

POLITICO

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Emily Porter, partner at the Nickles Group

September 2, 2020

How/where are you celebrating your birthday and with whom? “I will be celebrating with my husband, Trevor, and the kids, Connor (9) and Oliver (3). Any birthday celebration usually includes a stop at our favorite restaurant in Del Ray, Taqueria Poblano (best Mexican food and margaritas in town!). And ice cream cake, always ice cream cake.”

How did you get your start in your career? “I got a job in the media department at the Cato Institute, and then moved into their education policy department to do research. That led to my first Hill job as a legislative assistant. The rest -- as they say -- is history.”

What’s an interesting book/article you’re reading during coronavirus social distancing? And why? “Lately I have really focused my reading on new, unfamiliar topics such as monster trucks, dinosaurs and big red dogs ... did I mention that I have a 3-year-old?”

What’s a trend going on in the U.S. or abroad that doesn’t get enough attention? “Do elastic waistband pants count as a trend? In all seriousness, I think trends are overrated. Since much of our news and information comes in sound bites, my sense is that data and facts are more valuable, especially now. For example, how many people are regularly going to church, how many people use Twitter, how many people are working remotely, etc. I think that’s more interesting -- particularly at this moment -- and any changes to those dynamics. And that kind of information tends to surprise people who are otherwise up on the latest trend.”

How’s the Trump presidency going? “The Republican convention was very compelling, and the president made a strong case for why he should be reelected. While obviously unconventional, he does what he says he’s going to do.

What’s a fun fact that people in Washington might not know about you? “In my early days in Washington, I did a lot of community theater. I was also a student at D.C.’s Studio Theatre Acting Conservatory. It was a great way to meet people who weren’t in politics and avoid the most D.C. question ever: ‘Who do you work for?’”