



Erik Peterson brings nearly 35 years of experience as a community and electoral organizer and community-based educator to role as founder and President of Bending the Arc Strategies.

He has served at all levels of campaign organizing in state and local races: MN United for All Families (2012), Australian Labor Party, Tasmania (2011), MN GOTV Consultant (2014; 2010; 2008; 2006; 2004), Mark Ritchie for Secretary of State (2006). He served as a field consultant on the 1996 and 2002 Wellstone for Senate campaigns, 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 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 has extensive experience working with unions, progressive advocacy non-profits, and community coalitions around strategic planning and messaging; leading organizational change that supports deep member-driven organizing and leadership development; and designing strategic, grassroots issue and electoral campaigns. He has worked with some of the largest unions and organizing networks in the United States, including the AFL-CIO, SEIU, CWA, LIUNA, USW, NEA (and numerous state affiliates), PICO, NPA, CCC, BISC, State Voices, Working Families Party, as well as doing work in Australia with Campaign Action!, United Voice, Finance Sector Union, Get Up!, Unions New South Wales, and the Sydney Alliance.

Erik holds a faculty position in the Masters Advocacy and Political Leadership (MAPL) program and is a Fellow at the Broadbent Institute in Ottawa, Canada. He is formerly the Director of Northern Minnesota Programs at the University of Minnesota Labor Education Service and was a professor in American Studies and Cultural Studies at the University of Minnesota for 18 years. 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.