

VICKI L. WALKER

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CAREER SUMMARY

Peak-performing federal agency director and former legislator with experience in a multitude of policy areas. Provided visionary leadership as a presidential appointee to a federal agency that delivered \$4.8 billion in investments into rural Oregon from 2009-2017. Collaborative problem-solver with an understanding of strategic, place-based planning. Strong believer in community-driven stakeholder development. Adept at policy analysis, program development and motivational human resources. Built coalitions and expanded intergovernmental relationships to leverage investments and expand program networks. Streamlined operations and improved service delivery under congressionally-mandated budget cuts. Earned a reputation in the legislature as a high-impact, hard-working, research-driven dynamic member focused on accountability and transparency.

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, Portland, OR

OREGON STATE DIRECTOR (NOVEMBER 2009 – JANUARY 20, 2017)

WESTERN REGIONAL COORDINATOR (JULY 2013 – JANUARY 20, 2017)

Served as a representative of President Obama and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack by leading and supervising delivery of 46 federal programs in Oregon to improve the economy and quality of life for rural Americans. Provided strategic direction and guidance to further state program administration of the Rural Development Mission Area comprised of three USDA agencies: Rural Housing Service, Rural Business and Cooperative Service, and Rural Utilities Service. Served as the Western Regional Coordinator for 13 Western states, and on special committees to coordinate communications and collaborations, and to assist the Under Secretary's office in policy development and strategic initiatives.

- ✓ Oversaw the strategic delivery of more than \$4.8 billion in financial assistance to rural Oregon.
- ✓ Managed and supervised up to 76 employees and managers in six offices across the state; improved labor-management relations by pre-decisional consultation and regular communications with the Agency's employee union.
- ✓ Streamlined operations to increase efficiency and annual program obligations from \$289 million (2008) to a record high of \$657 million (2015) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 while reducing staff levels and operating expenses by nearly 30 percent.
- ✓ Improved intergovernmental cooperation and outcomes for rural Oregon by building coalitions with national, regional and statewide groups to leverage funds, expand networks, and deliver holistic, place-based assistance.
- ✓ Enhanced Rural Development direct assistance, capacity building resources, and program delivery in Oregon's high-poverty rural census tracts in response to USDA's rural poverty reduction effort.
- ✓ Provided leadership for USDA Rural Development's government-to-government relations with Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes; led investments in collaboration with Tribal governments for schools, infrastructure, businesses and families.
- ✓ Supported the Administration's All-of-the Above Energy Strategy to promote energy independence, increase jobs, and protect the environment with nearly \$90 million invested in more than 450 solar, small hydro, wind, wave, algae, anaerobic digester and biomass systems in Oregon; led the nation in Rural Development energy program delivery; collaborated with state, educational and lending institutions to leverage federal investments in renewable energy and provide technical assistance for project development.
- ✓ Developed and implemented strategies to increase access to business capital, expand renewable energy production, develop local and regional food systems, enhance economic benefits of value-added production, and build networks to develop and support rural small businesses and entrepreneurship across rural Oregon.
- ✓ Expanded USDA Single Family Housing program delivery by 275 percent in 2010 in response to the mortgage crisis; maintained increased volume with reduced staffing by developing operational efficiencies and piloting new national loan

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processing and servicing tools; collaborated with public and private affordable housing entities to prioritize and leverage public and private funds for construction and rehabilitation of low-income rental housing.

- ✓ Oversaw the Oregon delivery of USDA infrastructure loans and grants to ensure access to modern water, wastewater, telecommunications and electric infrastructure in rural Oregon.
- ✓ Assisted rural community leaders to develop and finance new construction and rehabilitation of community facilities such as hospitals, schools, clinics and fire stations, as well as the addition of renewable energy and energy efficiency systems.
- ✓ Successfully proposed, negotiated and instituted the first-ever joint federal agency Civil Rights Committee in Oregon to share expertise across agencies, ensure coverage in small and remote offices, and maximize use of resources.
- ✓ Implemented the Secretary's Cultural Transformation Initiative to transform USDA into a model agency by engaging staff and the leadership team in hiring, employee development, diversity, and customer engagement improvement strategies; contributed to USDA's first-time recognition as one of the Top 10 Best Places to Work among large Federal agencies as well as the Most Improved Agency on the Partnership for Public Service's Best Places to Work in Government list.

OREGON BOARD OF PAROLE AND POST-PRISON SUPERVISION, Salem, OR

CHAIR DESIGNATE/ADMINISTRATOR (JULY 13, 2009 – NOVEMBER 6, 2009)

Appointed by Gov. Kulongoski to chair the Board July 13, 2009. Served as Chair-designate until withdrawing from consideration for Senate confirmation due to state budget issues. Appointed as Administrator of BOPPS and served until accepted appointment to USDA Rural Development position. Directed a staff of over 20 committed to working in partnership with the Department of Corrections and local supervisory authorities regarding release authority and supervision of offenders being released from Oregon prisons. Continued service (formerly as a State Senator) on the Governor's Re-entry Council to provide collaborative opportunities to build a successful transition from incarceration to community transition for offenders being released from custody.

OREGON STATE SENATOR, Eugene, OR

OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (2003 - 2009)

Recognized visionary leader in the State Senate on complex policy issues and innovative legislation. Built a reputation as a lawmaker who advocated for the disadvantaged and traditionally underrepresented groups. Represented an urban/rural district of 114,000 residents. Managed a personal staff; worked with committee staff to set, coordinate and execute committee agendas. Served on the following committees: Member, Joint Committee on Ways & Means; Co-Chair, Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources; Member, Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Public Safety; Chair, Senate Education & General Government; Chair, Senate Education & Workforce Development; Member: Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education; Judiciary; General Government; Health Policy; Business & Labor; Oregon Law Commission (OLC); Chair, OLC Civil Rights Work Group. Assistant Majority Leader.

- ✓ Led successful effort to make the largest financial investment in Oregon public schools in nearly two decades, emphasizing accountability and student achievement.
- ✓ Delivered on innovative programs for higher education and community colleges by improving access, affordability and transferability.
- ✓ Executed significant achievements on consumer protection issues at both state and national level.
- ✓ Focused on legislation providing for greater government accountability and transparency.
- ✓ Championed domestic-elder-child abuse prevention efforts.
- ✓ Formulated landmark policy cleaning up Oregon waterways; mediated workgroup negotiations.
- ✓ Vice Chair, Energy & Public Lands Committee, Council of State Governments-West; Board Member, CSG-WESTTRENDS board focused on demographic, economic and cultural trends shaping the West. (2005)
- ✓ Associate Member, Western Governors' Association Clean & Diversified Energy Advisory Committee (2004-2005).
- ✓ Commissioner, Education Commission of the States (2005-2007). The Commission is designed to identify, develop and implement public policy to improve education across the country.
- ✓ Served on numerous task forces and advisory committees relating to major policy issues.

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OREGON STATE REPRESENTATIVE, Eugene, OR

OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (1999 - 2003)

Represented an urban/rural district of 57,000 residents. Managed a personal staff. Facilitated key state policy on many issues.

Member of the following committees: Judiciary; Transportation; Business, Labor & Consumer Affairs; Smart Growth & Commerce.

- ✓ Raised awareness and passed landmark legislation to prevent racial profiling by law enforcement.
- ✓ Influenced passage of consumer protection issues of statewide and national significance.
- ✓ Identified youth suicide prevention as statewide priority, developing policy and focusing resources on prevention.

VICKI L. WALKER, COURT REPORTER; CENTRE COURT REPORTERS, Eugene, Oregon

COURT REPORTER (1983 - 2008)

Self-employed court reporter and principal partner in a firm that provided court reporting services to United States Bankruptcy Court, District of Oregon; federal and state grand juries, circuit courts, federal district courts, and attorneys throughout Oregon.

Produced verbatim legal transcription of proceedings, managed accounts and scheduling, hired substitute reporters, prepared contracts. Able to meet deadlines for rush transcripts and work under pressure. Became a Certified Shorthand Reporter in 1990 when Oregon adopted certification standards.

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene, Oregon

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE (1978)

LANE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, Eugene, Oregon

COURT REPORTING PROGRAM (1980-1983)