

PolitiCorps Presenter Biographies

Josh Berezin

Josh Berezin left the world of software engineering in 2003 for politics, and now applies his data and technology skills to campaigns. In 2004, Berezin managed data for America Coming Together's Oregon campaign, targeting the group's efforts for maximum efficiency and impact. Berezin joined Our Oregon in April 2005, and has conducted electoral analysis, created statewide performance projections, directed sub-precinct target cluster analysis, and managed the transition to an advanced voter data infrastructure.

Congressman Earl Blumenauer, 3rd C.D.

Congressman Earl Blumenauer has devoted his entire career to public service. He first served in the Oregon House of Representatives in 1972. From there Congressman Blumenauer went on to be a Multnomah County Commissioner and spent ten years on the Portland City Council as Commissioner of Public Works. His innovative accomplishments in transportation, planning, environmental programs and public participation have helped Portland earn an international reputation as one of America's most livable cities – places where people are safe, healthy and economically secure.

Elected to the US House of Representatives in 1996, Congressman Blumenauer is committed to promoting livable communities at the federal level. A member of the Ways and Means Committee, the Budget Committee and the new Select Committee on Energy Independence and Climate Change, he is a strong and creative voice both at home and abroad for the environment, sustainable development, and economic opportunity. Congressman Blumenauer has authored and co-sponsored legislation to preserve and protect public lands, shift the nation's energy policy towards renewable energy and energy efficiency, curb global warming and clean our nation's water bodies, among many others.

Charlie Burr

Charlie has worked to elect Democrats on both sides of the Cascades and at all levels of Oregon government. Last election cycle, Burr managed the successful No on Constitutional Amendment 35 campaign (Med Mal). Despite being outspent by nearly \$3 million dollars, the coalition achieved a narrow upset making Oregon the only Presidential battleground state to defeat "tort reform" in 2004. In 2002, Burr managed Charlie Ringo's winning race against Christian Coalition founder Bill Witt, making Oregon one of only two states in which Democrats regained control of a Legislative chamber that year. In 2005, Charlie worked in the Republican stronghold of Nassau County, New York, managing what the New York Times called the "Democrats first serious attempt at the Town's top job." Charlie has been active with the League of Conservation Voters, NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon, Community Alliance of Tenants, Oregon Bus Project and many other progressive groups. He lives in northeast Portland with his wife Libby Upham and chocolate lab Eads.

Shannon Campion

Shannon grew up in Western Massachusetts and attended Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA. She graduated magna cum laude with dual degrees in political science and sociology, and earned a master's degree in political science.

While in college, Shannon volunteered in Head Start programs, mentored low-income elementary and middle school students, and spent summers interning for Sen. John Kerry and working for campaign finance reform with Common Cause. Through her volunteer work, she became acutely aware of the economic and educational injustices facing low-income children. Combining her interests in social activism and education, she wrote her college thesis on the politics of socialization, formulating a critical approach to learning.

After graduate school, Shannon moved to Asia to teach English. Applying her teaching approach in Thailand and China, she found herself in overcrowded classrooms, working with kids who didn't have the books they needed to learn -- the same conditions she had seen in America. After traveling throughout Southeast Asia, she returned to the states energized to address these problems at their root cause. Shannon is the Portland Director of Stand for Children.

Ben Cannon

Ben Cannon was elected to the Oregon House in November 2006. Ben is a volunteer and a member of the Board of Directors of the Oregon Bus Project, and is the Chair of the Bus Project's Education Policy Council. He helped develop and lobby for a package of legislation to address the state's school funding crisis, and he served for more than two years on a research committee of the City Club of Portland Studying early childhood education. Ben also taught Humanities in grades 6-8 at the Arbor School of Arts and Sciences in Tualatin, Oregon.

Kari Chisholm

BlueOregon is the brainchild of Kari Chisholm, who says he helped launch it because, "well, it seemed like something I wanted to read." Once a political campaign hack, Chisholm now runs Mandate Media, a consulting firm that does "internet strategy for people changing the world." His personal blog covers Politics & Technology. In 1999-2001, Chisholm was the volunteer board chair of X-PAC, a nonpartisan group that sought to build a new generation of political leaders and community activists in Oregon.

Adam Davis

Adam Davis is a partner in the firm Davis, Hibbitts & Midghall, Inc. Mr. Davis' areas of expertise include quantitative and qualitative research design, questionnaire development, and fielding administration. He has conducted more than 1000 research projects throughout the United States and on location in Europe and Japan. His clients include the Port of Portland, the Tennessee Valley Authority, Holland-America-Westours, Willamette Industries, and the Oregon University System. His research projects have taken him from doing face-to-face interviews with Natives in Bush Alaska to doing focus groups with wealthy consumers in New York City and Beverly Hills, California. Mr. Davis has also completed many research projects to support strategic planning efforts. Mr. Davis is a member of the Qualitative Research Consultants Association and American Marketing Association. He is recognized as a national authority on public opinion research design and has published articles in national periodicals and has served as an expert witness. Davis graduated from Portland State University with a B.S. in political science, and is a graduate of the University of Oregon School of Law.

Anna Galland

Anna Galland is an electoral and community organizer based in Portland, OR. She is currently deputy director of Operation Democracy, MoveOn.org's national field organizing program. She was proud to serve as youth vote director at the Bus Project in 2005 and 2006. She developed and ran the Bus's Building Votes program, which registered and turned out over 20,000 new voters in 2006 and gained recognition from Young Voter Strategies as one of the nation's most innovative projects. Before the Bus, Anna founded and for nearly three years directed a new area program of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), a Quaker-based peace and social justice organization. She organized forums, conferences, media events, and the biggest mass demonstrations in southeastern New England since the Vietnam War. Originally from Evanston, IL, Anna graduated from Brown University in Providence, RI in 2001.

Ian Greenfield

Ian is a principle of the New York and Portland-based ad-hoc advertising firm HungerStrike. He serves as the Communications Director for the national non-profit Compassion & Choices and as the Artistic Director for the Portland experimental theatre company Lightbox Studio. Ian has worked with numerous businesses and non-profits including ProcessShift, Emerge Inc, The Raben Group, MergerWatch, Planned Parenthood, the Oregon Progress Forum and the Oregon Bus Project. Ian has created and implemented PR and marketing plans for numerous local and national events.

Lisa Grove

Lisa Grove has been the lead strategist for political candidates, nonprofit organizations, and labor unions. She has a reputation for providing rock-solid research and successful communications and outreach campaigns. Ms. Grove is the founder and Principal of Grove Insight. She has conducted polls and moderated hundreds of focus groups and dial test sessions for Presidential, Senatorial, Gubernatorial and Congressional candidates. Needless to say, her B.S. meter is set extremely high. A seasoned public speaker, Ms. Grove has briefed heads of state, US Senators, Hollywood types and the country's leading policymakers on a wide variety of issues. She has also helped companies in crisis navigate through troubled waters and back onto safe footing. Prior to starting her own company, she was the Vice President at the Mellman Group for nine years in Washington D.C. Ms. Grove graduated from Lewis and Clark College in 1984 with degrees in communications and international affairs.

Gary Hirsch

Gary Hirsch is the co-founder of On Your Feet, a collaboration between business and the arts. He has been teaching and performing improv for fifteen years, and has been a core member of the national touring group Brainwaves Improv Comedy for the past nine years. On Your Feet explores how improv impacts communication, leadership, idea generation, brand building, and organizational development. He has led programs with Nike, Warner Bros., FedEx, Intel, Wieden + Kennedy, The British Ministry of Defense, and Saatchi & Saatchi, to name a few.

Besides improv, Gary's artistic talents include doodling, illustrating and painting. He is the founder of Doodle House, a virtual gallery and retail space. He has been commissioned for public art installations in Portland, Melbourne, and Dallas, and his work has been exhibited at the Cleveland Museum of Art, The Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, and in galleries in Portland and Seattle. Gary has a Masters in Arts Education from Case Western Reserve University. Gary is also an adjunct instructor in the School of Business Administration at Portland State University.

Steven Reed Johnson

Steven Johnson is an avid grant writer and community service volunteer. He has written or co-authored over 100 successful grant applications to foundations and government agencies in the areas of community development, energy conservation and education, environmental stewardship, civic engagement, service learning in universities, appropriate technology, and nonprofit applications of computer and telecommunications technology. He has been a member of the Adjunct Faculty at the School of Urban Studies and Planning at Portland State University. He was the Manager of Computer and Telecommunications Education Program at the Center for Urban Education, and the Technology Transfer Coordinator for the Appropriate Technology Program for the State of Oregon. Johnson has also been the Editor and Publisher of Rain magazine, an International Journal of Appropriate Technology.

Governor John A. Kitzhaber, MD

Dr. Kitzhaber is a former emergency physician, legislator, and two term Governor of the State of Oregon (1995-2003). During his term as the President of the Oregon State Senate from 1985 to 1993, he authorized and implemented the Oregon Health Plan. Dr. Kitzhaber's legislative career was marked by his dedication to public education, community development, environmental stewardship and a wide variety of health care issues.

Dr. Kitzhaber serves as the Director for the Center for Evidence Based Policy at Oregon Health and Science University in Portland. He has been the President of the Kitzhaber Center, a natural resource center at Lewis and Clark Law School, since 2004, and the President of the Estes Park Institute since 2003. He holds an endowed Chair on Health Care Policy with The Foundation for Medical Excellence, an Oregon based public, nonprofit educational foundation.

In 2006, Dr. Kitzhaber launched the Archimedes Movement, an organization seeking to maximize the health of the population by creating a sustainable system.

Kevin Looper

Kevin Looper is a political consultant with more than 15 years experience running successful campaigns at the local, state, and federal levels. He is the Executive Director of Our Oregon. Through Our Oregon he is developing statewide coalitions, research, and communications capacity. Kevin serves on the Board of the Oregon Center for Public Policy Update. In 2004 he was the Oregon director of America Votes, a \$10 million combined field effort to register, educate, and mobilize progressive voters, securing victory in one of the closes swing states from the 2000 cycle. Kevin graduated with honors from Yale University in 1992.

Kevin's background in non-profit includes work in environmental advocacy, women's health, international trade and poverty. In addition to his political portfolio, Kevin spent four years as Executive Director of a national women's health research foundation based in Santa Barbara, California. He has also served as a strategic communications consultant to socially responsible businesses, including Leifer Capital and Patagonia clothing.

Su Midghall

Su Midghall is a partner in the firm Davis, Hibbitts, & Midghall. She has 10 years experience in all phases of public opinion research, including designing questionnaires, field administration, coordinating focus groups, and analysis of findings. She has experience assessing public opinion in a variety of fields including community assessments, environmental studies, electric utilities, education, and healthcare. She has managed hundreds of research projects and specializes in complex sample designs and online techniques for the firm. Su is a graduate of the University of Tennessee with a degree in Marketing. Her other work experience includes implementing a marketing program to MBA students at the University of Tennessee, and assisting GTE Corporation with strategic marketing.

Chet Orloff

Chet Orloff is Director Emeritus of the Oregon Historical Society, Director of the Pamplin Institute and Museum, and Adjunct Professor of Urban Studies and Planning at the Portland State University. Since 1970 he has been active in museum and historical agency affairs at the regional and national level. He is the founding president of the Museum of the City. Chet founded and edited the journal *Western Legal History*, was senior editor of the *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, and taught in Afghanistan from 1972-75. Currently he runs Oregon History Works, where he provides advising and consulting in historical interpretation and public history. In addition to his professional work, Orloff serves on numerous local, state, and national committees and commissions relating to history, planning, and urban design.

Jefferson Smith

Jefferson Smith is the Founding Chair of the Bus Project and has become one of the Northwest's foremost spokespersons on voter mobilization and engaging new people in the political process. He's an Oregon native, graduate of the U of O, and magna cum laude graduate of Harvard Law School. He clerked for the Honorable Judge Goodwin of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals before turning down offers from across the country to return home to Portland to work as a lawyer and public advocate. A column headline from *The Oregonian* labeled Jefferson as having the "Vision, Youth To Help Us Find A New Path," he was named by Portland UpClose as one of the "Top 20 to Watch." *The Oregonian* also dubbed him "a brilliant speaker."

R.P. Joe Smith

Rep. Joe Smith is a "semi-retired" attorney with a long record of service to Oregon. Prior to retiring, Mr. Smith was

District Attorney, Executive Assistant to the Speaker (Oregon Legislature), Administrative Assistant to an Oregon Congressman, and Executive Director of the Pacific Northwest Regional Commission. He's served in the Oregon Legislature and on Oregon's State Aviation Board, and was recently chosen as the president-elect of the Oregon Pilot's Association.

Bob Stacy

Bob Stacy, Executive Director of 1000 Friends of Oregon, has a long history with land use and growth management. From 1975 to 1986 he worked as one of 1000 Friends' first staff attorneys, and served on the board of directors from 1996 to 2000. His professional career includes work as Director of the Bureau of Planning for the City of Portland; Senior Policy Advisor on Urban Growth management to Oregon Governor Barbara Roberts; attorney in private practice representing developers and other client at the Portland law firm of Ball, Janik LLP; Executive Director of Policy and Planning at TriMet (the regional transit agency in the Portland area); and Chief of Staff to Congressman Earl Blumenauer. Bob graduated from Reed College in 1972 and from the University of Oregon with a JD in 1975. He was a Loeb Fellow at the Harvard Graduate School of Design during the 2000-2001 academic year.

City Commissioner Erik Sten

A native of Portland, Commissioner Erik Sten has been a Portland City Commissioner since 1996. As a Portland City Commissioner, Commissioner Sten is directly responsible for the day-to-day management of Portland's Bureau of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services, and the Bureau of Housing and Community Development. He also has a special assignment to direct Portland's programs on energy policy and global warming. Erik previously directed the Bureau of Environmental Services, the Endangered Species Act Program, the Water Bureau, the Bureau of Emergency Communications, the Office of Cable Communications and Franchise Management, and the Portland Energy Office (presently the Office of Sustainable Development.)

Melissa Unger

Melissa Unger is the Legislative Director for the Oregon Student Association and a former Bus Project Board member.

Larry Wallack

Lawrence Wallack is Dean, College of Urban and Public Affairs, Portland State University and Emeritus Professor, Public Health University of California, Berkeley. He was the founding director of the Berkeley Media Studies Group, an organization conducting research and training in the use of media to promote healthy public policies. Dr. Wallack is one of the primary architects of media advocacy--an innovative approach to working with mass media to advance public health. Dr. Wallack is the recipient of several awards, including the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Innovator Award (2000), Distinguished Wellness Lecturer. Dr. Wallack has appeared on Nightline, Good Morning America, the CBS Evening News, the Today Show, Cable Network News, Oprah, and local news and public affairs programs.

Christopher Zinn

Christopher Zinn is the Executive Director of the Oregon Council for the Humanities. Christopher graduated from Georgetown and received a Ph.D. in English and American Literature from New York University. He taught Humanities and American literature at Reed College, directed the college's American Studies program, and was Fulbright Senior lecturer in Turkey in 1993-94. He also taught cultural history at the Oregon College of Art and Craft and writes frequently on American literature and culture. Christopher was appointed Executive Director of the Oregon Council for the Humanities in May 1997. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Federation of State Humanities Councils, the National Advisory Board of Imagining America, and is Chair of the Multnomah County Cultural Planning Coalition.