

The Professional Qualifications of

LAURIE WIMMER



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PROFILE OF QUALIFICATIONS

Successful professional career in public policy, government relations, publishing, and electoral politics including state agency management and Oregon-based public affairs advocacy. Areas of particular achievement include:

- Policy analysis
- Coalition building
- Research/writing/bill drafting
- Fund raising
- Public speaking
- Teaching, lecturing, and training
- Agency/business management
- Legislative strategizing
- Elected official relations
- Staff supervision
- Electoral campaigns
- Task force leadership
- Mentoring interns
- Media relations

Key achievements include passage of landmark legislation, fiscal turnaround of a failing non-profit, and a career reputation as an effective advocate and problem-solver in Oregon public policy.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

OREGON POLICY ANALYTICS (Portland, OR)

2022-present

Principal/Consultant

Selected political and policy clients include Oregon Education Association, candidates for elective office, and organizations operating in Oregon electoral and legislative spheres. Additional projects include public speaking, academic conference presentations, advising elected officials, and published writing on education and other policy topics. Full list of presenter and publication list available.

OREGON EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (Portland, OR)

1996-2022

Government Relations Consultant

Legislative lobbying and electoral work for this 46,000-member union involved policy analysis, research, team work, writing, planning, training, lecturing, strategizing, and working with such documents as poll data, primary-source and secondary-source research, legislative proposals, budgets, voter file, and topical studies. Provided board support, served on task forces and work groups, oversaw support staff and interns, and collaborated with a wide range of players in organizational and political contexts.

Achievements

- One of the authors of the landmark ***Student Success Act***, which instituted a new revenue source to close the funding gap between current and adequate funding of P-12 public education, with a particular focus on educational equity for Oregon's historically marginalized student populations.
- One of five advocates in the nation selected to participate in National Education Association's Economic Roundtable to develop a 20-year national finance and revenue plan. Have worked with NEA's Research and Government Relations departments on a range of school finance, taxation, and economic issues.
- Coordinated and provided communications support to the Oregon School Funding Defense Foundation that successfully pursued a funding adequacy lawsuit to the Oregon Supreme Court, which found for the plaintiffs on the merits.
- Served on the Cost Panel for the Quality Education Commission and monitored the QEC's work to develop its biennial K-12 estimate of K-12 funding sufficiency since its inception.
- Named by two Secretaries of State to Ballot Measure Explanatory Committees for development of neutral Voters' Pamphlet ballot measure statements on revenue issues.
- Authored several publications for OEA, including ***An Annotated Glossary of School Finance and Taxation (2002 and 2010 update)*** and co-authored a ***Primer on Tax Expenditures*** as Chair of the Oregon Revenue Coalition, which I've led since co-founding it in 2003.
- Co-founded and served as an elected officer on the Board of Directors of ORVED (an alternative to corporate online education) 2012-2020.
- Co-founded and led ***Citizens for Oregon's Future***, a non-profit whose mission was to inform Oregonians about their government and its revenue system. Developed educational materials, conducted trainings across the state, and oversaw a staff of three as Chair of the Board.

- Frequently appointed by public officials to serve on various boards and other problem-solving and policy entities. A selected list includes: Appointee, African American/Black Student Success Plan Advisory Group; Member, Regional Services Task Force; Vice Chair, School District Business Best Practice Advisory Committee; Member, Oregon Dept. of Education Advisory Committees on virtual schools, charter schools, poverty, school funding formula, and administrative rules committees; Member, Governor's School Revenue Forecast Committee (2001-2014); and various legislative policy work groups during and between legislative sessions.
- Electoral and legislative successes in this period have been many; have passed legislation on school funding, proficiency education, class size data collection, student safety, discipline, paperwork reduction, online education policy, revenue reform, local option levies, construction excise taxes, expanded options, the database initiative, and more. Have also worked to pass local option and bond levies, tax changes, and constitutional language changes. Collaborated on efforts to defeat many anti-public education initiatives over the years, including merit pay schemes, anti-worker legislation, and First Amendment rollbacks.
- Strong record of success in policy and electoral venues has led to media recognition, speaking engagements, and invitations to lecture at various universities, community colleges, law schools, and other educational arenas.

EMERGE OREGON (Portland, OR)

2011-present

President of the Board (2011-2013); **Member, Advisory Board** (2013-present)

Recruited to join the board of a relatively young non-profit whose mission is to identify, recruit, train, and elect women to office in Oregon. As part of a national effort, Emerge America, Oregon's affiliate was the fifth entity created. Within a month of joining, was elected President, charged with leading a board of directors and executive director in this effort, as well as with fundraising through donor solicitation, events planning/execution, and outreach to the progressive community of the state. Have provided trainings in labor issues and public speaking to Emerge classes.

Achievements

- Stepped into role at a time when organization was struggling both in terms of financial sustainability and toxic personality issues. Developed more stabilized board and returned fiscal stability. For four months, served dual roles of president and executive director. Oversaw the hiring of a new executive director, put on a successful fundraising dinner, represented Emerge in Washington, DC, and hired the organization's first development director. Now, Emerge Oregon is the flagship state affiliate in the national network, had a historic 82% win rate in the 2018 primary, and elected its first statewide-officeholder alumna.

OREGON COMMISSION FOR WOMEN (Salem/Portland, OR)

1990-1996

Executive Director

Directed and planned all activities and programs of this small state agency dedicated to equal and civil rights. Served as the agency's registered lobbyist and state and federal levels. Developed legislative concepts and bill drafts; forged coalitions; pursued the commission's public policy goals, and supported a 13-member board of directors. Engaged in constituent services, media relations, fund raising, and other public relations functions and supervised staff, interns, and volunteers. Engaged in significant amount of research, writing, and statistical/data analysis.

Achievements

- Developed and passed landmark legislation, including Oregon's Family and Medical Leave Act, the state's anti-stalking law, and many provisions of domestic violence and health care law.
- Co-founded the ***Oregon Women's Health and Wellness Alliance***, a statewide organization responsible for passage of legislation in every session since its emergence in 1993. The Alliance is still active and successful today.
- Wrote and won a grant to publish a study of Oregon women and to produce the Commission's book, ***Oregon Women and the Law***.
- Spotlighted in various publications for these achievements, including articles in ***Willamette Week***, ***The Women's Journal***, ***The Oregonian***, and ***The Business Journal***.

PROFESSIONAL WRITING SERVICE & FREELANCE WORK (Portland, OR)

1980-present

Writer/Editor

Publications include a monthly column in the international literary publication, **Black Lamb**, contributing writer to an online 'zine, **Zephyr Magazine**, and freelance work for **Portland Monthly**, **Vassar Quarterly**, and more. Authored a chapter for a book, *Surviving the Death of Your Ex* (2016) and another on Racial Justice in schools. Have also worked with a wide array of editing projects, including several manuscripts for publication. Ran the Portland office of Professional Writing Service for six years as its manager and writer (1984-1990). Blog: oddyenoughcafe.wordpress.com.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTARISM AND LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

- Advisor and Education Committee Co-chair, Florence Belsky Foundation (2022-present)
- Board of Directors, Oregon NOW (2021-2022)
- Education Caucus, Democratic Party of Oregon (2021-present)
- Class President, Vassar College Class of 1980 (2010-2015); Class Correspondent (2015-2020)
- Coach, Parkrose High School Constitution Team (2012-2013)
- President, Vassar Club of Oregon (2005-2009)
- Finance Committee Member, No on Ballot Measure 43 Campaign (2006)
- Judge/Parent Volunteer, OSAA Speech and Debate Tournaments (2004-2007)
- Candidate for House District 12 (1996) and House District 36 (2020)

EDUCATION

VASSAR COLLEGE, Poughkeepsie, New York (1980)

Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science

*General and Departmental Honors

* Honors thesis awarded "Distinction"

* Editor-in-Chief of Vassar **Miscellany News**

* Served three selective internships in New York and Washington, DC

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSEWORK

Various conferences, seminars, and trainings on school funding, taxation, economics, management, and policy through NALPSE, NEA, and independent study.

OEA-provided trainings

in diversity, equity, and inclusion (2016-2022)

UNION MEMBERSHIPS

OEA Staff Union (NSO) 1996-2022

NEA Affiliated Member 2022-present

AAUP Associate Member 2022-present

UFCW #555 Member 2022-present