

ROBERT W. J. ORDWAY

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POLICY EXPERIENCE

Jan 2019 to Present	Office of U.S. Senator Mike Braun (R-IN) <i>Deputy Legislative Director & Senior Policy Advisor – Committees: Budget, Appropriations, Finance</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Coalition building, legislative strategy with House, advocacy groups and stakeholdersCo-manage with Legislative Director: 13 junior policy staffersPrepare Senator for hearings and mark-ups for the Committee on BudgetStaff lead on floor activities related to the budget resolution and reconciliation processDraft letters to agencies, craft legislation, provide cosponsor recommendationsProof constituent letters, meet with state-based stakeholders, groups and lobbyists	Washington, DC
Jun 2017 to Dec 2018	American Legislative Exchange Council <i>Director – Commerce, Insurance and Econ Dev (banking, transportation, labor, housing, tobacco, alcohol)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Build coalitions and drive legislative agenda on multiple issues during state legislative sessionsRecruit, manage and retain members: legislators, think-tanks, trade associations and businessesFacilitate three major meetings per year where model policy is developed and voted onInterface with c4 to develop issue alerts for legislative initiatives at State and Federal level	Arlington, VA
Spring 2017	The Heritage Foundation <i>Washington Scholars Fellow – Ed Meese Center for Legal and Judicial Studies</i>	Washington, DC

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

2017 - Present	Robert Ordway LLC dba Rusted Oak <i>Certified Custom Clothier, Image Consultant</i>	Washington, DC
2014 - 2016	Rusted Oak: Gentleman's Boutique (independent menswear retailer) <i>Founder, Owner-Operator</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Finance - created & developed business plan (300 hours), raised \$200k in start-up capitalManagement - oversaw one employee, tailoring contractor and tux rental vendorMarketing - executed plan via direct mail, e-mail, events and social media platformsOperations - worked with 60+ vendors to order, receive, inventory and merchandise goodsDirect Sales – made prospecting calls to high-net-worth individuals, traveled to home or office	Valparaiso, IN

EDUCATION

2010	MS - International Commerce & Policy , <i>Valparaiso University</i>	Valparaiso, IN
2007	BSBA - Finance , <i>Valparaiso University</i>	
2003	Lilly Endowment Community Scholar , <i>Legacy Foundation, Lake Co.</i> (four-year full tuition)	

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2023	Stuart Family Congressional Fellowship Program , <i>Hoover Institute, Spring Class</i>	
2022/2024	Senate Procedure Training, 101 & 201 , <i>Conservative Partnership Institute (CPI)</i>	
2022	Congressional Fellowship in Constitutional Studies , <i>CATO, Class II</i>	
2022	Constitutional Fellows Program , <i>The American Conservative (TAC), Fall Class</i>	
2021-22		
2020	Fellow , <i>Mitch Daniels Leadership Foundation (MDLF), Class IV</i>	
2020	Leadership Network , <i>American Enterprise Institute (AEI), 2020 Cohort</i>	
2019	Penn Wharton Budget Model Certificate	
2017-18	Heritage Congressional Fellowship (HCF) , <i>The Heritage Foundation</i>	
2017	Koch Associate Program (KAP) , <i>Charles Koch Institute, Class of 2018</i>	
2017	Writing Fellows Program , <i>America's Future Foundation, Fall 2017 Class</i>	
2015	Strategic Analytics, Executive Program , <i>New England Complex Systems Institute (NECSI)</i>	
2014	Candidate for Common Council , <i>City of Valparaiso</i>	
2013	Police Citizens Academy , <i>Valparaiso Police Department, Class of 2014</i>	
2013	Valpo Chamber Leadership Academy , <i>Class of 2013</i>	
2012	Hoosier Leadership Series (HLS) , <i>Class VII</i>	
2012	Campaign Management College (CMC) , <i>RNC</i>	
2011	Campaign Finance College (CFC) , <i>RNC</i>	
2010	Leadership Northwest Indiana , <i>Class 29</i>	

Indiana Leadership Forum (ILF), Class of 2010

MEMBERSHIP & VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

2023 – Present	American Compass , Member
2022 - Present	American Distilling Institute (ADI) , <i>Member</i>
2022 - Present	Custom Tailor & Designers Association (CTDA) , <i>Board Secretary</i>
2019 - Present	Indiana Society of Washington DC , <i>Member, Board of Directors</i>
2010 - Present	National Rifle Association (NRA) , <i>Lifetime Member</i>
2012 - Present	National Association for the Advancement of Color People (NAACP) , <i>Life Member</i>
2007 - Present	Lilly Scholars Network (LSN) , <i>Member</i>
2016 - Oct	Indiana Bicentennial Commission , <i>Torchbearer, Porter County</i>
2013 - 2016	Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) , <i>City of Valparaiso, Member</i>
2013 - 2016	Town & Gown Committee , <i>City of Valparaiso/Valparaiso University, Member</i>
2013 - 2016	Hilltop Neighborhood House , <i>Member, Board of Directors</i>
2011 - 2016	Urban League Young Professionals of Northwest Indiana (ULYPs) , <i>Member</i>
2011 - 2016	United Way of Porter County , <i>Young Leaders United (YLU), Member</i>
2011 - 2016	Indiana Society of Chicago , <i>Member</i>
2013 - 2014	Junior Achievement of Northwest Indiana , <i>Member, Advisory Board</i>
2011	Urban League of Northwest Indiana , <i>Member, Board of Directors</i>
2009	Citizens for Northwest Indiana PAC , <i>Chairman (to promote YES vote on public question)</i>

PUBLICATIONS

2021	Once In-Person Work Resumes, Will We See a New DC Dress Code? , <i>Campaigns & Elections</i>
2021	A Gentleman's Guide to Dressing for the AF Gala 2021 , <i>America's Future</i>
2020	Rethinking Retail , <i>MR Magazine</i>
2020	Why E-Commence and Physical Stores Are a Perfect Marriage , <i>MR Magazine</i>
2019	ALS Ice Bucket Challenge 5th Anniversary , <i>Northwest Indiana Times</i>
2019	River Forest voters see the value of education , <i>Northwest Indiana Times</i>
2019	How a Candidate's Wardrobe Can Create Authenticity on the Trail , <i>Campaigns & Elections</i>
2019	Building Connections in a New City , <i>America's Future</i>
2019	Why Independent Stores Are Still the Future , <i>MR Magazine</i>
2018	How To Break into Your New Career , <i>America's Future</i>
2018	Occupational licenses are often unnecessary , <i>Northwest Indiana Times</i>
2018	Starting a New Career in DC: Office Etiquette , <i>America's Future</i>
2017	Rally around commuter rail expansion in NWI , <i>Northwest Indiana Times</i>
2017	The Spirit of Industry , <i>ValpoLife</i>
2016	These Bad Laws Are Perpetuating Waste and Abuse in Local Government , <i>The Daily Signal</i>
2016	Why millennials matter in 2016 elections , <i>Northwest Indiana Times</i>
2015	Entire region has stake in Gary's future , <i>Northwest Indiana Times</i>
2014	NWI must pull together toward common goal , <i>Northwest Indiana Times</i>

PUBLIC SPEAKING

2024 Sept	How Congress Really Works , <i>Hoosier Leadership Series – Indiana Family Institute</i>
2024 Sept	The Past, Present & Future of the US Budget , <i>American Moment</i> (three iterations)
2024 Sept	From Steel Mills to Capitol Hill , <i>In The Trenches</i> (podcast interview)
2024 August	Why State Guilds Matter , <i>American Distilling Institute (ADI)</i> (annual conference)
2024 July	How to Make it on The Hill , <i>American Compass</i> (panelist)
2022 - 2024	Capitol Hill Staff Training , <i>Leadership Institute</i> (four iterations)
2024 May	Speaker Series , <i>LAMALS Community Summit in Washington DC</i>
2024 May	Shifting Sand: Stability & Revitalization , <i>Saturday Evening Club (Valparaiso, IN)</i>
2024 May	Life After High School , <i>River Forest Community School Corp</i>
2023 Oct	Off the Record: A Conversation on Federal Housing Policy , <i>Up For Growth</i> (panel)
2023 July	Keynote/Main Speaker , <i>Barbell Logic Online Coaching staff retreat</i>
2022 Nov	The Necessity of Article V to Fix our Broken System , <i>ALEC SNPS</i> (panel)
2020 July	Commencement Speaker, Class of 2020 , <i>River Forest Community School Corporation</i>
2020 Mar	Becoming Antifragile , <i>Menfluent Conference 2020</i>
2019 Feb	Overcoming Adversity , <i>Menfluent Conference 2019</i> (panel)
2018 Feb	Style Panel , <i>Men's Style Con 2018</i> (panel)

2016 June **Voicing our Vote: Why Millennials Matter in Elections, #TEDxValparaisoUniversity**
2016 May **Social & Environmental Impacts of Fast Fashion, Rotary Club of Valparaiso**

LICENSES & CERTIFICATIONS

2020 - Present **Certified Consumer Tobacconist, Tobacconist University**
2015 - Present **Certified Custom Clothier, Custom Tailors & Designers Association (CTDA)**
2015-2017 exp **Real Estate Broker, State of Indiana**
2013-2015 exp **Certified Personal Trainer, National Academy of Sports Medicine (NASM)**
2013-2015 exp **Level 3 Assessor/Appraiser, Department of Local Government and Finance, State of Indiana**

FEATURED

2024 Sept **Capitol Hill staffer bikes more than 800 miles back home..., Northwest Indiana Times**
2024 Mar **What's the Next Big Thing in Northwest Indiana?, Northwest Indiana Times (quoted)**
2023 Sept **The family genetics of taking your own life, Northwest Indiana Times (interview)**
2023 May **Oh, you should talk to Robert Ordway, The CNCT App (interview)**
2023 Apr **Congressional Spotlight Interview Series with Robert Ordway, Leadership Connect (interview)**
2023 Mar **Top 10 Senate Staffers to Watch in 2023, CNCT**
2023 Feb **Robert Ordway: From the Rust Belt to D.C., Leadership Institute (interview)**
2022 Jun **Five days and 450 miles to Washington D.C., Chicago Post-Tribune (interview)**
2019 Jul **Famous 5, Famous DC (interview)**
2019 Jun **Robert Ordway on menswear and DC style, Modern Fellows (interview)**
2019 Mar **How To Give A Great Presentation With Robert Ordway, Social Confidence Mastery (interview)**
2019 Feb **Raquel Riley Thomas: Men's Winter Trends, ABC LTL (tv feature)**
2019 Feb **Grass Trends, One Click Politics (video interview)**
2019 Feb **Hill Staffer and Menswear Expert Robert Ordway Weighs In, Washingtonian (interview)**
2018 Aug **Lessons from starting and closing a menswear shop, The Buttoned-Up Podcast (interview)**
2018 Apr **The State of Menswear by Robert Ordway, Michael Frackoniak Bespoke Tailor Podcast**
2018 Feb **How Hoosiers want to improve D.C.'s Indiana Plaza, IndyStar (quoted)**
2017 Jan **Ordway earn Heritage Foundation fellowship, Northwest Indiana Times**
2016 Dec **Zuni's House of Pizza, Valpo's Rusted Oak closing, Northwest Indiana Times**
2016 Oct **State bicentennial torch makes way through Porter County, Chicago Post-Tribune**
2016 Apr **Lakeshore Focus: Clothing Manufacturing, Lakeshore Public Television (tv interview)**
2016 Apr **#RegionProud: Robert Ordway of Valpo, Northwest Indiana Times**
2016 July **The Pitch Distilled, Jack Daniels Competition (video submission)**
2016 Feb **Valpo haberdasher has background in finance, politics, Chicago Post-Tribune (interview)**
2015 April **School referendums highlight four primary ballots, Chicago Post-Tribune (quoted)**
2009 Dec **Robert Ordway One of New Emerging Leaders, Valpo Life**