts to local, national and international media - including in Florida and Texas. Formats included live-shots, in studio (live and taped) and community affairs programming
- Built key relationships with reporters, key new staff, politicians and key contacts; articulated FEMA and DHS policies, procedures (including Congressional mandates and changes)
- Aggressively responded to negative press inquiries/reports; analyzed response gaps and assistance needs, wrote field reports and status briefs

Obama-Biden 2008

2008

Multiple Locations

Traveling Staff, House Judiciary Chairman

Press Lead, Democratic National Convention

Field Staff Supervisor, Pennsylvania Primary

- Coordinated multiple national and local media interviews and events, staffed Chairman at various campaign appearances in Michigan and Ohio
- Surrogate for the Chairman; Delivered Obama-Biden message consistent with national effort

United States House of Representatives

2005

Washington, DC

Communications Director - Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee

Member- Homeland Security and Judiciary Committees

- Primary spokesperson and liaison with national and regional media; directed media relations, managed staff, developed and executed successful strategic communications plan
- Supervised press conferences, special events, television productions and publications
- Wrote and edited speeches, floor statements, briefings, press releases, advocacy letters and talking points

Political Advisor	2000-2004	
Democratic Presidential Campaign	2004	Various Locations
John Kerry for President	2004	Various Locations
Howard Dean for President	2003-2004	

National Advance Lead/Press Lead

- Deputy Trip Director of Florida statewide Congressional Black Caucus Bus Tour; tours included **Veterans for Kerry**, New Mexico Congressional Hispanic Caucus Bus Tour and **Jobs Bus Tour**

Re-Elect Mayor John F. Street	2003	Philadelphia, PA
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Special Assistant to the Mayor and First Lady

- Political advisor to the Mayor; conducted research on potential and scheduled events and event participants
- Wrote speeches and talking points, authored briefing memoranda and issue summaries, conducted political briefings on multiple national and local issues

Additional Political Activity

Terry Mc Auliffe for Governor – Fundraiser	2021
Mike Espy (MS) for Senate - Fundraiser	2020
Democratic National Convention	2016
Lincoln University – Guest Speaker	2015
Karl Racine for D.C Attorney General	2014
Muriel Bowser for D.C. Mayor – Fundraiser	2014
Vincent Gray for D.C. Mayor (Re-election) - Fundraiser	2014
Alan Williams (FL) for State House - Fundraiser	2014
McAuliffe for (VA) Governor - Fundraiser	2013
Office of First Lady Michelle Obama – Press Lead - Advance	2010
The White House	2000
Office of The First Lady – Scheduler	
United States Department of Energy	2000
Office of Secretary Bill Richardson - Scheduler	

Education

Columbia University	New York, NY
English Literature and Political Science	

Georgetown University	Washington, DC
• Coursework includes International Relations, Third World Politics	

The Grantsmanship Center	Los Angeles, CA
• Trained to review, research and write grants for government entities and NGO's	

Languages – English – Native proficiency
 Spanish – Basic working proficiency
 Turkish – Currently studying

Clearances - Top Secret and White House Blue Badge Holder – Inactive

