

Name: Tom Wolff

Location: Amherst , MA

Name of workplace: Tom Wolff & Associates

Title: President

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Website (personal or workplace): www.tomwolff.com

Please describe your primary workplace and role:

Consultant and trainer on coalition building, collaborative solutions and community development.

Please describe any work you do related to public policy (paid or voluntary):

My professional work always emphasizes key principles of social change addressing larger systems issues - thus always talks about political advocacy as one component of building healthy communities. Most coalition building work especially in Public Health now emphasizes changes in policies, systems and environments.

My voluntary role has always been very active. For over 10 years I was the chair of my town's Democratic Committee. I frequently get elected to attend the state nominating convention (this year working to nominate Don Berwick for Governor who advocated for single payor health care). I often get involved in issue campaigns - one ongoing one is for labeling GMOs in Massachusetts, another is against a gas pipeline passing through our county. In the past I have been an elected member of the School Committee in the town and the Regional Schools. I am a founder and active member of the Leverett Peace Commission

What training/education do you have in community psychology? How has this training contributed to your work in public policy?

I was trained in the 'old days' as a clinical psychologist.

However, simultaneously with going to graduate school I was very involved in the anti-war movement and the nomination of Gene

McCarthy for US President. Much of my political learning has been through my engagement in political process and readings (Saul Alinsky, etc)

What other training or experiences helped prepare you for your work in public policy?

I worked with skilled human service lobbyists and state politicians in numerous efforts to support our community coalitions and to pass state wide legislation on universal health care coverage for children etc.

What advice might you give to students and others thinking about working in public policy?

Opportunities to become actively involved in your community and on issues you care about abound. GET THE EXPERIENCE of doing advocacy.

Is there anything else you would like to say about your involvement in public policy?

It makes a great difference on large scale change and it is often fun - politicians (at least at a state level) are generally fun to get know and work with.

Please list any professional affiliations that relate to your involvement in public policy.

