

## Jonathan Nelson



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### Core Strengths

- **Legislative and Regulatory Advocacy** – Experienced in all aspects of legislative and regulatory advocacy, including: crafting sophisticated legislative and regulatory strategies; advancing key organizational legislative and regulatory priorities; managing day to day engagement on legislative and regulatory matters; testifying before legislative committees and regulatory boards; direct lobbying of legislative members, regulatory board members and critical staff; developing strong messaging that resonates and persuades; and building coalitions that help organizations achieve their legislative and regulatory goals.
- **Policy, Process and People Management** – Experienced in overseeing and executing complex policy programs and initiatives to achieve organizational goals, including: collaborating with organizational leadership to set overall policy agendas; leading strong teams through co-empowerment and shared vision; and executing in a manner that builds on past successes and stays true to the mission while maximizing future impact.
- **Stakeholder and Community Engagement** – Experienced in managing community and stakeholder engagement, including: serving as an external spokesperson; acting as a bridge between communities, key stakeholders, and internal organizational leadership; creating innovative alliances and coalitions that change power dynamics and open up new pathways for progress; and designing programs, strategies and messaging that help cultivate community partnerships and build community leadership.
- **Oral and Written Advocacy** – Frequent public speaker and writer. Engagements include remarks before state and national legislative and regulatory committees/boards; speeches before large audiences (500+); and presentations at conferences, universities and community venues. Interviewed by and published in numerous journalistic outlets throughout California.
- **Water Policy Expertise** – Nationally recognized expert on the development of strategies that protect the human right to water, advance access to safe and affordable drinking water and build more resilient drinking water institutions. Successful track record of bringing diverse stakeholders together – including impacted communities – in a way that is constructive, leads to real solutions and is respectful of both the urgency of these issues and of the complex history and viewpoints that characterize water policymaking.

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### Notable Accomplishments

- **Legislative and Regulatory** – Secured tens of millions of dollars for emergency drinking water funding; established new programs and funding to implement safe drinking water projects in schools; and crafted a dual legislative-regulatory track strategy that resulted in new opportunities for under-resourced communities to access safe drinking water funding. Served in a lead role on the advocacy team that enacted California’s historic Death with Dignity bill; acted as lead coordinator for legislation that expanded scope of practice for pharmacists; secured over \$40 million in competitive regulatory grant funding to help create the nation’s first all-electric transit fleet; and helped shepherd legislation that expanded protections for victims of domestic violence. Played a leading and/or collaborative role in navigating over 20 legislative proposals through the California Legislature and into law.
- **Policy Leadership** – Helped shape groundbreaking policy initiatives, such as the development of the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund proposal and the expansion of access to care in underserved areas through better utilization of mid-level health providers. Regularly called upon as an expert on water policy to testify at both the national and state level, and to participate in stakeholder convenings and external events.
- **Campaign Management/Coalition Building** – Played a central role in running advocacy campaigns, most recently to pass the historic Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund, which included: leading the development of an unprecedented coalition of over 140 organizations (including environmental justice, agriculture, business, labor, health and local government supporters); acting as the campaign coordinator in charge of the coalition’s lobbying, communications, and grassroots organizing efforts; and serving as one of the key voices of the campaign before the California Legislature, Administration, external stakeholders and the media.
- **Pro Bono Work** – Wrote and passed country’s first ever legislation specifically recognizing the unique needs of medically fragile foster care children.

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## History

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### **Community Water Center**

*Policy Director*

2016 to present

- Leads and oversees organization's legislative, regulatory and policy campaigns to secure safe and affordable drinking water for all Californians.
- Manages in-house team of advocates and policy analysts.
- Serves as an external liaison to federal, state and local decision makers, as well as other water sector stakeholders and the media. This includes testifying before Congress, the California Legislature and the State Water Resources Control Board.

### **Weideman Group, Inc.**

*Associate*

2014 to 2016

- Managing associate for government affairs firm with a large portfolio of environmental, health care, labor, technology and public sector clients.
- Directly represented clients on legislative and regulatory matters, with expertise in health care, environmental, transit and technology issue areas.
- Conducted firm's grant writing and procurement work, securing tens of millions of dollars in direct funding for clients.

### **California Society of Health-System Pharmacists**

*Government Affairs and Special Projects Manager*

2012 to 2014

- Served as internal coordinator for government affairs, professional affairs and health policy initiatives; was quickly promoted into day-to-day management responsibilities for these areas.
- Represented organization before the California Legislature, regulatory agencies and industry stakeholders.
- Reimagined organization's online and written engagement strategy with member network; launched new communications systems; and led internal committees, task forces and initiatives.

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## Education

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**B.A., Political Science, University of California, Davis – 2012**

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## Volunteer and Non-Profit Experience

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**Stanford Youth Solutions, Board Member – Sacramento, CA – 2014 to 2016**