



2010 Cooking with Kids Board of Directors Biographies

AUSTIN LEE President

President of Capitol Public Affairs, *Austin Lee* has spent over 15 years advising corporations, political leaders, non-profits and coalitions. Through his strong relationships with public policy and opinion leaders throughout California and the country, Austin has the unique ability to bring together groups and leaders with differing viewpoints to find common ground – ultimately helping move issues that are critical for clients of Capitol Public Affairs.

As President of Capitol Public Affairs, Austin is responsible for both managing the diverse client base of the company, as well as running the day to day operations of the firm.

His public affairs experience includes serving as senior vice president and staff director for an international public relations firm, during which he managed public affairs efforts for clients including multi-national corporations, non-profits, statewide and local initiative campaigns and key associations. Further, Austin also has served as a key advisor for the California Department of Justice; local, statewide and federal political candidates; numerous statewide and local ballot initiatives; and ESS Technology's national education foundation.

Austin has helped major nonprofits and foundations in this state build key relationships on major issues. Representing organizations such as the Public Policy Institute of California, The James Irvine Foundation, The California Endowment, ConnectEd and the California Student Success Project, Austin has helped strengthen relationships and build consensus with our clients and California's business and public policy community. Further, he has developed a unique expertise in managing numerous non-profit organizations, for both advocacy and educational purposes. Currently, Austin serves as executive director of a major 501(c) 4 consumer advocacy organization and as operations manager of a statewide 501(c)3 conservation group.

Austin graduated from the University of California, Davis, with a bachelor's degree in Political Science. He lives in Sacramento with his wife, Sara, and their sons Ryan and Colin.