Robert Dempsey

Process-oriented professional with extensive experience building effective – and winning – political operations.

I am known for running professional and organized operations and winning tough races. I am experienced in strategic planning and management which includes overseeing multi-million-dollar budgets, earned and paid media plans, hiring and retaining skilled staff, digital organizing, voter contact initiatives, and fundraising. I am an effective leader who has forged long-term relationships with colleagues, clients, and stakeholders, alike, and have advised countless federal, state, and local elected officials on innovative strategies in support of their long and short term objectives.

Areas of Expertise

- Strategic Planning & Execution
- Organizational Management
- Paid & Volunteer Voter Contact
- CBA Implementation

- Budgeting & Compliance
- PAC & Allied Org Engagement
- Political Outreach
- Generating Earned Media
- Paid Communications
- Hiring & Training Staff
- Issue & Policy Analysis
- In-person & Online Fundraising

Career Highlights

Senior Consultant, The Lew Edwards Group, Oakland, CA

2021 - 2023

Worked with multiple candidates for United States House of Representatives, California General Assembly, county supervisor, and municipal offices, as well as several public agencies on local ballot measures.

- Worked with agencies on measure placement and approval resulting in \$40M+ in increased revenues annually.
- Managed portfolio of candidate campaigns with budgets exceeding \$12M, increasing the number of women elected to the CA state legislature.

National States Director, Bernie 2020, Washington, DC

2019 - 2020

Developed individual state strategies, managed state budgets, executed historic collective bargaining agreement, and coordinated cross-departmental in-state synergies.

- Assessed 1K+ state staff to determine promotion, termination, and later-state redeployment.
- Oversaw the National Field Department on the execution of its direct voter contact initiatives post-Iowa caucus.

Congressional Campaign Program Director, California Democratic Party, Sacramento, CA

2019

Administered programs in support of Frontline and Red-to-Blue candidates for US House. Recruited, evaluated, and managed 100+ team members to include headquarters staff, field directors, regional directors, and field organizers.

- Managed \$8M+ budget that included volunteer exempt mail program, organizers, paid canvassers, and digital.
- Retained all Frontline members and flipped seven seats Blue to regain Democratic control of the US House.

Campaign Manager, Doug Applegate for Congress, CA-49, San Diego, CA

2016 - 2017

Within a four-month period, built a campaign with a full team of consultants, staff, and paid canvassers. Point of contact for DCCC, PAC & allied organizations, local Democratic committees, and national and local stakeholders.

- Came within 1,621 votes of unseating incumbent Congressman Darrell Issa closest House race that cycle.
- Raised \$2M budget for \$1M TV and digital ads, 500K mail pieces, 250K door, and 2M phone and text attempts.

State Director: MN, WI, & NJ, Bernie 2016, Burlington, VT

2015 - 2016

Over eight months established and managed three separate statewide campaigns. Responsible for budget; voter targeting; staff hiring & redeployment; state PLEO outreach; rally planning; and earned media.

- Won MN by 23% and WI by 14%, earning a majority of pledged and total delegates to the national convention.
- Served as spokesperson, provided on-the-record quotes, and conducted local, state, and national interviews.

Executive Director, Democratic Party of Virginia, Richmond, VA

2014-2015

Led a diverse network of 136 affiliated party committees and caucuses with over 3,000 organizational leaders. Developed engagement and retention strategies for statewide organization with +100K active members.

- Oversaw coordinated campaign retaining US Senator Mark Warner and Virginia's federal delegation.
- Drafted, ratified, and submitted DPVA Delegate Selection Plan for the 2016 Democratic National Convention.

Additional Experience

Executive Director, North Carolina Democratic Party, Raleigh, NC **Campaign Manager**, Scott Peters for Congress, CA-52, San Diego, CA

Senior Staff, Senator Bernie Sanders, Chair, US Senate Subcommittee on Primary Health & Aging, Washington, DC

Executive Director, Vermont Democratic Party, Montpelier, VT

Midwest Regional Candidate Services Director, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, Washington, DC

State Campaign Director, Ohio Senate Democrats, Columbus, OH

Campaign Manager, Kaptur for Congress, OH-9, Toledo, OH

Regional Representative, Office of Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, Toledo, OH

Field Director, Harry Jacobs for Congress, FL-24, Altamonte Springs, FL

Regional Field Director, Pennsylvania House Democratic Campaign Committee, Harrisburg, PA

Campaign Manager, Friends of Joe Battisto, 176th Legislative District, Stroudsburg PA

Campaign Manager, Kalamazoo Against Discrimination, Kalamazoo, MI

Campaign Manager, Chilutti 2000, 172nd Legislative District, Philadelphia, PA

Legislative Assistant, Office of Member Services, Pennsylvania State House of Representatives, Harrisburg, PA

Campaign Coordinator, Michael Coleman for Mayor Campaign, Columbus, OH

Education

Bachelor of Arts in English, The State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY