

ROBERT ORDWAY

POLICY EXPERIENCE

Jan 2025 to Present	Office of Governor Mike Braun (R-IN) <i>Senior Policy Advisor</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Assist Deputy Chief of Staff – Legislative AffairsServe as liaison between Governor’s Office and 8 Secretaries	Indianapolis, IN
Aug 2024 to Jan 2025	Office of U.S. Senator Mike Braun (R-IN) <i>Deputy Legislative Director</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Coalitions lead, legislative strategy with House, advocacy groups and stakeholdersCo-manage 10 junior policy staffers with Legislative DirectorSupport Legislative Director with hotline process and Senate floor procedure	Washington, DC
Aug 2022	<i>Senior Policy Advisor</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Prepare Senator for hearings and mark-ups for the Committee on BudgetStaff lead on floor activities related to the budget resolution and reconciliation processAppropriations Committee lead	
Jan 2019	<i>Legislative Assistant</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Draft letters to agencies, craft legislation, provide bill cosponsor recommendationsProof constituent letters, meet with state-based stakeholders, groups and lobbyistsPolicy covered: Budget, SASC, Finance, Banking and HSGAC Committees	
Jun 2017 to Dec 2018	American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) <i>Director – Commerce, Insurance and Economic Development (CIED)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Issues: Transportation/Infrastructure, Labor & Employment, Fin Services and Gov ReformBuild 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>Lake County</i> (four-year full tuition)	

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2025	Club for Growth Foundation Fellowship Program , <i>Class of 2025</i>	
2023	Stuart Family Congressional Fellowship Program , <i>Hoover Institute, Spring Class</i>	
2022/24	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)**, *Charles Koch Institute, Class of 2018*
 2017 **Writing Fellows Program**, *America's Future Foundation, Fall 2017 Class*
 2015 **Strategic Analytics, Executive Program**, *New England Complex Systems Institute (NECSI)*
 2014 **Candidate for Common Council**, *City of Valparaiso*
 2013 **Police Citizens Academy**, *Valparaiso Police Department, Class of 2014*
 2013 **Valpo Chamber Leadership Academy**, *Class of 2013*
 2012 **Hoosier Leadership Series (HLS)**, *Class VII*
 2012 **Campaign Management College (CMC)**, *RNC*
 2011 **Campaign Finance College (CFC)**, *RNC*
 2010 **Leadership Northwest Indiana**, *Class 29*
Indiana Leadership Forum (ILF), *Class of 2010*

MEMBERSHIP & VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

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

PUBLIC SPEAKING

2025 Jan **Governor-Elect Braun's Agenda**, *Indiana Leadership Forum c/o 2025*
 2024 Sept **How Congress Really Works**, *Hoosier Leadership Series – Indiana Family Institute*
 2024 Sept **The Past, Present & Future of the US Budget**, *American Moment (three iterations)*
 2024 August **Why State Guilds Matter**, *American Distilling Institute (ADI) (annual conference)*
 2024 July **How to Make it on The Hill**, *American Compass (panelist)*
 2023 Oct **Off the Record: A Conversation on Fed Housing Policy**, *Up For Growth (panel)*
 2022-24 **Capitol Hill Staff Training**, *Leadership Institute (four iterations)*
 2024 May **Speaker Series**, *LAMALS Community Summit in Washington DC*
 2024 May **Shifting Sand: Stability & Revitalization**, *Saturday Evening Club (Valparaiso, IN)*
 2024 May **Life After High School**, *River Forest Community School Corp*
 2023 Oct **Off the Record: A Conversation on Federal Housing Policy**, *Up For Growth (panel)*
 2023 July **The Power of Personal Agency**, *Barbell Logic Online Coaching (BLOC) (annual staff retreat)*
 2022 Nov **The Necessity of Article V to Fix our Broken System**, *ALEC SNPS (panel)*
 2021 Dec **Problem Solving with Complex Systems Science**, *Saturday Evening Club (Valparaiso, IN)*
 2020 July **Commencement Speaker, Class of 2020**, *River Forest Community School Corporation*
 2020 Mar **Becoming Antifragile**, *Menfluent Conference 2020*
 2019 Feb **Overcoming Adversity**, *Menfluent Conference 2019 (panel)*
 2018 Feb **Style Panel**, *Men's Style Con 2018 (panel)*
 2017 Oct **Brief on Open Competition Laws**, *Americans for Tax Reform (panel)*
 2016 June **Voicing our Vote: Why Millennials Matter in Elections**, *#TEDxValparaisoUniversity*
 2016 May **Social & Environmental Impacts of Fast Fashion**, *Rotary Club of Valparaiso*
 2014 Aug **ALS Ice Bucket Challenge**, *participant*

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)*

FEATURED/IN THE NEWS

- 2024 Sept **Capitol Hill staffer bikes more than 800 miles back home...**, *Northwest Indiana Times*
- 2024 Sept **From Steel Mills to Capitol Hill**, *In The Trenches* (podcast interview)
- 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 Aug **Valpo boutique looking to pour whiskey for charity**, *Northwest Indiana Times*
- 2016 Apr **Lakeshore Focus: Clothing Manufacturing**, *Lakeshore Public Television* (tv interview)
- 2016 July **The Pitch Distilled**, *Jack Daniels Competition* (video submission)
- 2016 Mar **Menswear Talk, Money Matters with Greg** (podcast interview)
- 2016 Mar **Indiana no state for a Journeyman**, *Northwest Indiana Times*
- 2016 Feb **TED is coming to Valparaiso University**, *Northwest Indiana Times*
- 2016 Feb **Valpo haberdasher has background in finance, politics**, *Chicago Post-Tribune* (interview)
- 2015 Dec **Pitch Distilled – Chicago**, Gentleman Jack, *Top Four Finalist in the Midwest*
- 2015 Oct **Ordway, Reed seek Valparaiso 1st District City Council seat**, *Northwest Indiana Times*
- 2015 April **School referendums highlight four primary ballots**, *Chicago Post-Tribune* (quoted)
- 2012 Sept **Will frenzy of GOP convention follow Hurricane Isaac to NWI?**, *Chicago Post-Tribune*
- 2011 June **Embracing NWI's diversity: 'wealth of resources and assets'**, *Northwest Indiana Times*
- 2010 Mar **Ordway interns at Statehouse**, *Northwest Indiana Times*
- 2009 Dec **Robert Ordway One of New Emerging Leaders**, *Valpo Life*
- 2009 Oct **RTA foes, backers line up**, *Chicago Post-Tribune*
- 2003 May **Township Produces Pair of Lilly Scholars**, *Chicago Post-Tribune*