

USC Election Cybersecurity Initiative



Adam Clayton Powell III

Executive Director, USC Election Cybersecurity Initiative

Adam Clayton Powell III leads CCLP's initiative on election cybersecurity, in association with USC's schools of business, engineering, law and public policy and the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. He also coordinates CCLP's Washington DC programming, which includes monthly public forums on subjects including public diplomacy and national security. Before his return to Washington in 2010, he served as USC's Vice Provost for Globalization, and previously served as director of the USC Integrated Media Systems Center, the National Science Foundation's Engineering Research Center for multimedia and information technologies. Before joining the USC faculty, he held positions including Executive Producer at Quincy Jones Entertainment, Vice President/Technology Programs at the Newseum and the Freedom Forum, Vice President/News and Information at National Public Radio, and sixteen years in management and reporting positions at CBS, including CBS News Manager of Special Events and Political Coverage for the 1980 primaries, conventions and election night.



Justin Griffin

Managing Director, USC Election Cybersecurity Initiative

Justin Griffin is Managing Director of the USC Election Cybersecurity Initiative, responsible for managing the strategy and day to day execution of conducting events in all 50 states prior to the 2020 election. Prior to joining USC, he was a Senior Vice President at Revolution Agency, a strategic communications and advertising agency with offices in Alexandria, Virginia and Los Angeles, California. Griffin also spent part of his career at Purple Strategies, a full service, bipartisan strategic consultancy specializing in crisis communications for Fortune 100 companies such as BP, Caterpillar, McDonald's, Bayer, and Coca-Cola. In addition to his corporate experience, Griffin recently served as a Director of Finance for Governor Charlie Baker 's successful 2018 reelection campaign, assisting in raising the most money in the history of Massachusetts gubernatorial campaigns, and in 2012 Griffin worked as a Political Director for the Massachusetts Republican Party, assisting in the Senate reelection effort of Ambassador Scott Brown.



Tiffany Shackelford

Head of Outreach, USC Election Cybersecurity Initiative

Tiffany Shackelford currently serves as a Head of Outreach for USC Election Cybersecurity Initiative. Before joining USC, Shackelford served as Chief Strategy Officer for the National Governors Association, where she worked with the organization's stakeholders, including governors and their staff, to implement effective strategies. She has also served as the executive director for a number of news associations, including the Society for News Design, the Association of Alternative Newsmedia, and Capitolbeat, the Association of Capitol Reporters and Editors who cover state governments, a group she helped found in 1999. Shackelford spent almost 10 years with the Pew Research Center, the Pew Center on the States and the Pew Charitable Trusts, where she started Stateline.org, covering state policy and politics in all 50 states; and incubated the Pew Internet and American Life Project and Electionline. She has also served as Director of Communications and Marketing at Phase2 Technology, and as Administrative Director at the Democratic Leadership Council.

Keynote Speakers / Panelists / Presenters



Marc Ambinder

Executive Fellow in Digital Security, USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism

Marc Ambinder is an Executive Fellow at the School for Communication and Journalism at the University of Southern California, creating a school-wide program in digital security. Before moving to Los Angeles in 2012, Ambinder spent 12 years in Washington, D.C. covering the White House, the intelligence community and politics, for CBS News and ABC News. He also served as contributing editor of *The Atlantic* and White House correspondent for *National Journal*. Ambinder has been a consultant for entities including the Walt Disney Company and WhatsApp. He is the author of *The Brink: President Reagan and the Nuclear War Scare of 1983* (Simon and Shuster, 2018) and is co-author of *Deep State: Inside the Government Secrecy Industry* (Wiley, 2013) and *The Command: Deep Inside the President's Secret Army* (Wiley, 2012).



Diane Dagefoerde

Deputy Chief Information Officer, Ohio State University

Diane Dagefoerde is Ohio State's Deputy Chief Information Officer, a position she has held since mid-2014. She oversees enterprise-wide technology services offered by the Office of the Chief Information Officer, including Applications, Data Warehousing, Infrastructure, Architecture and Enterprise Security. Dagefoerde joined Ohio State in 2001 and served in a variety of technology positions, most recently as Chief Information Officer for the College of Arts and Sciences. She works with OSU's IT leadership on governance and policy issues and has partnered with many groups around the University on initiatives ranging from helping to develop standard desktop configurations for purchase across OSU to working on the development of AdvisingConnect, an advising notes system used by all academic and administrative units. Dagefoerde earned three degrees from Ohio State: M.Ed. (specialization: Instructional Design and Technology) and B.A. degrees in Spanish Literature and Journalism.



Theresa Gavarone

Ohio State Senator, R-Bowling Green

Senator Theresa Gavarone was appointed to the Ohio Senate in February 2019 having previously served in the Ohio House since 2016. She represents the people of Erie, Ottawa and Wood counties and parts of Fulton and Lucas counties. As a resident of Wood County for over 30 years, Senator Gavarone has an extensive background representing the community, serving on the Bowling Green City Council and participating in the local Kiwanis group. On city council, she was chair of the Public Lands and Buildings Committee and also served on the Finance and Ways and Means Committee as well as the Planning, Zoning and Economic Development Committee. Senator Gavarone holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Bowling Green State University and a law degree from the University of Toledo College of Law.



Richard Harknett

Professor of Political Science and Head of the Department, University of Cincinnati

Richard Harknett is a Professor of Political Science and Head of the Department at the University of Cincinnati. He also holds an affiliate faculty position with the Department of Information Technology at the University as well as a professorial lectureship at the Diplomatic Academy Vienna, Austria, where he served as Fulbright Professor in 2001. In 2017, he served as inaugural Fulbright Professor in cyber studies at Oxford University, UK, and in 2016 he was the first Scholar-in-Residence at United States Cyber Command and National Security Agency at Fort Meade. Harknett's publications and research interests focus on international relations theory and international security studies with particular focus cyber strategy. He is co-director of the Ohio Cyber Range Institute and regularly consults at the US government and state of Ohio levels. He earned a B.A. at Villanova and an M.A. and Ph.D. at Johns Hopkins University.



Frank LaRose

Ohio Secretary of State

Frank LaRose took office as Ohio's 51st Secretary of State on January 14th, 2019. Prior to being elected to statewide office, he served two terms in the State Senate representing the 27th Senate District in northeast Ohio. In his role as Ohio's chief elections officer, LaRose builds on his work in the legislature, where he spearheaded efforts to increase government transparency and efficiency, particularly in the areas of elections administration and regulatory reform, efforts for which he was recognized as Legislator of the Year in 2016 by the Ohio Association of Election Officials. He is currently serving a two-year term within the Aspen Institute as a Rodel Fellow, joining a bipartisan group of America's rising political stars brought together to promote greater civil discourse. A former Green Beret with U.S. Special Forces, LaRose received numerous commendations and honors, including the Bronze Star, and is the Jr. Vice Commander of the Fairlawn VFW. And, as an Eagle Scout himself, he now serves on the executive board for his local Boy Scouts of America Council. LaRose graduated from The Ohio State University with a degree in Consumer Affairs and Business.



Scott Light

Anchor, 10 TV WBNS

Scott Light came to TV10 from Atlanta, where he anchored evening news interviewed leading newsmakers including President Jimmy Carter and Dr. Joseph Lowery, the "Dean of the Civil Rights Movement." Previously he was an anchor in Phoenix for 10 years, which included a month-long assignment anchoring daily from the Beijing Olympics. He has also spent time in the Persian Gulf for a series on the U.S. Navy, reported from the Pentagon on 9/11, and covered the presidential recount in Florida in 2000. He has six Emmy awards and an Arizona Associated Press 'Anchor of the Year' award.



Merle Madrid

Chief of Staff, Ohio Secretary of State

Merle Madrid is chief of staff in the office of Secretary of State Frank LaRose. Madrid previously spent for five years working in the John Kasich administration, serving as Director of Legislative Affairs and Director of the Office of Public Liaison, and he oversaw LaRose's official transition into office. Madrid has also been Vice President for External Affairs of UnitedHealth Group and a Manager in the Ohio Chamber of Commerce. He earned a B.A. in Mass Communication and Social Issues from Ohio State.



Matthew Masterson

Senior Cybersecurity Advisor, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Matthew Masterson is Senior Cybersecurity Advisor at the Department of Homeland Security, where he focuses on election security issues. He previously served as a Commissioner at the Election Assistance Commission (2014-2018). Prior to his appointment to the EAC, Masterson was Interim Chief of Staff for the Ohio Secretary of State, Deputy Chief of Staff and Chief Information Officer, and Deputy Director of Elections. In these roles Masterson was responsible for voting system certification efforts by the Secretary of State's office including serving as the liaison to the Ohio Board of Voting Machine Examiners. Masterson was also in charge of Ohio's effort to develop an online voter registration database and online ballot delivery for military and overseas voters. He holds a law degree from the University of Dayton School of Law and BS and BA degrees from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.



David Pepper

Chairman, Ohio Democratic Party

David Pepper has been Chairman of the Ohio Democratic Party since on January 1, 2015. First elected to public office in 2001, Pepper served on the Cincinnati City Council for two terms, where he was Chairman of the Law and Public Safety Committee. In 2006, Pepper was elected to the three-member Hamilton County Commission, where he was the Commission President from 2009 to 2010. During his tenure at the County, Hamilton County won 19 National Association of County Awards for outstanding management practices, more than all other Ohio counties combined. David earned his B.A. magna cum laude from Yale University, where he was Phi Beta Kappa, and later earned his J.D. from Yale Law School. Since 2000, Pepper has also worked in the Cincinnati offices of major law firms Squire Sanders and Blank Rome. He also teaches election and voting rights law as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Cincinnati College of Law. Pepper is also the author of *The People's House*, (St. Helena Press, 2016) an Ohio-based political thriller, its sequel, *The Wingman* (St. Helena Press, 2018), and *The Voter File*, which will be published later this year by G.P. Putnam's Sons.



Mindy Romero

Research Assistant Professor, USC Sol Price School of Public Policy, and Founder and Director, USC California Civic Engagement Project

Mindy Romero is a Research Assistant Professor and the Founder and Director of the California Civic Engagement Project at the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy. A political sociologist, her research focuses on political behavior and race/ethnicity, and seeks to explain patterns of voting and political underrepresentation. Romero has testified before the National Commission on Voting Rights and the California Legislature, and her research has been cited in major news outlets, including *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Sacramento Bee* and *Politico*. She is currently a member of the Public Policy Institute Statewide Survey Advisory Committee, President of the Board of California Common Cause, and former Vice-Chair of the Social Services Commission for the City of Davis. Romero holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of California, Davis.



Jane Timken

Chairman, Ohio Republican Party

Jane Timken was elected Chairman of the Ohio Republican Party on January 6, 2017. Her election marked the first time a woman was elected to serve as the Chairman of any major party in Ohio. In addition to her political career, Timken has practiced law, starting her legal career with Black McCuskey, where she specialized in civil litigation, employment law, workers' compensation, and medical malpractice defense. Prior to attending law school, she worked at Davis, Polk and Wardwell in Washington, D.C. as a legal assistant in civil and criminal white-collar matters. Timken received her J.D., summa cum laude, from American University's Washington College of Law in Washington, D.C., and she earned her undergraduate degree at Harvard College. She also served nine years as a Trustee of Kent State University, where she was Chairman of the Board of Trustees.



Michelle L. Wilcox
President, Ohio Association of Elected Officials

Michelle L. Wilcox is the President of Ohio Association of Elected Officials. President Wilcox has also been the Director of the Auglaize County Board of Elections since 2013. She has served on the OAEO Legislative Committee since 2015. Prior to working in elections, Wilcox was the Office Manager and a Legal Assistant at Kaufman Law Office in Lima, Ohio. Wilcox is a member of the Auglaize County Democratic Party Central and Executive Committees.



Spencer Wood
Chief Information Officer, Office of the Ohio Secretary of State

Spencer Wood is the Chief Information Officer for Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose. Prior to LaRose Administration, Wood served as the Assistant Policy Director for Technology and Innovation in the Office of Ohio Governor John Kasich, focusing on policy development in areas including autonomous vehicles, broadband, cyber defense, data analytics, distributed ledger (blockchain), educational technologies, robotic assistants, smart cities, technology economic development and unmanned aerial vehicles (drones). Wood has also served as the Interim Chief Information Officer for the State of Ohio where he directed Ohio's use of information technology, and as the chief operating officer in the Office of Information Technology. Previously Wood spent 16 years at the Ohio Department of Transportation, ultimately serving as Chief Information Officer, supporting 5600 employees throughout a \$3.2 billion enterprise.