

TOM INGRAM returned to The Ingram Group – the firm he first founded in 1983 -- after serving a seven-year stint as Chief of Staff to US Senator Lamar Alexander. In March 2010, he joined three other former Senate Chiefs in founding The First Group – the Washington, DC office of The Ingram Group.

Tom has been at the epicenter of politics and government – both in Tennessee and Washington D.C. – for more than three decades. His noted expertise in crisis management and strategic thinking was first sharpened when his former boss, newly-elected Governor Lamar Alexander, was notified that he would be sworn in early because of a developing scandal in the previous administration. Just named the Deputy Governor and Chief of Staff, Ingram immediately put together a strategy that forged the right message, neutralized naysayers and made friends out of old enemies. Alexander went on to serve two terms and has been called one of the state's most popular governors.

Years later, Tom would join his old boss once again when Alexander drafted him to run his successful 2002 campaign for the United States Senate and stay on as Chief of Staff. As Alexander rose through the ranks of national power – most recently as chairman of the Senate Republican Conference – Ingram rose along with him.

Before his departure in May 2009, Ingram held dual roles as chief of staff and staff director for the U.S. Senate Republican Conference. As staff director, Ingram was responsible for working with Alexander to craft the Republican message in concert with priorities set by the Republican leadership. He also was credited along with Bob Russell, former Chief of Staff to Arkansas U.S. Senator Mark Pryor, with creation of the Bipartisan Senate Chiefs of Staff group, which included the active participation of more than 60 of the Senate's 100 Chiefs.

Ingram landed several times in the private sector – first as founder and President of the Group, later as Director at Whittle Communications and as CEO of the Knoxville Area Chamber Partnership. He has also overseen winning political campaigns for Lamar Alexander (Tennessee Governor's race, 1978 and 1982), Fred Thompson (U.S. Senate race, 1994), Don Sundquist (Tennessee Governor's race 1994), Lamar Alexander (U.S. Senate race, 2002 and 2008), Bob Corker (U.S. Senate race 2006) and Bill Haslam (Tennessee Governor's race, 2010). Currently, Ingram serves as a general consultant to Sens. Alexander and Corker and Gov. Haslam and is a Senior Adviser to former China Ambassador John Huntsman's presidential campaign.