

Emily M. Wicks

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Experience

Owner & Founder, Bossy at the Core Oct. 2018 – Present
Developing co-working space and retail business community located in Snohomish County that prioritizes working women and their families.

Communications & Community Relations Coordinator, Marysville School District No. 25 Feb. 2016 – Oct. 2018
Crafted strategies, work plans and informational materials for District levy and bond elections; assisted in the review and analysis of election data; maintained ongoing communications with local, state, and federal agencies on educational issues. Served as communications liaison between the District and more than 12,000 staff members, 11,000 students and families, 60,000 community members, and the local and international news media. Designed, wrote, and edited brochures, newsletters, social media posts, letters to the editor, news columns, and other publications (e.g. annual reports and yearly calendar). Coordinated the Parent Advisory Council to solicit useful feedback and recommendations for effective communications, policies, and practices within the District and its communities, and to help inform parents and families of school and District efforts.

Project Manager, PRR Feb. 2015 – Feb. 2016
Crafted more than 15 public involvement, public affairs and communication plans. Wrote, edited and produced event materials, brochures, newsletters, folios, websites, scripts, presentations, press releases, and social media posts. Developed, planned and carried out more than 10 public meetings and client events. Managed five projects simultaneously; working with both public and private clients.

Account Executive, Nyhus Communications Sept. 2013 – Jan. 2015
Developed and executed public relations and government affairs plans for more than 15 client projects. Built relationships with local, state and federal-level elected officials and staff. Provided strategic counsel and developed copy for clients, including briefings, proposals, blog posts, social media strategies, political analyses, and event reports. Identified and executed on agency marketing and business development goals.

Legislative Aide, Washington State Legislature
Representative Cyrus Habib, 48th Legislative District Jan. 2013 – Aug. 2013
Served as a liaison between Representative Habib and 48th Legislative District constituents. Facilitated, coordinated and strategized with legislators, state officials, staff, agency personnel, stakeholders and constituents in the development and advancement of policy measures and legislation. Managed constituent inquiries and casework and tracked bills through the legislative process.

Deputy Finance Director, Jay Inslee for Washington Oct. 2011 – Dec. 2012
Planned and executed more than 50 fundraising events valued at more than \$650,000. Assisted in the coordination of large-scale fundraisers with political leaders hosting between 900 and 3,500 guests and raising \$100,000 to \$1 million. Designed the J-Team monthly donor program, raising more than \$100,000. Provided management and support to the 35-member campaign finance committee, and supervised team of interns and finance volunteers. Developed and fostered relationships with constituents across the state and worked with individuals and groups on a variety of issues important to their regions and organizations.

Associate, Gallatin Public Affairs July 2008 – Sept. 2011
Supported and provided resources and content for more than 35 client projects, working with business and political leaders across the state and political spectrum. Led Seattle and corporate office marketing efforts including event planning and logistics, creation and distribution of corporate marketing materials, e-newsletters, social media sites and company website.

Education

Washington State University May 2008
B.A., Public Relations, B.A., Political Science

Community Involvement

- National Women's Political Caucus of WA, President, Education & Training Chair, County Endorsements Chair, 2013 – Present
- Marysville YMCA, Board Member, 2018 – Present
- Marysville School District Foundation, Vice President of Communications, 2015 – Present
- Leadership Snohomish County, Fellow and Education Day Committee Member, 2017 – Present
- Marysville Together Coalition, Board Member, 2016 – 2018
- Everett Essentials, Participant, 2017
- Citizens for Marysville Schools, Chair, 2015 – 2016
- Institute for a Democratic Future, Alumna and Volunteer, 2013 – Present
- Alpha Phi Fraternity, President Beta Rho[^] Chapter, President, Director of Administration, and Social Chair, 2005 – 2008

Emily Wicks
County Council Questions
38th Legislative District, House Representative Position 1 Vacancy

1. In 200 words or fewer, please describe your top priorities for the 38th Legislative District.

In Olympia I will focus on supporting our local governments, economic recovery, and building resilience. The burden of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic has been placed on our cities, counties and school districts. I will join our local leaders in prioritizing people, families, and workers – ensuring we are healthy and have the financial resources to be active partners in our economic recovery.

This pandemic is affecting every aspect of our life. While talking to many parents, small business owners and others facing unprecedented work-life balance situations, we'll need to analyze, pivot and innovate to help everyone adapt to a new normal. I want to change our education system and meet people where they are – ensuring that all our children and their families have an equal chance of success.

Locally, entire industries for which our economy depends are going to change dramatically. This is troubling for our unions and families who face layoffs. My constituents and leaders like you will see me, hear from me and be invited to the table. I will work to ensure that no one in our community feels powerless and that everyone sees positive change and intentional decision-making as we navigate a complicated system together.

2. In 200 words or fewer, please describe your position on adopting policies that must be implemented on a local level without funding from the State.

Unfunded mandates do little to change the status quo and are the result of not engaging stakeholders. I worked alongside many Marysville School District departments as they were forced to adjust and change year after year, while trying to make meaningful progress and compare data. They never felt they had a hold on one decision, before another came and complicated things further.

Our local employees want to be efficient, to support effective solutions, and have a positive impact on their communities. It is the responsibility of state electeds to meet their community members where they are and recognize that a solution that works for Bellevue, brought up by a legislator in the 48th, may not be the right solution for the communities of Marysville, Everett or Tulalip. Having hands on the pulse of all things occurring in our District is critical and is why we are a citizen's legislature.

Our local leaders are the best resource and advocates for effective policy. When I'm not in Olympia I will be in the District - visiting with leaders regularly, touring locations and asking questions to understand how decisions at the state level affect the lives of those working and living in our communities.

3. The response to reduce the rate of spread of the COVID-19 virus has resulted in significant impacts to our economy. In 200 words or fewer each, please describe the steps you plan to take to mitigate these impacts on

a. private employers.

No business was prepared for the COVID-19 Pandemic as its spread is truly unprecedented for all those living today. As private employers attempt to balance the needs and demands of their employees, local governments, investors, and local communities, they need to be brought to the table. The issues are changing daily but business owners just want to be able to plan ahead and gain some level of certainty and clarity for how to move forward. Especially for small businesses, the burden of following the day to day changes at the state and federal level is a lot to take on while trying to keep your business afloat and shore up resources. I suggest directing existing state staff to focus solely on consistent communication and problem-solving that supports and walks alongside both individual business and industries.

And as we get businesses back on track, we need to ensure aid and loan forgiveness is conditional to worker retention, and that we are not sacrificing valuable employees that are at the core of keeping our economy moving, for the sake of individual short term company profits.

b. local government.

Local governments are going to have to make some tough decisions on immediate short-term cuts, like Everett has done. They cut the senior center, entertainment and the arts, and while unfortunate, they should be viewed as temporary cuts.

Local governments should encourage and incentivize voluntary separation, retirement or temporary sabbaticals and furlough, if possible. The goal would be to make the administration lean on the payroll, but still make sure people have healthcare and that they can pay their rent.

Our local governments need financial support right now as they are working directly with our communities to communicate, provide resources and maintain local economies. As a state, partnership with, and getting resources to our local governments should be one of our highest priorities.

c. state government.

As income and sales tax revenues plummet, and demand for programs increases, our state government will have to cut spending—mostly by cutting employment—or raise taxes. I plan to start with more diligently closing tax loopholes and looking at options for temporarily furloughing employees, and incentivizing retirement and temporary sabbaticals.

As a state we must also work with the federal government to protect public health— provide personal protective equipment for health care workers, ramp up testing and tracing, and do everything possible to speed up the development and production of vaccines. We must also

work with the federal government to access funds that will shore up state and local gaps and offset the lost revenues and added spending locally.

Effective policies will contain the health crisis while stimulating growth. We must avoid reactionary policies that lead to uneven, uncoordinated, patchwork approaches that bring short term solutions and an unstable recovery.

What is needed coming out of the COVID-19 crisis is a model that addresses the structural roots of this crisis. Most importantly, models of recovery need to show how they will fundamentally redefine our economy's relationship with the 8 to 5 workday, environment, education system, and all facets of daily life.