

## Chris Meagher

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### Communications Experience

#### **Democratic National Committee, Deputy Communications Director**

July 2020-Present

- Pitching stories and responding to inquiries as on-the-record spokesman related to the 2020 Presidential race and the DNC
- Coordinating with Biden for President on responses to reporters and DNC communications strategy
- Approving all content – social media, fundraising emails, digital ads, etc – that was sent out from the DNC
- Helping oversee and manage communications team
- Prepping and staffing Chair Perez in interviews

#### **Communications Strategist**

March 2020-Present

- Provided political communications consulting for clients including Pete Buttigieg and Win the Era PAC
- Provided communications consulting for non-profit Direct Relief, the largest non-profit distributor of PPE during COVID-19 in the United States
- Helped arrange interviews, pitched principals, wrote and edited documents and speeches, and provided strategic communications advice to principals

#### **Office of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer (D-MI), Advisor**

March 2020-July 2020

- Managed the governor's national press presence during the state of Michigan's COVID-19 response and "Veepstakes"
- Elevated the governor's profile by booking her on more than 50 high profile media appearances, ranging from Sunday talk shows, to newspaper interviews, podcasts, late night shows, cable, and more
- Placed op-eds in multiple newspapers, including the New York Times
- Pitched her for cover stories in New York Times Magazine, Politico Magazine, and Newsweek

#### **Pete for America, National Press Secretary**

April 2019-March 2020

- Senior level aide and principal national spokesperson for Pete Buttigieg
- Managed a 20-person press team, with locations across the country
- Created and executed a media strategy that helped position candidate as presidential frontrunner
- Booked and staffed candidate on major local and national television, print, radio, and podcast interviews
- Helped prepare candidate for debates, editorial boards, interviews, gaggles, and public appearances

#### **Toni for Chicago, Campaign Advisor**

January 2019-April 2019

- Senior level aide and spokesman who helped guide Chicago mayoral campaign through multiple crises
- Brought in as a hired gun to help flailing mayoral race under intense scrutiny and pressure
- Managed team of four

#### **Montanans for Tester, Communications Director**

January 2018-November 2018

- Senior level aide and strategist for U.S Senator Jon Tester in his successful reelection in one of the closest contested campaigns of 2018 in a state Donald Trump won by 20 points
- Managed a communications team of five and oversaw much of the digital communications strategy
- Prepared Senator for debates, editorial boards, and interviews, including all materials and practice sessions
- Worked with the campaign manager, consultants, and other departments to develop and implement the campaign's media and communications strategies, including several crisis management situations
- Served as principal spokesman, maintaining ongoing relationships with state and national reporters, placing opposition research, and generating positive stories with top state reporters and national outlets

#### **Montana Democratic Party, Senior Communications Advisor**

March 2017-January 2018

- Served as the primary on-the-record spokesperson for the state party related to the Senate campaign
- Prepared and implemented a campaign communication strategy in preparation for the 2018 race
- Placed opposition research and generated positive stories with top state reporters and national outlets
- Worked closely with consultants to develop and implement short and long-term media and communications strategies for the state Democratic Party

**Colorado Democratic Party, Senior Communications Advisor** April 2016-November 2016

- Successfully helped defend most vulnerable Democratic seat of the 2016 cycle as the primary on-the-record spokesperson for the state Party related to the Senate campaign
- Worked with the Senate campaign communications director and consultants to develop and implement short and long-term media and communications strategies for the campaign and state Democratic Party
- Placed opposition research and generated positive stories with top state reporters and national outlets such as CNN, Washington Post, Politico, Huffington Post and more to further the campaign's message
- Drafted press releases, speeches, talking points and candidate preparation materials, and organized earned media events

**General Motors, Communications Manager for Public Policy** July 2015-March 2016

- Lead communicator and media relations contact on state and local issues, supporting various topics
- Assist government relations team and their effort to advance/promote GM and its products
- Support grassroots and outreach efforts with Congressional, state, and local leaders to underscore GM's economic contribution and solidify their support for policies that augment GM's competitiveness
- Prepare statements, releases, speeches, and presentations for various events
- In charge of budget as it related to public policy communications, vendors and agencies used, and event planning

**Office of Rep. Lois Capps (D-Calif), Communications Director** June 2013-July 2015

- Served as local and national spokesperson for senior member of Energy & Commerce Committee
- Formulated and implement media plan for district that spans four media markets
- Managed and grew Rep. Capps' social media presence, including Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter
- Planned district events to communicate the local impacts of federal policy
- Drafted advisories, press releases, talking points, letters to the editor, editorials, and e-newsletters
- Booked interviews with local and national press
- Helped manage multiple crisis management situations

**Friends of Lois Capps, Press Secretary** October-November 2014

- Served as campaign spokesperson on camera and in print for winning DCCC Frontline congressional race
- Shaped and implemented campaign messaging strategy
- Prepared Congresswoman for editorial boards seeking endorsement of local papers
- Implemented letter to the editor writing program to enhance the campaign's positive message and rebut attacks against the Congresswoman

**Santa Barbara Independent, Reporter** April 2007-June 2013

- Covered Santa Barbara County politics and courts for award-winning alt-weekly newspaper
- Covered contested 2012 Congressional Race; hosted live debate between candidates
- 2008 California Newspaper Publishers Association 2nd place winner for breaking news photo
- Covered the 2010 Haiti earthquake and 2008 Democratic National Convention
- Provided on-camera and live analysis of news events for television and radio

**Santa Barbara Daily Sound, Reporter**

April 2006-March 2007

- Helped start newspaper from the ground up writing multiple stories a day, many of them scooping the larger and more established papers in town
- Coverage areas included Police, City Hall, County, and community happenings and activities. On average, writing three to five stories and three briefs per day on deadline

**Education**

**Santa Barbara College of Law, *Juris Doctorate***

August 2010-December 2013

**Michigan State University, *B.A. in Journalism***

August 2001-May 2005