

Steve Stombres



Steve Stombres was previously the second highest ranking staff member in the House of Representatives with a diverse career of service on Capitol Hill, in the military, and as an elected official. He has extensive relationships with Members of Congress, White House staff, senior Congressional aides, and key private sector leaders.

During his tenure as Chief of Staff to House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, Mr. Stombres successfully executed a multi-faceted legislative, communications, coalitions, and grass roots plan for the passage of every major bill including the U.S.-Korea Free Trade

Agreement, the JOBS Act, the Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act, the STOCK ACT, the Skills Act, and the Working Families Flexibility Act.

He also negotiated a compromise with the White House, Senate leadership, and House Republicans to resolve the “Debt Limit Stand-off” of 2011, settle the “Fiscal Cliff Crisis” of 2012, and end the “Government Shutdown” of 2013. Mr. Stombres’ role in the 2011 debt limit discussions were described in detail in Bob Woodward’s best-selling book, the Price of Politics.

During the 111th Congress, Mr. Stombres served as Chief of Staff for the Office of the Republican Whip and led the effort to develop and execute a strategy to regain the majority in the House of Representatives by offering substantive alternatives to major White House initiatives including the Affordable Care Act and the Economic Stimulus plan. He oversaw the creation of the House Republican Economic Recovery Working Group, which produced pro-growth tax and economic policies to combat the recession and create jobs.

Mr. Stombres previously served as Chief of Staff for the Chief Deputy Whip. He played a critical role in the passage of important legislation such as the American Jobs Creation Act, the Medicare Modernization Act, and the Central American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act.

Mr. Stombres also served as the Legislative Director for National Security Affairs for Congressman Herbert H. Bateman and as the Chairman’s designee to the Subcommittee on Readiness of the House Armed Services Committee. Stombres has also worked as a Legislative Assistant for Congressman Robert S. Walker and Congressman Elton Gallegly where he was responsible for defense, foreign affairs, financial services, taxes, trade, and intellectual property protection. He began his career in the House of Representatives working as a Staff Assistant for the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

Mr. Stombres has appeared on Roll Call’s “Fabulous Fifty” list of the most influential staffers on the Hill for over ten years. He was described by the New York Times as “one of the most powerful Republican aides on Capitol Hill” and was listed as one of 10 staffers to watch by the Washington Post. Mr. Stombres was also included on the list of the 35 most influential aides on Capitol Hill by The Hill newspaper. He has a specific expertise on taxes, trade, financial services, and national security issues.



Mr. Stombres enlisted in the United States Army Reserve in 1987 and is a 1995 graduate of Officer Candidate School. Upon receiving his commission, he served as an intelligence officer and was assigned to the Defense Intelligence Agency. In 2003, Mr. Stombres was mobilized in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and served on the Joint Chiefs of Staff as an Iraq Analyst for the Iraq Intelligence Task Force. He retired from the Army Reserve in 2009 after a twenty-one year career in military intelligence.

Mr. Stombres was elected to the Fairfax City Council in 2008 and retired from the City Council in 2014 after three terms in office. In 2016, Mr. Stombres was sworn in as the Eleventh Mayor of the City of Fairfax. He was appointed to that position by the City Council in order to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of the previous Mayor. He served as the Mayor of Fairfax until February of 2017.

Mr. Stombres graduated in 1993 from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and holds a B.A. in History. He and his wife Kristen, and their children Katherine, Elaine, and James currently reside in Fairfax, Virginia.

“Mr. Stombres has been part of the Republican brain trust for most of the legislative fights in recent years, serving at Mr. Cantor’s side as the lawmaker rose to be second in command behind Speaker John A. Boehner. Mr. Stombres is part of a small group of Republican aides who plot out the party’s tactics on taxes, spending, foreign affairs, social issues and jobs.” Michael D. Shear, New York Times