



Erik Peterson brings 40 years of experience as a community and electoral organizer and community-based trainer, facilitator and educator to his role as founder and President of Bending the Arc Strategies.

He has extensive experience working with unions, progressive advocacy non-profits and community coalitions. Key skills include strategic planning and messaging; leading organizational change that supports deep member-driven organizing and leadership development; coalition and network building; training and facilitating; and designing strategic, grassroots issue and c3/c4 electoral campaigns. He has worked with

some of the largest unions, grassroots community groups and organizing networks in the United States and Australia.

Erik has served at all levels of electoral campaign organizing in state and local races, has recruited dozens of candidates, and has managed or served as General Consultant for three gubernatorial races as well as managed over two dozen legislative, mayoral, city council, school board and county commissioner races. In addition, he worked for seven years as an AFSCME union representative and organizer (1994-2001) and has helped build and lead several labor-community coalitions, including the Duluth Living Wage Campaign, which was the first coalition in the nation to attach wage requirements to corporate subsidies.

Erik taught for ten years in the Master of Advocacy and Political Leadership (MAPL) program at the University of Minnesota and is a Fellow at the Broadbent Institute in Ottawa, Canada. He is formerly the Director of Strategic Initiatives for Wellstone Action (2004-2014); Director of Northern Minnesota Programs at the University of Minnesota Labor Education Service (2001-2006) and a professor in American Studies and Cultural Studies at the University of Minnesota for 18 years (1997-2015). He holds a Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of Minnesota.

Erik lives and works out of a century farm in Esko, MN, just south of Duluth - the Midwest's "San Francisco" with a view you can afford.

SKILLS

- Grassroots issue advocacy and electoral campaign strategy development and planning
- Strategic directions organizational planning and transformation
- Expert trainer and facilitator – program design, curriculum development, and train-the-trainer
- Community organizing and coalition building
- Strategic communications and messaging
- Storytelling/narrative training and coaching for candidates, campaigns and organizations
- Executive/managerial job coaching
- Team building, leadership development

PARTNERSHIPS (Partial)

United States

- Animal Agricultural Reform Collaborative (AARC)
- Asian American Pacific Islander Civic Engagement Fund
- Ballot Initiatives Strategy Center (BISC)
- Bend the Arc/Bend the Arc Jewish Action
- Communications Workers of America (CWA)
- Mayor Emily Larson/City of Duluth
- Mertz Gilmore Foundation
- Minnesota AFL-CIO
- Minnesota Nurses Association
- Missouri Jobs with Justice
- Move-On.org
- National Education Association - and numerous state affiliates (NEA)
- National People's Action - and numerous state affiliates (NPA)
- Our Oregon
- Piper Proteus Fund
- Public Justice
- Service Employees International Union – and numerous locals/state councils (SEIU)
- TakeAction Minnesota (TAMN)
- United Steelworkers (USW)
- Virginia New Majority (VNM)
- Wellstone Action/Wellstone Action Fund
- Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC)
- Working Families Party (WFP)

International

Australia

- Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF)
- Australian Labor Party (ALP)
- Australian Labor Party (ALP-Tasmania)
- Climate Action Network of Australia (CANA)
- Campaign Action!
- Environment Victoria
- Finance Sector Union (FSU)
- Get Up!
- New South Wales Conservation Council
- Places You Love (PYL)
- Sydney Alliance
- The Wilderness Society (TWS)
- Unions New South Wales (UNSW)
- United Voice (formerly LHMU)

Canada

- Broadbent Institute

Mexico

- PODER