Public Affairs Director Job Opportunity

Working Washington seeks a full-time Public Affairs Director to lead our political and public affairs work. This position will report to the Executive Director, and will serve as a member of our leadership team. The ideal candidate will have a demonstrated track record of fighting for bold progressive political and policy change. They will have experience in both building grassroots political power and advancing legislative priorities through organizing, advocacy, coalition building, and lobbying. They will be committed to setting an ambitious agenda and getting results in a fast-paced environment, and will know how to build lasting relationships with key allies, coalitions, organizations, government officials, candidates, and elected officials. Finally, they will be committed to economic and racial justice for working people and marginalized communities.

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

Our organization builds worker power through education, organizing, and enforcement. We work to raise and uphold standards in the workplace. And we fight for economic and racial justice in our communities.

Working Washington is a national leader in organizing delivery workers in the gig economy, leading to three multi-billion dollar corporations- Instacart, DoorDash, and Amazon- changing their tipping policies. We also continue to organize domestic workers to enforce Seattle’s groundbreaking Bill of Rights, and have won multiple efforts to make Washington’s workplace laws among the best in the country.

Our partner organization, Fair Work Center trains hundreds of workers a year so they know their rights on the job and how to enforce them. Fair Work Center’s legal clinic has put more than $1.5 million back in workers’ pockets over the past few years.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic our organizations have advocated for and won hazard pay for frontline workers, health and safety enforcement, and access to unemployment for gig and immigrant workers. Together, we have a history of making transformative demands for working people and winning big.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Alliance Building & Management
○ Build a statewide alliance to win breakthrough victories for working people in Washington, particularly wins that have profound impacts on workers of color, immigrant and refugee workers, and other excluded workers
○ Lead this alliance to create a winning campaign plan that unifies lobbying, field, and communications strategies, and work with partners to execute on key strategies in each area
○ Work with alliance members to develop a plan for how their organizations will engage in larger campaigns
○ Convene regular meetings of organizational partners, including helping to build consensus on key strategy decisions
○ Serve as a spokesperson for the alliance with a range of audiences, including legislators, the media, and funders; identify and build capacity of other alliance spokespeople
○ Work closely with national partners and networks to share information on state and local efforts

• Legislative Affairs
  ○ Shape legislative agenda and lead strategy to pass legislation aligned with our campaigns and organizational priorities
  ○ Develop policy in partnership with leadership team, relevant campaigns, and organizational partners
  ○ Track relevant local and state legislative developments
  ○ Participate in stakeholder processes and negotiations to advance legislative priorities
  ○ Develop and support worker participation in the legislative process
  ○ Represent the organization to a wide variety of stakeholders, and develop and maintain strong collaborative relationships with lawmakers and agency decision makers, key allies, coalitions, and other organizations

• Political Direction
  ○ Lead the development and execution of the organization’s political strategy to win and enforce new rights for workers, including determining the appropriate balance between electoral work and grassroots political work
  ○ Coordinate with campaign, communications, and field teams to advance our political strategy and build grassroots worker power
  ○ Conduct political and electoral research, and track political developments in Washington State
  ○ Provide strategic advice on evolving political dynamics and strategies to advance our mission
  ○ Manage our endorsement process, if any

• Other Duties
○ Fundraising for political and electoral work, and participating in grant reporting as needed
○ Assist in organizational strategy and race equity initiatives
○ Data tracking for grant reporting, public disclosure compliance, program efficacy, and more

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS
● High-level understanding of social change and progressive movements backed by direct experience with community-organizing, coalition building, advocacy, campaign and/or electoral experience
● Expert interpersonal skills and ability to develop deep relationships with a diverse set of partners, including elected officials, government staff, labor unions, community-based organizations, community leaders, and workers
● Ability to mobilize allies in issue-based and electoral coalitions
● Experience thriving in fast-paced and politically sensitive environments
● Excellent written, verbal, and listening communication skills
● Self-motivated, detail oriented individual with ability to work independently and as part of a collaborative leadership team
● Strong project management skills and ability to juggle multiple deadlines and priorities
● Working knowledge of the state’s political landscape, including basic mechanics of state and local governance and legislative processes
● Demonstrated commitment to racial and economic justice

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS
● 3-5+ years of relevant experience, including serving as a political director, legislative director, organizer, campaign manager or equivalent experience
● Knowledge of national political and organizing landscape
● Knowledge of local and state budget process
● Experience with 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and PAC compliance
● Experience fundraising for both 501(c)3 and 501(c)4 organizations
● Demonstrated experience working with politically underrepresented and historically oppressed communities, including, but not limited to, communities of color, low-wage workers, immigrant and refugee workers, LGBTQ+ communities, youth, and women

Salary & Benefits: Starting pay between $86,000 to $95,000, based on experience. Generous benefits package, including fully-paid family health care, employer 401k contribution, substantial holidays, vacation and sick leave, and ORCA card.
Other Info: This is a salaried overtime exempt management position based in our Seattle or Yakima office; it may require occasional evening and weekend work and occasional travel throughout the state. Our team is currently working remotely due to COVID-19.

How to Apply: Interested applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to jobs@workingwa.org with the applicant’s last name and “Public Affairs Director” in the subject line. In your cover letter, let us know why you’re interested in this role and which skills you believe will make you successful in it. The priority deadline for submissions is January 7, 2022. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, and we will accept applications until the position is filled.

Commitment to Equity: Working Washington is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We strongly encourage people from communities most negatively affected by historical and ongoing inequity to apply, such as: people of color, immigrants, women, lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, trans, and gender non-conforming people, and people with disabilities. We seek candidates whose lived experiences reflect the lived experiences of the workers we support. If you need disability, language or other accommodation in the application process, please contact Zhi Chen at zhi@workingwa.org.