

Jim Bognet has spent his career as a political hack, working for candidates from California to Washington D.C. pushing policies that hurt people in Northeastern Pennsylvania. He only moved back to NEPA to run for this seat and help out himself and his bog/swamp friends.

<b>Disbursements from Federal Campaigns to Bognet</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>Campaign</b>	<b>Amount (\$)</b>	<b>Notes</b>
2014	Dr. Monica Wehby for US Senate	\$709.02	Reimb. Expenses
2012	Dewhurst for Texas	\$510,748.49	Consulting; Media Consulting
2008	Romney for President Inc	\$89,327.45	Payroll; Travel
2008	McCain-Palin 2008 Inc	\$22,982.16	Communications Consulting
2008	John McCain 2008	\$4,750.79	GOTV Consulting
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$628,517.91</b>	

[FEC, accessed [2/6/20](#)]

**Bognet Had A Political Consulting Firm, JRB Strategies.** “Bognet, 44, based his political consulting business, JRB Strategies, in Hazleton and pays taxes there, which is where he started in politics.” [Standard-Speaker, [1/24/20](#)]

**2002: Bognet Worked On Lou Barletta’s House Race.** “In 2002, he came back from law school to help Lou Barletta in an unsuccessful run for the House seat that Barletta later captured.” [Standard-Speaker, [1/24/20](#)]

**2003-2006: Bognet Worked On Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger’s Campaigns.** “Bognet helped California's current governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger, get elected in 2003. Since then, he has lived in Los Angeles, Sacramento, Washington, D.C. and Boston. He stayed in Schwarzenegger's administration as deputy economics adviser during the governor's first term. For Schwarzenegger's successful re-election in 2006, he was policy director for the campaign.” [Standard-Speaker, [3/25/09](#)]

*NOTE: See Nexis article “City native working to get people elected to office” from 3/25/09*

**2008: Bognet Was An Economics Advisor For Gov. Mitt Romney’s Campaign In Massachusetts.** “While Bognet planned to remain on the governor's staff after that, an opportunity arrived to join the presidential campaign of Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney as an economics adviser. Bognet served 14 months with the campaign as policy development director, providing recommendations based on economic trends, writing op-ed articles and giving interviews to C-SPAN, The New York Times and other media. When Romney withdrew from the race, Bognet helped John McCain's campaign for the final months as a communications adviser.” [Standard-Speaker, [3/25/09](#)]

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**2008: Bognet Was A Communications Adviser For Sen. John McCain’s 2008 Presidential Campaign.** “Bognet served 14 months with the campaign as policy development director, providing recommendations based on economic trends, writing op-ed articles and giving interviews to C-SPAN, The New York Times and other media. When Romney withdrew from the race, Bognet helped John McCain's campaign for the final months as a communications adviser.” [Standard-Speaker, [3/25/09](#)]

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**2010: Bognet Was Deputy Campaign Manager For California Republican Gubernatorial Candidate Steve Poizner.** “Jim Bognet was driving from Los Angeles to Sacramento to start a new job in a profession that keeps him on the move. ‘It's a very transient lifestyle,’ Bognet, 33, a Hazleton Area High School graduate, said

Monday during his first day as deputy campaign manager for California Republican gubernatorial candidate Steve Poizner.” [Standard-Speaker, 3/25/09]

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**2012: Romney Worked As A Media Consultant For Mitt Romney’s Presidential Campaign.** “Bognet is noted for his work as a Republican-campaign strategist who served as a media consultant to Romney during the 2012 election. Shrum is a Democratic political consultant with experience in leading presidential, senatorial and gubernatorial campaigns.” [Daily Trojan, [2/4/15](#)]

**2018: Bognet Was CEO Of Martha McSally’s Senate Campaign.** “Later, he assisted around the country on campaigns for president of Mitt Romney and candidates for governor, U.S. House of Representatives and Senate. Most recently, he was chief executive officer for the campaign of Martha McSally, a fighter pilot who won a Senate seat in Arizona two years ago.” [Standard-Speaker, [1/24/20](#)]

**2003-2006: Bognet Had Worked Out Of Both Washington DC And California.** “Bognet helped California's current governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger, get elected in 2003. Since then, he has lived in Los Angeles, Sacramento, Washington, D.C. and Boston. He stayed in Schwarzenegger's administration as deputy economics adviser during the governor's first term. For Schwarzenegger's successful re-election in 2006, he was policy director for the campaign.” [Standard-Speaker, 3/25/09]

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**While Working For Mitt Romney, Bognet Advocated For A Plan In Which “The Big Enchilada So To Speak Is Reforming Entitlements Going Forward.”** TRANSCRIPT: “Governor Romney believes we need to aggressively cut spending, pull the domestic, non-defense discretionary spending down to CPI minus one, and of course the big enchilada so to speak is reforming entitlements going forward, because we’re in a situation with our entitlement program where they’re eating up an increasing portion of the budget each year. Governor Romney has a power point slide he likes to show, showing how quickly the entitlement programs are going to grow to be almost the entire federal budget over the next twenty or thirty years.” [CSPAN, 15:15 – 15:43, [1/26/08](#)] (VIDEO)

**2020: Bognet Moved Back To Pennsylvania To Run For Congress.** “When I saw what the Democrats were trying to do to President Trump with impeachment, I decided I couldn’t stand by and watch what was happening without trying to do something about it. In America, when things you believe in are threatened, we have a duty to stand and fight. That’s why I decided to return home to Hazleton to run for Congress in Pennsylvania’s 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. I will defend President Trump from a witch hunt that will happen again and again throughout his second term unless we send a message and win back the House of Representatives from the impeachers.” [Bognet for Congress, accessed [6/4/20](#)]

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Body

Jim Bognet was driving from Los Angeles to Sacramento to start a new job in a profession that keeps him on the move.

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Bognet helped California's current governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger, get elected in 2003.

Since then, he has lived in Los Angeles, Sacramento, Washington, D.C. and Boston.

He stayed in Schwarzenegger's administration as deputy economics adviser during the governor's first term. For Schwarzenegger's successful re-election in 2006, he was policy director for the campaign.

While Bognet planned to remain on the governor's staff after that, an opportunity arrived to join the presidential campaign of Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney as an economics adviser.

Bognet served 14 months with the campaign as policy development director, providing recommendations based on economic trends, writing op-ed articles and giving interviews to C-SPAN, The New York Times and other media.

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After that, Bognet did some consulting work and took a vacation.

"It was good to recharge the batteries," he said after three years on campaign circuits. "There is no such thing as a typical work day. Each day tends to be difficult, but they're long days. Campaigns are very intense."

He said spending 14 to 16 hours a day campaigning seems relaxing compared with the labors of his namesakes; his grandfather worked in mining, and his father is a local contractor.

This winter, Bognet spent three weeks of his vacation in Hazleton visiting his father and mother, Patrice.

One of his first experiences with a campaign was in 2002, when he volunteered to help Lou Barletta run, unsuccessfully, for Congress.

After helping Barletta, Bognet returned to UCLA, where he earned a law degree and a Master of Business Administration degree, in four years.

He spent his undergraduate years as a finance major at Penn State and interned for then-U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum one spring.

Last season, he drove back to Penn State to see the Nittany Lions play football with his cousin after flying into Washington, D.C. about 4 in the morning of game day, following a presidential debate.

Bognet played end and kicker on the football team at Hazleton Area High School. His former history teacher, Fran Libonati, thinks Bognet might someday run for office instead of helping to run campaigns.

"I often referred to him as a man for all seasons. He has an interest and expertise in a myriad of current and past national and world occurrences, which include both the political and sports arena," Libonati said.

Bognet kicked a field goal to beat West Scranton in 1992 and give the Cougars their first win as a consolidated high school, a moment he still remembers down to the 3 minutes 59 seconds showing on the clock.

"My mother still has the clip of me jumping into Corry Zanolini's arms that you ran on the front page," he said of the next day's Standard-Speaker.

These days, politics gets him jumping.

"The reason you do campaigns is to get people you believe in elected. You want to see their ideas and policies implemented," he said.

In Poizner, a dot-com billionaire who became California's insurance commissioner, Bognet sees someone who can remake the state's economy.

"He's a big thinker with new ideas about how to rebuild California," Bognet said. "Bringing jobs back to California and rebuilding the California economy is Steve Poizner's No. 1 priority."