

ELIZABETH POWER

Political Strategist - Communications Director - Public Relations Specialist - Creative Storyteller

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Education

George Washington University, Elliott School of International Affairs

May 2020

B.A. International Affairs; Minors: Journalism/Mass Communications and Arabic Studies

Washington, DC

Honors: Summa Cum Laude, Outstanding Academic Achievement Award 2020, Phi Beta Kappa

Experience

Build American AI (Leading the Future PAC)

February 2026 - Present

Chief of Staff

San Francisco, CA

- Support Executive Director Josh Vlasto in conducting organizational and political operations to further a pro-artificial intelligence policy agenda in Congress
- Manage several million dollars in contributions and sponsorships to other nonprofits, think tanks, and advocacy organizations while tracking and reporting outcomes
- Draft policy white papers, memos, and op-eds for members of Congress, caucus staff, and partner organizations to shape Democratic messaging on artificial intelligence
- Oversee projects including opposition research and targeted messaging campaigns via earned and paid media

Bearstar Strategies

July 2020 - February 2026

Senior Associate

San Francisco, CA

- Produced media campaigns with budgets of up to \$100 million for clients such as the San Francisco 49ers, Uber, and over a dozen candidates and ballot measures, resulting in a statewide win rate of over 90%
- Served as communications director and spokesperson for the successful campaigns of Rep. Lateefah Simon (CA-12), Assemblymember Matt Haney (AD-17), and SF District Attorney Brooke Jenkins
- Pitched and shaped news stories and op-eds; cultivated relationships with reporters at local, state, and national outlets; managed inbound press requests; and prepared principals for interviews
- Created and implemented crisis communications and public affairs plans for private sector and nonprofit clients
- Staffed senior elected officials—including Governor Gavin Newsom, Senator Alex Padilla, and Attorney General Rob Bonta—at campaign events, coordinating complex logistics and managing key stakeholder relationships
- Managed hiring and onboarding of campaign staff, potential campaign managers, finance directors, and communications staff
- Collaborated across teams such as legal, compliance, finance, internal legislative and policy staff, digital, and research to manage campaign issues and ensure success

Additional Work Experience

U.S. Department of State • Lighthouse Public Affairs • USAID • World Affairs Councils of America

Relevant Skills

Core Competencies: Crisis Communications, Media Relations, Campaign Management, Policy Communications, Press Strategy, Ad Production, Strategic Digital and TV Advertising

Tools: Google Workspace, Warchest, ActBlue, Canva, PDI, Adobe Creative Suite, LexisNexis, PACER

Languages: Arabic and Spanish (Limited Working Proficiency)

Awards

Reed Award: Best Newspaper Ad for Political Campaign 2023 [“Two Governors”](#)

American Association of Political Consultants Campaign Excellence Award: Digital Campaign of the Year 2022 [“Stop the Republican Recall of Gavin Newsom”](#)