

Benoît Gaillard

Born 1985 | married, two children
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SUMMARY

After four years working as a free-lance consultant in strategy, communication and higher education quality assurance, I joined the team of a newly elected member of the Council of State in the Canton of Vaud (regional government) five years ago. First as communications director and advisor, then as senior political advisor (chief of staff), I have been and am in charge of major projects such as leading negotiations with partner governments or firms or getting important legislation and large appropriations passed by Parliament, while overseeing political affairs and day-to-day business. After a successful first term, I am looking for new opportunities in a different work environment.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Canton of Vaud
Department of
infrastructure and human
resources
2015 –

**Personal adviser (chief of staff) to the State Councillor (as per 2017:
President of the Council of State)**

Tasks: writing speeches and memos, producing summaries for decision making, drafting legislation, overseeing all politically relevant projects within the department in cooperation with the unit heads, keeping relationships with key members of Parliament and stakeholders, media monitoring of canton- and country-level relevant news, maintaining an extensive network of sources in the media and expert circles, negotiating with partners and providers.

Achievements:

- *Contributed to getting major legislation passed, including a comprehensive reform of children day-care, as well as numerous appropriations*
- *Made a deal with train firm Stadler Rail regarding regional sub-contracting as part of a large purchase contract for rolling stock*
- *Led the lobbying operations resulting in the integration and prioritization of key rail, highway and public transportation projects of the Canton in federal investment programmes*
- *Attained the main objective of getting the State Councillor reelected, with 55% of the votes in the first round of election – a 11-point raise compared to the first round of 2012*

Canton of Vaud
Department of
infrastructure and human
resources
2012 –2015

Communications director and advisor

Tasks: coordinating a team of four communication specialists, developing and implementing a communication strategy and planning, writing articles and press releases, organizing media events and briefings, maintaining a strong network of reporters and influencers, setting up media and debate training sessions for senior staff, monitoring media for relevant news and context continuously.

Achievements :

- *Ensured positive coverage of the department's projects and action from day one of the term*
- *Ensured good media feedback through exclusive news or interviews and site visits*
- *Successfully managed communication emergencies such as a case of suspected child abuse in a state-operated day-care facility, a deadly accident involving a road maintenance public employee, or a threat by the federal Government to shut down several regional railways*

Free-lance consultant
2009 –2012
(select jobs)

Quality assurance in higher education

- **Ministry of Education and Research, Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg:** created, organized and managing an Accreditation Committee for three years

Results: conducted the evaluation and accreditation of 17 programs and institutions within three years and on budget

- **Kosovo Accreditation Agency, Kosovo; Accreditation, Certification and Quality Assurance Institute ACQUIN, Germany; Swiss Agency of Accreditation and Quality Assurance, Switzerland :** participated as an expert in audit, evaluation and accreditation procedures of higher education institutions and study programs.

Results: among other things, contributed to the improvement of working processes and transparency at the Kosovo Accreditation Agency.

Policy and communications consultancy

- **Géraldine Savary and Luc Recordon, Swiss Senators:** drew up and implemented a strategy for reelection (communication, press relations, field trips and appearances arrangements, preparation for debates and conferences).

Results: the Senators were reelected in the second round with 55.6% and 50.9% of the votes, respectively.

- **Nuria Gorrite, mayor of Morges, Switzerland:** advised on communication and strategy during her run for nomination and election to the Council of State (regional government).

Results: after obtaining the nomination by the party, my client won the election in the second round with 53% of the votes.

Strategic consultancy and lobbying

- **Council of State (regional government) of the Canton of Neuchâtel, Switzerland:** advised on strategy and communication for a new railway project ("RER neuchâtelois") during one year, leading up to the popular vote.

Results: after being accepted by the regional Parliament, the project was rejected by a thin majority of 50.3% of voters.

- **Swiss Deaf Federation, Switzerland:** advised the board and established contacts with main institutional partners for the purpose of establishing a new curriculum in sign language interpreting.

Results : partnership with a social sciences school and development of a new program.

Université of Lausanne
2007 –2010

Undergraduate academic assistant (part-time)

Helped organizing teaching activities within the department; managed the IT hardware inventory.

EDUCATION

Université of Lausanne
2010

Master of Arts

Philosophy (major), German, French

One-year academic stay in Cologne, Germany

Final grades: Philosophy, 5.6/6; German, 5.6/6, French, 5.5/6

Gymnase Auguste Piccard
(high school)
2003

Bilingual (German and French) Federal high school diploma (Matura)

Final grade: 5.5/6

COMMUNITY AND POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

Pully Lausanne Foxes basketball club 2017 –	Board member <i>First national league team (professional)</i>
Les Urbaines festival Foundation, Lausanne 2013 –	President <i>Les Urbaines are an emerging arts three-day festival in Lausanne operating with a yearly budget of about CHF 350'000 and drawing up to 8000 visitors.</i>
Lausanne Social Democratic Party 2013 –	President <i>The Lausanne Social Democratic Party is the largest political organization in Lausanne, with more than 400 members and a yearly budget of CHF 300'000.</i>
Lausanne City Council (City Parliament) 2011 –	Member of the City Council, Member of the Finance Standing Committee
University of Lausanne 2007 –2009	Elected Member of the University Council <i>The University Council is a deliberative body responsible for defining the University's strategy, voting the yearly budget and appointing the President of the institution.</i>
University of Lausanne 2006 –2008	President of the Lausanne Student Union <i>The Lausanne Student Union represents more than 10'000 students vis-à-vis the University authorities, policymakers and the media.</i>

LANGUAGE SKILLS

French	Native
German	Near native (written and spoken)
English	Excellent command (written and spoken)
Spanish	Basic working knowledge (mainly spoken)
Italian	Basic knowledge (spoken)

COMPUTER SKILLS

Microsoft Office	Proficient
Adobe InDesign	Good working skills
Most common Web content management systems (CMS)	Good working skills