

Valerie Wexler

SKILLS AND EXPERTISE

Investigative research
Opposition research
Corporate research
Policy analysis
Organizing and advocacy
Strategic planning
Project management
Written and verbal communication
Narrative construction
Editing and proofreading
Rapid response

Twitter (X)/Bluesky
Facebook
Instagram
Action Network
Slack
WordPress
Squarespace

LexisNexis
Congress.gov
FEC records
EDGAR (SEC)
Public records requests
Financial statements and disclosures
PACER
IRS form 990 databases
State legislative databases
State court records
Internet Archive

Washington, DC
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EXPERIENCE

2016-2018, 2020-Current
Washington, DC

Research and Advocacy Consultant

Provide investigative, opposition, corporate, and policy research, strategic advice, and advocacy guidance to organizations and campaigns.

- Wrote research books on congressional and state-level candidates, examining candidates' backgrounds, finances, and areas of controversy. Included competitive House races in PA, IL, MI.
- Investigated outsourcing by federal contractors for client organization Good Jobs Nation.
- Examined ties between police foundations and corporations for client organization Ekō.
- Produced a report on the US Conference of Catholic Bishops' federal and state lobbying and financial activities for client Catholics for Choice, and advised it on strategically using research.
- Investigated voter suppression and gerrymandering, focusing on the work of GOP operative Thomas Hofeller and his private redistricting files, for documentary project Draw the Line.
- Advise clients and provide guidance on types of narratives that can be constructed.
- Currently a consultant with consulting network PowerShift Strategies.

2016-Current
Washington, DC

Community Organizer

Core organizer with DC organizations focused on racial justice, including Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) DC and Stop Police Terror Project (SPTP) DC.

- Led the Us Not Crimnibus campaign to oppose the Secure DC Amendment Act. Work included coalition building, in-depth research and analysis, public education, and community mobilization.
- Led a campaign with other organizations to mobilize more than 16,000 community members to call on the DC government to divest from the DC Metropolitan Police Department.
- Led a successful campaign to fully fund the Neighborhood Engagement Achieves Results Act.
- Developed comprehensive guidance that helped thousands of DC residents craft policy demands.
- Drafted legislative proposals, researched and analyzed policy, consulted with policymakers.
- Designed research trainings tailored for organizers and led research teams and projects, including investigations into corporate membership of the DC Police Foundation, and DC public contracts.
- Develop, lead, and facilitate advocacy and policy trainings, workshops, and webinars.
- Represent SPTP-DC and SURJ-DC in coalitions and lead and facilitate coalition work.
- Draft and pitch op-eds, write press releases, talking points, and social media toolkits, field press requests and maintain relationships with media.

2018-2020
Washington, DC

Political Research Manager, Human Rights Campaign

- Managed researchers conducting in-depth research on federal judicial nominees, and used research to assist HRC staff preparing to testify before the Senate.
- Led cross-departmental work in support of HRC's campaign to pass the Equality Act.
- Conducted research and wrote research briefs on Senate, House, and state candidates identified as targets by HRC, and consulted with state organizers.
- Investigated organizations behind anti-LGBTQ policies and tracked anti-LGBTQ legislation.
- Monitored news events and managed rapid response.
- Developed research outlines, objectives, and methodologies, supervised less experienced employees, and provided feedback and guidance.

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2013-2016
Washington, DC

Senior Research Associate, American Bridge 21st Century

- Managed, wrote, and edited major reports on issues such as worker and collective bargaining rights, voter suppression, and reproductive rights.
- Conducted and directed in-depth research investigating right-wing groups and funders, including corporate connections, allegations of wrongdoing, and sources of income.
- More than 20 reports published, including investigations into Koch Industries and its affiliates, the NRA's ties to the gun industry, and organizations behind anti-abortion legislation.
- Developed research outlines, objectives, and methodologies.
- Tracked, monitored, and researched state and federal legislation.
- Provided research directly to reporters and assisted in pitching to media.
- Work cited or quoted in outlets including Bloomberg, CNN, NBC, AP, Politico, BuzzFeed, The Hill, The Huffington Post, The Washington Post, and The New York Times.
- Monitored news events and managed rapid response teams.
- Trained and supervised new and less experienced employees, and provided feedback.

2012
Chicago, IL

Research Fellow, Obama for America

- Worked individually and with a team on in-depth research projects for OFA at Chicago HQ.
- Researched background of President Obama and his previous comments on issues.
- Researched backgrounds of high-profile Romney campaign supporters.

2010-2011
Washington, DC

Researcher, Investigative Reporting Workshop

- Researcher for IRW book collaboration with Donald Barlett and Jim Steele, NYT bestseller *What Went Wrong: The Betrayal of the American Dream* (Hachette, 2012).
- Assisted IRW executive editor Charles Lewis with in-depth research for his book, *935 Lies*. Research was featured by the National Press Club.

PUBLICATIONS

- Article: "The Pulpit in the Voting Booth," Conscience Magazine, CatholicsforChoice.org, June 2024.
- Article: "Follow the Money: The Real Reason Catholic Hospitals Fight for Exemptions," Conscience Magazine, CatholicsforChoice.org, November 2021.
- Research featured in *935 Lies: The Future of Truth and the Decline of America's Moral Integrity* (Hachette, 2014).

EDUCATION

2006-2010

Washington College

- Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Minor in Creative Writing
- Merit-based \$40,000 Academic Tuition Scholarship.
- February through June 2009 studied at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa.
- Senior Capstone Project analyzed the influence of pharmaceutical corporations on U.S. policy toward Africa.
- Co-Founder/Editor college literary magazine, *The Colophon*.