JUSTIN T. THILTGEN

STRATEGIC ADVISOR / PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS / FEDERAL PROGRAMS / RESEARCH & DELIVERY

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EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Strategy, research, and operations professional with more than 25 years across municipal government, statewide and congressional campaigns, nonprofit leadership, and consulting. Advises through rigorous public-program and policy research, credible stakeholder relationships, operational design, and decision-ready reporting. Experience spans Iowa, Oregon, Washington, Illinois, and Ohio; brings a record of managing distributed teams, complex information flows, multi-agency initiatives, and public-facing work.

36 COUNTIES	14 OFFICES / 150+	$325K+	25+ YEARS
Oregon statewide party network	Scope of Senate field program	Three successful civic grants	Cross-sector leadership & research

AREAS OF ADVISORY VALUE

Federal investment & grant readiness • Executive and legislative research • Government performance & delivery • Intergovernmental and stakeholder strategy • Strategic communications • Program risk & institutional accountability • CRM, GIS and research systems

PUBLIC-SECTOR, CIVIC AND CONSULTING EXPERIENCE

CITY OF DUBUQUE | GRANTS & STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

SEP 2021 – OCT 2025

Technical Grant Analyst / Assistant • Dubuque, Iowa

- Researched federal/state funding programs and requirements across transportation, infrastructure, environmental remediation, energy, public safety, and community development; translated agency guidance and notices into actionable options for departmental and executive decisions.
- Supported cross-department grant pipelines, structured tracking, City Council work-session materials, and coordination of Built Infrastructure and Human Infrastructure priorities; contributed to public reporting and a GIS Story Map of grant-funded initiatives.
- Worked within the City team supporting Building Bridges to Employment & Equity (B2E2) and its USDOT RAISE awards of $2.28M (2022 planning) and $25M (2024 implementation); the awards were made to the City of Dubuque.

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH | FEDERAL PROGRAMS & INSTITUTIONAL STRATEGY

2026 – PRESENT

Founder / Independent Researcher

- Developing independent research and prototypes for funding readiness, federal-program stewardship, evidence-traceable briefing, implementation-risk visibility, and human-reviewed analytical workflows.

DUBUQUE 2.0 | COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF GREATER DUBUQUE

OCT 2009 – MAR 2011

Director, Inspiring Sustainability

- Led a cross-sector sustainability initiative with IBM Smarter Planet participation; organized a 30-plus-member community steering committee spanning government, business, nonprofits, education and neighborhoods.
- Authored three successful grant applications totaling more than $325,000; served as spokesperson and coordinated an award-recognized, multimedia public-engagement campaign.

CONCENTRIC CAMPAIGNS | STRATEGY, COMMUNICATIONS & SYSTEMS

2011 – PRESENT

Founder / Principal

- Advised political, nonprofit and private-sector clients on strategic planning, audience and stakeholder analysis, communications, CRM/database implementation, reporting tools, and repeatable operational workflows.

RED FLAGS IDENTITY | ORGANIZATIONAL RISK ADVISORY

FOUNDED 2018

Founder / Principal

- Developed identity-theft and fraud-prevention advisory services, organizational awareness training, and Identity Theft Prevention Program approaches.

JUSTIN T. THILTGEN / SELECTED LEADERSHIP & CREDENTIALS

STATEWIDE AND MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL LEADERSHIP

DNC / DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF OREGON — 2006 – 2008

Oregon Field Director (2006–07); Statewide GOTV Director (2008)

- Led voter-contact and party-building work involving all 36 Oregon county organizations, including a coordinated field operation with a budget exceeding $250,000 under the DNC 50-State Strategy.
- Directed statewide 2008 voter mobilization and Election Protection operations; used daily vote-by-mail return analysis to inform targeted field decisions and coordinated voter assistance and election monitoring.

U.S. SENATE AND CONGRESSIONAL CAMPAIGNS | ILLINOIS & OREGON — 2004

Deputy Field Director, Blair Hull for U.S. Senate; Field Director, David Wu for Congress

- Managed core functions of a statewide Senate field organization spanning 14 regional offices and 150+ personnel within a department budget exceeding $2M; directed a congressional field program with 30+ paid staff and an approximately $200,000 budget.

BOB GRAHAM FOR PRESIDENT | IOWA — JUN – OCT 2003

Iowa Deputy Field Director

- Recruited and managed 30 full-time organizers; helped coordinate a 12-office caucus operation and designed voter-identification and field-production reporting routines.

IOWA DEMOCRATIC PARTY | COORDINATED CAMPAIGNS — 1998 & 2000

Field Organizer (1998); Regional Field Director and Absentee Ballot Analyst (2000)

- Began career in the 1998 coordinated campaign during Tom Vilsack's successful gubernatorial election; in 2000 supervised seven organizers across three offices, then researched absentee-ballot requests in multiple Iowa counties.

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH, LEGISLATIVE AND COMMUNICATIONS EXPERIENCE

- Research & communications: sachscommunications (2005–06) — legislative/public-record research and fact review for major campaign communications; WiderNet Project (2002–03) — public relations and international academic outreach.
- Field, legislative and program exposure: Gore 2000 — organized across Iowa, Washington and Oregon and coordinated vice-presidential visits; ACT (2003) — 25-person Ohio field test; Iowa State Senate (1996) — page serving the 50-member chamber.

EDUCATION, CREDENTIALS AND RECOGNITION

B.A., Geography (Social & Economic Geography), University of Iowa • MBA coursework, Business Analytics, Loras College • ICMA High Performance Leadership Academy (2022) • Leadership Dubuque • Heartland Federal Partners Grant-Writing Workshop • Knight Foundation Media Learning Fellow • Identity Management Institute CRFS & CIPA credentials • Gold National Career Readiness Certificate

TOOLS AND WORKING METHODS

Federal agency and legislative research • NOFO and grant criteria analysis • Executive briefing and evidence logs • Organizational and constituent/stakeholder databases • CRM and operational reporting • GIS Story Maps • Spreadsheet modeling and data quality • Web and multimedia communications • Human-reviewed AI-assisted research

Recognition & civic engagement: Best of Show / Final Fifteen ADDY public-service campaign coordination (2011); University of Illinois at Chicago e-Government Workshop presenter; Growing Sustainable Communities presenter/host; volunteer and nonprofit service.