

Nicole Tisdale

Founder & Principal, Advocacy Blueprints, LLC

Nicole Tisdale is a national security attorney and policy strategist with seventeen years working to protect America's critical infrastructure — from the White House National Security Council to the U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security. As Founder and Principal of Advocacy Blueprints LLC, she helps communities of every size engage effectively with their government.



As the White House's lead for cybersecurity advocacy before Congress, Nicole drove creation of the \$1 billion State, Local, and Tribal Cybersecurity Grant Program — the largest cybersecurity funding investment in U.S. history — and passage of the cyber incident reporting law, together the most consequential cybersecurity laws in a decade. In Congress, she managed more than 96 hearings and shepherded 354 bills through the House, 80 of which became law. She has represented the United States in 40 international delegations across 28 countries, bringing a global perspective to the local threats American communities face every day.

A proud daughter of rural Mississippi and a double alumna of the University of Mississippi, Nicole brings firsthand understanding of the realities facing small-town utilities alongside deep experience with the urban systems and federal agencies that depend on them. Her work centers on the communities where cyber threats hit hardest and resources are thinnest — from the 50,000+ small water systems serving rural America to the dense metropolitan networks that share their supply chains, software, and adversaries. She wrote *Rural Water's Ripple Effect: National Security, Cyber Threats, and the Future of Water* for the National Rural Water Association, authored "Small Towns, Big Targets" for Aspen Digital, and "The Hidden Injustice of Cyberattacks" for WIRED Magazine. She is also the author of *Right to Petition* and developed and teaches the graduate course "Digital Policy Advocacy for Marginalized Communities."