



**Women's Democracy Network Council
2013-2015**

Megan Badasch

During the 2012 election cycle, Megan Badasch served as the Director of Strategic Planning for the Presidential Transition Team. In this position, she designed the operating structure, procedures, and schedule for the shadow White House, Office of Scheduling and Appointments. Prior to the transition team, Megan served as the Events Manager for the Republican National Convention in Tampa handling all hospitality and event services for convention VIPs.

For Badasch, the position was a bit of a homecoming, marking not only her third presidential election cycle but also her return to the United States after a three-year sojourn in the Middle East. Passionate about democracy, Badasch joined the International Republican Institute in 2009, working with Arab political parties and candidates on grass-roots campaigning, messaging and public speaking techniques.

As Resident Program Officer in Amman, Jordan, then Tunis, Tunisia Megan took her experiences from the United States and shared them throughout the Middle East providing trainings to Arab political parties and candidates in Afghanistan, Egypt, Iraq, Oman, Palestine, Pakistan, Jordan and Tunisia. Megan worked with Parliamentarians, Mayors and City Councilors teaching them how to improve governance through town halls, polling and engaging community groups. Politically, Megan trained candidates on the importance of running issue based campaigns with effective messaging, collateral materials, volunteer operations, database development, door to door campaigning, all rooted in a strong yet simple platform.

By being immersed in the culture and religion, Megan's understanding of Islam and the Arab world is unmatched by any other American political operative. She had the honor of being a part of political victories for individuals and working with political parties to strengthen their voice.

In 2008, Megan was a senior staff member of both the RNC and McCain-Palin as National Director of Surrogate Operations. She worked closely with Communications, Political, Strategy, and other senior campaign leadership to effectively target placement of hundreds of high level Surrogates including former candidates for President, top CEO's, policy experts, elected officials and entertainers. At the 2008 Republican National Convention in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Megan and her staff credentialed and managed event bookings of the more than 300 Surrogates in attendance.

Prior to that Megan opened the Washington D.C. office for California based political consulting company Cardinal Communication Strategies. As Director of Business Development, Megan's clients included Members of Congress, the National Federation of Independent Business, the National Restaurant Association, Associated Builders and Contractors and the International Association of Fire Fighters.

During the 2006 election cycle, Megan was Associate Director of Political Operations at the Republican National Committee. Megan was also appointed by former President George W. Bush to serve at the Department of the Interior as Special Assistant to the Director of the National Park Service following her work on the 2004 reelect and the 2005 Presidential Inaugural Committee.

In addition to various campaigns on the local and state level in Illinois, Pennsylvania and Louisiana, Megan worked on Capitol Hill for United States Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Chairman and former New Mexico Senator Pete Domenici.

In her home state of Illinois, Megan worked for former Lieutenant Governor Corinne Wood for nearly three years, which her family and friends joke is the longest she's ever been employed.

After graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science in 1999, Megan moved to Washington D.C. for the first time. There she was an Intern at the State Department in the Bureau of South Asian Affairs; Office of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh.

Megan's international experience also includes teaching English in Vietnam (1997 & 1998) and leading an exchange of local elected officials in Romania and Jordan which focused on decentralization. Megan is proud to serve on the Women's Democracy Network Leadership Council and enjoys recording audio books for the blind and dyslexic who are served through Learning Ally.