

Zak Kelley

Personal Information

Address

2197 Nolensville Pike, #324

Nashville, TN 37211

Phone

731-413-7392

E-mail

zkelly4@gmail.com

Skills

People--Experienced in building, maintaining, and leveraging diverse network of contacts across varying sectors and levels of government

Communication--Proven ability to work with internal policy experts to simplify and repackage complex ideas, as with first Finance Citizen Centric Report and Finance Foundations Video Series.

Project Management--Adept at managing multiple issues simultaneously in active legislative environments at both the state and local level.

Community Involvement

Nashville Public Television

- 2015-Present
- Big Yellow Bird Bash Planning Committee

Room in the Inn

- 2016-Present
- Overnight Host Volunteer

Nashville Emerging Leaders

- Class of 2016

YP Nashville

- Emerging Leader Award Finalist 2016--Government & Public Affairs

Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition

- 2014-2017
- Board of Directors

Public policy professional with experience engaging state, local and community leaders to advance the interests of individuals and entities in the government sector. Adept at identifying and executing proactive engagement opportunities, as well as managing multiple active projects to deliver on organizational goals.

Experience

2016-01 - present
Special Assistant to the Director-Legislation and Policy
Metro Nashville Department of Finance, Office of the Director

- Delivered 31-votes for passage of a \$225 million stadium financing plan that resulted in a Major League Soccer franchise being awarded to Nashville
- Achieved Council approval for two successive \$2 billion operating budgets
- Managed legislative approval for nearly \$1 billion in capital projects over three bond issuances
- Improved city-state relations by initiating first-ever "Welcome Back" reception hosted by Metro for State Legislators leveraging high-profile local talent
- Collaborated with contract lobbyists to secure key state leader support for IMPROVE Act

2015-08 - 2015-09
Deputy Communications Director
Megan Barry for Mayor, Senior Staff

- Executed communications plan for first female Mayor of Nashville
- Contributed to op-eds, policy issue summaries, talking points, and debate prep
- Managed local elected surrogates, including providing internal memos detailing policy positions, media trends and weekly messaging strategy

2012-05 - 2016-01
Senior Policy Advisor
Tennessee House of Representatives, Office of the Minority Leader

- Produced and managed legislative agenda for 26-member caucus
- Generated 100+ speeches, talking points, policy issue summaries for members
- Executed 5-day, 7-city statewide Jobs Tour engaging media in 4-major markets
- Improved state vaccination laws via passage of Jacob Nunnely Act
- Increased electoral win-margin for Minority Leader from 1% to 20%

2011-03 - 2012-05
Research Analyst
Tennessee House of Representatives, Office of the Minority leader

- Tracked 1,000+ pieces of legislation filed annually in the General Assembly
- Produced weekly communication for members and stakeholders to monitor bills, policy and legislative trends in 15-House Committees
- Maximized use of interns by adding them to bill review team

2010-11 - 2011-03
Field Director/Interim Campaign Manager
Friends of Mark Padgett

- Raised \$90,000 during first nine-weeks of campaign
- Grew campaign to staff of three and over 40 volunteers
- Maximized earned media to place candidate in top-tier status

2010-06 - 2010-11
Campaign Manager
Friends of Mark Maddox

- Raised \$80,000+ for re-election campaign
- Grew campaign volunteer base by engaging local college students

Education

2006-08 - 2010-05
University of Tennessee, Knoxville '10

- BA, Political Science-Magna Cum Laude