
Michael Byron Thorpe Cunnington

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Business and governmental public policy professional with extensive experience in research, data management, federal funding, and intergovernmental policy coordination.

EXPERIENCE

DOMINION ENERGY

External Affairs Representative; March 2022 – Current

- Serve as a liaison between the company and local government offices on all aspects of government interactions, including constituent concerns, permitting, zoning, and municipal ordinances.
- Work with entities such as the Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce and other economic development agencies to provide necessary infrastructure for new or expanding businesses.
- As part of the External Affairs team, helped oversee applications for the Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation, including the watershed microgrants.

CONGRESSMAN ANTHONY GONZALEZ, 16th CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF OHIO

Federal Grants Advocate and Policy Advisor; January 2019 – March 2022

- Researched federal grant opportunities on a weekly basis to identify possible funding opportunities for local governments, non-profits, and businesses.
- Maintained a database of previous grant applications for opportunities that are available on a recurring basis, and points of contacts at organizations that apply to them.
- Wrote grant support letters on behalf of the office for applicants to federal grant programs.
- Attended events on behalf of the Congressman regarding policy questions, research, and legislation.
- Work with the legislative staff in the DC office to research pending legislation and possible bill ideas.
- Helped initiate and pass the Tuscarawas River Flooding Study Act, which was included as part of the 2020 Water Resource Development Act, to implement an US Army Corps of Engineers 729 study for the Tuscarawas River, to devise solutions for ecological restoration and flooding mitigation on the river.
- Helped identify millions of dollars in funding for the Medina County Park District for the Chippewa Lake Amusement Park purchase and restoration, and the algal bloom mitigation plan.

RANKING MEMBER RODNEY DAVIS, COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

Election Policy Advisor; January 2021 – January 2022

- As a shared staffer along with Rep. Gonzalez, regularly traveled to Washington, DC to serve as the elections administration policy advisor to Ranking Member Davis for the Iowa 2nd Congressional District contested election, and other election administration related issues before the Committee on House Administration.

ANTHONY GONZALEZ FOR CONGRESS

Political Director; November 2017 – December 2018

- Oversaw all data and field staff management for an open Congressional seat, including creating walk books for the entire campaign, creating precinct target lists, managing the response to call center efforts, and analyzing data trends from grassroots campaign responses.
- As part of the overall team, the campaign won the Republican primary in 2018 for the 16th Congressional District by 13%, and won the general election in the fall by almost 14%, in a district with a partisan index of only R+8%.

SUMMIT COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Precinct Election Official Coordinator (PEOC); July 2015 – November 2017

- Recruited and oversaw workers for up to 418 poll worker positions in Summit County for each election.
- Oversaw a division of the Board with an annual budget of over \$1.2 million.
- Designed, planned, and implemented training sessions for poll workers to keep them up to date on information about how to operate polling equipment, changes in state laws regarding voting, and conduct on Election Day.
- During this period, the Board bought new electronic poll books. As a result of new standard operating procedures, training methods, and training materials that the PEOC team developed, the electronic poll book system, with a cost of over \$1 million, was successfully implemented in Summit in 2017 without any disruption to voters.
- Responsible for other front office duties including inputting voter registrations, pulling and filing candidate petitions to run for office, and maintaining the accuracy of the voter registration database.

OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Legislative Aide; January 2015- July 2015, Rep. Steve Hambley
Senior Legislative Aide; March 2014 – December 2014, Assistant Majority Floor Leader John Adams
Legislative Aide; January 2013 – March 2014, Representative Matt Lynch
Legislative Aide & Committee Clerk, October 2011 – December 2012, Representative Courtney Combs
Legislative Aide; January 2011 – October 2011, Representative Todd McKenney

- As a committee clerk, responsible for maintaining all committee information for the Ohio House Transportation, Public Safety, and Homeland Security committee
- Staffed the committee, including sending out notices of meetings, taking minutes, organizing testimony, and communicating with policy staff to determine the agenda.
- Researched legislative proposals and prepared briefing files on policy topics for both the individual members I worked for, as well as members of legislative leadership.
- Researched legislative proposals for potential introduction, tracked current legislation
- As part of an ongoing Republican House caucus continuing education efforts, participated in specialized classes on topics like reading and developing polls, media outreach, and lobbying and ethics rules

OHIO HOUSE REPUBLICAN ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE

Northeast Ohio Regional Director; June 2012- November 2012

- Served as senior adviser to the three incumbents in Tier I races, and was primarily responsible for day to day campaign strategy, and overseeing local staff, interns, and volunteers.
- Additional responsibilities included fundraising, opposition research, and grassroots organization
- All three races were ultimately successful, with the incumbents retaining their seats.

Campaign Manager; August 2010 – December 2010, 42nd and 43rd Ohio House districts

- Responsible for all grassroots coordination, as well as liaising with vendors, consultants and other committee members to determine campaign message strategy, leading to both campaigns winning their races and Republicans taking control of the Ohio House
- Developed door to door strategy, including identifying targeted walk areas, creating and organizing walk books using Voter Vault, and collecting walk data for further campaign use.
- Both campaigns were ultimately successful on Election Day.

STRATEGIC PUBLIC PARTNERS

Associate; March 2010 – August 2010

JIMMY STEWART FOR STATE SENATE

Communications Director; August 2008 – November 2008

- Helped run a successful state Senate campaign, winning 8 out of the 9 nine counties in the district.

STARK COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY

Director; March 2008 – July 2008

EDUCATION CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY
Candidate – Master’s in Public Administration
Expected Graduation: June 2024

Cleveland, OH
Aug 2022 – Present

OHIO UNIVERSITY,
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science/International Relations
Certificate in East Asian Studies
AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR YEMENI STUDIES
SCHOOL FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAINING: OMAN
OHIO-SHANDONG CENTER IN EAST ASIA

Athens, OH
Aug 2004 – June 2007
June – Aug 2007
Feb - May 2007
Sept – Dec 2004

VOLUNTEER TINKER’S CREEK WATERSHED PARTNERS
Board of Directors

Twinsburg, OH
June 2022 - Current

SCHOLARSHIPS & HONORS

- 2010 Leadership Stark County Government Academy
- National Security Education Program Scholarship; 2006 Award Recipient to Oman
- State Department Critical Language Scholarship; 2007 Recipient to Yemen
- Pi Sigma Alpha (Political Science Honorary Association)