

Ian Gardner

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U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

To Whom it May Concern:

I will be graduating with a degree in journalism and data science from American University this May. I'm interested in pursuing a career in political communications and data analysis, and I am looking to continue gaining experience through your recent opening. I did not grow up thinking I would one day wish to work in politics. But, all of that changed after the 2016 election. Distressed by the election of Donald Trump in 2016, I resolved to make an actionable change. I got my start politically with the Orange County Democratic Party in North Carolina. My work began as the token "youth" in the room, but over time, I led their first intern experience. I recruited high school students to help run phone banks for the 2018 midterm elections and increase voter registration in schools. Ever since then I have stayed engaged with politics; working in a congressional office, helping manage a state legislative campaign, and staying up to date on other grassroots campaigns in races throughout the country.

In 2020 I stepped up my commitment with the Orange County Democratic Party and became their senior organizing fellow for the 2020 election. This role allowed me to grow in my professional and organizing skills. Following my work with the Democratic party, I moved on to intern with the Office of Congressman David Price. I was able to gain first-hand experience working directly with our press assistant to ensure the press team was able to maintain its quick pace. After my time as Congressman Price's intern, I was asked to stay on as his first-ever communications fellow. Through my time on the hill I have demonstrated the ability to compose talking points and background for interviews, assemble press releases with a quick turnaround, compile daily press clips, and staff background interviews for the congressman. I was also able to work alongside one of our legislative assistants to develop a social media packet for the CORPS Act which encourages all citizens to pursue the passion of giving back through national service.

I am now serving as the deputy campaign manager for Jonah Garson's campaign in NC House District 56 for the primary campaign. As his deputy campaign manager, I lead the team's digital efforts; this includes, making a weekly social media calendar, organizing volunteers, pitching stories to local press outlets, and handling all press communication. Through my time on the campaign thus far I have also gained familiarity running call time, drafting copy for fundraising emails, and dealing with the fast-paced nature of a campaign. One theme which stands out from my work experience is that the words and plans a given politician or candidate expresses can have a direct impact on the lives of the communities they wish to serve. This is something that continues to draw me to the field of political communication and using data to fine-tune these messages.

Through my previous experiences, I have proven that I have the personality and drive to survive in the dynamic world of a congressional office and campaigns alike. I am ready to share that passion with your company and learn something new while I am at it. I am looking forward to future conversations about why I am the best candidate for this exciting position.

Sincerely,

Ian Gardner