



PARTICIPANT BIOS & COUNTY SNAPSHOTS

County Executive Calvin Ball, Howard County, Maryland



Howard County Executive Dr. Calvin Ball has been serving **Howard County since** 2006 as the County Council member. Calvin is a former Howard County Firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician who served as a threeterm Councilmember.

He made history in 2006 when he was elected as the youngest Council Chairman ever in Howard County. Calvin remains dedicated to making our community a better, brighter place for future generations.

A member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, Calvin, an educator, received his Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Religion from Towson State University, a Master of Arts in Legal and Ethical Studies from the University of Baltimore and was awarded a Doctor of Education from Morgan State University.

Calvin has been honored with numerous awards including the Michaeline R. Fedder Award for Public Health Legislator of 2015, the Marilyn J. Praisner Public Service Award, Daily Record's 2014 Very Important

Professionals Successful by 40 Award, William Donald Schaeffer Helping People Award, Louis Goldstein Award for Democratic Spirit, the Kittleman Award for Legislative Leadership, Community Champion of the Year Award, Jenkins Odoms, Jr., Freedom Fighter Award, Richard C. McCauley Transformative Leader Award, Humanitarian Award, and 2018 Senator James Clark Award.

A Maryland native and Columbia resident, Calvin and his wife, Shani Ball, RN, BSN, are proud parents of two daughters who both attend Howard County Public Schools. Calvin gained his passion for public service from his parents Calvin Ball Jr. and Carolyn Ball.



Howard County is in central Maryland, with a 2017 population of 321,110 people, and its county seat in Ellicott City.

For more details about Howard, please see the following resources:

- NACo County Explorer profile
- County economic snaphot

Commissioner Mack Bernard, Palm Beach County, Florida



Commissioner Mack Bernard was elected in November 2016 to the Palm Beach County Commission, District 7. Mack ran for County Commission in order to put his experience to work for our community. He ran on a platform of good creating more paying jobs and job opportunities; training improving public safety and law enforcement

relations; increasing small business, women and minority participation in county contracts; keeping

taxes low; and advocating for more affordable and sustainable housing.

Mack Bernard has an extensive resume of public service. For nearly a decade, Mack Bernard has

committed himself to working for the public. In 2008 Mack served as a Delray Beach City Commissioner and Deputy Vice-Mayor. In this role Mack worked hard with the community to increase affordable housing options, improve public safety, and create jobs.

In 2009 Mack Bernard was elected to the Florida House of Representatives where he served on numerous committees and passed bills that created jobs, protected women and children, and supported public education. In the Legislature, Mack served as





the President of the Palm Beach County Caucus of Black Elected Officials and was recognized for his work advocating for Florida's small businesses.

Currently, Mack Bernard is the Chairman for the Toussaint L'Ouverture High School for Arts & Social Justice and Board Member for the Color of Hope Foundation. Mack Bernard is a former member of the Florida Elections Commission, Greater Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce and the CJ Foundation, a non-profit organization helping children in need.

Mack has lived in Palm Beach County for 30 years. He is a product of Palm Beach County's public school system, where he was a member of the JROTC and a high-school championship wrestler. He worked hard while attending college, graduating with honors from Florida State University; earning a Bachelors in Political Science and Criminal Justice, and also graduating with honors from the University of Florida's Levin College of Law.

Mack and his wife Shawn are raising their three daughters here and are very proud to be part of the

Palm Beach County Family. As a real estate and tax attorney, Mack Bernard works to help others achieve the American Dream. Mack has put his life's work into giving back to our community and serving this great county.



Palm Beach County stretches from Florida's Atlantic coast into the state's rural center and includes the northern edge of the Everglades, with a 2017 population of 1.47 million people, and its county seat in West Palm Beach.

For more details about Palm Beach, please see the following resources:

- NACo County Explorer profile
- County economic <u>snaphot</u>

Commissioner Kevin Boyce, Franklin County, Ohio



Commissioner Kevin L. Boyce was elected by the voters of Franklin County to serve as commissioner in 2016. Boyce brings experience as a State Representative, State Treasurer for Ohio and Columbus City Councilmember to the board of commissioners.

Boyce served as a State Representative for the 25th Ohio House District from May 2012 through 2016 where he served on

the House Community and Family Advancement Committee, the Community and Family Advancement Subcommittee on Minority Affairs, House Finance Committee, House Finance Committee on Higher Education, House Rules and Reference Committee and the Controlling Board.

Prior to returning to public service as a state representative, Boyce served as the Managing Director for Rice Financial, a New York Investment banking firm that exclusively focused on assisting State, County, and City governments to finance capital projects.

Boyce earned a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from University of Toledo and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Central Michigan University. He is an active member of the historic St. Paul AME Church in Columbus, Ohio where he serves as a steward and is an active participant in activities for youth and young adults. Boyce and his wife Crystal have two sons, and reside in Columbus, Ohio.



Franklin County is in central Ohio, with a 2017 population of 1.29 million people, and its county seat in Columbus.

For more details about Franklin, please see the following resources:

- NACo County Explorer profile
- County economic snaphot





Commissioner Roy Charles Brooks, Tarrant County, Texas



Commissioner Rov Charles Brooks stands at the forefront of one of the fastest growing urban counties in the United Located in the States. north central part of Texas, Tarrant County serves a population of approximately 2 million citizens. Known for his strong leadership, ability to forge collaborations and influential voice not iust in Tarrant County, but in the State and the Country, Roy fights for

the rights of those he serves.

For over 30 years, Roy has represented his community, as a community volunteer, a city elected official, and now as County Commissioner. He embraces the core values of integrity, innovation and growth.

Roy is committed to the health and welfare of the Since entering office in 2004, he is people. continuously addressing the healthcare issues in his community. He has worked diligently to provide constituents with County numerous opportunities to sign up for healthcare through the Affordable Care Act. He continues to take on issues Healthcare for the Homeless, Infant Mortality, Obesity, Access of Care, Health Disparities, and Aids Education. Roy is aggressively involved in the State and Federal levels of government to assist in developing programs that create and healthcare policy in this Nation's counties.

In July 2015, Roy was elected 2nd Vice President of the National Association of Counties (NACo) where he became President in July 2017. As NACo president, Brooks championed the Serving the Underserved initiative, which showcased the critical role counties play in breaking multi-generational cycles of poverty, especially by focusing on early childhood development and the long-lasting impacts of adverse childhood experiences and trauma. Under Brooks' leadership, NACo saw a year of tremendous accomplishments. The organization participated in a ground-breaking partnership with the J.B. and M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation called the Pritzker Children's Initiative, which coordinates efforts to advance programs and

policies focused on a healthy start for our young people by working with practitioners in communities across the country. Now as Immediate Past President, he will continue to serve on NACo's executive team and bring Tarrant County to the forefront of conversations.

He spearheaded many programs in Tarrant County including: The Tarrant County Ex-Offender Re-Entry Program (TCRI), representing a community-inspired effort to address concerns regarding the successful reentry and reintegration of ex-inmates returning to Tarrant County, Texas. Nurse Family Partnership - an evidence-based nurse home visitation program for first-time mothers and their children, and a Blue Ribbon Task Force on Health Care for the Homeless - promoting wellbeing and improved quality of life among homeless persons in Tarrant County by assuring access to high-quality, comprehensive health care and support services to facilitate transition out of homelessness.

Commissioner Roy Charles Brooks is a committed husband and father, and is married to Dr. Jennifer Giddings Brooks, President and CEO of Brooks and Associates Educational Consultants. They are the proud parents of two children. Their daughter, Royce, is a Harvard trained attorney who currently serves as Executive Director of Annie's List in Austin, TX, and Marion, their son, is a 2010 graduate of the University of Texas Law School who is currently practicing Entertainment Law in Los Angeles, California. He is an active, long-term member of Morningside United Methodist Church, an avid reader, a collector of African American art, a passionate music lover and a participant in the Adlee H. Trezevant Memorial Choir of the Historic I. M. Terrell High School.



Tarrant County is in northeast Texas, with a 2017 population of 2.05 million people, and its county seat in Fort Worth.

For more details about Tarrant, please see the following resources:

- NACo County Explorer profile
- County economic <u>snaphot</u>





County Executive Laura Curran, Nassau County, New York



County Executive Laura Curran was sworn in as the Nassau County Executive in January of 2018. As County Executive, Laura wants to "root out the corruption that has plagued our County and give Nassau the fresh start it so desperately needs." Laura ran on a pledge to fix the mess in Nassau County by finally ending the decades of nepotism, patronage, and

mismanagement that have wasted taxpayer dollars.

Laura was previously a Legislator from the 5th District, representing the communities of South Hempstead, Baldwin, Freeport, Merrick, Oceanside, and Rockville Centre. Her service on the Public Safety; Finance; Minority Affairs; Public Works; Planning, Development & the Environment; and Towns, Villages & Cities committees gave her the opportunity to ensure the communities she represents were more safe, healthy, and resilient.

Throughout her career in government, Laura has lived by a simple tenet: respect taxpayer dollars and make government work for those it serves.

That's why as a Legislator, Laura worked with members of her caucus and those across the aisle to get things done for her community. She spearheaded bipartisan efforts to help veteran-owned businesses do work with the County, waive rebuilding fees for Sandy victims, create a Land Bank to rid our communities of blighted 'zombie homes,' and restore funding to our bus system. However, Laura has never shied away from her core progressive principles and has refused to budge when her values are at stake.

Laura began her career as a reporter at the NY Daily News and the NY Post, covering education, politics, and crime, and was often among the first reporters at breaking news scenes. She specialized in in-depth features, often writing about Long Island. She was an adjunct professor of journalism at SUNY Purchase.

Laura served as a Trustee on the Baldwin Board of Education from 2011-2014, serving as President in her final year. She worked hard, under serious budget constraints, to ensure that every student had access to a well-rounded education. She is a member of the Baldwin and Freeport Chambers of Commerce and the Baldwin Civic Association. She earned her B.A. in Liberal Arts at Sarah Lawrence College, and lives in Baldwin with her husband and their three daughters.



Nassau County is the western county on Long Island in New York, with a 2017 population of 1.37 million people, and its county seat in Mineola

For more details about

Nassau, please see the following resources:

- NACo County Explorer profile
- County economic snaphot

County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper, Erie County, Pennsylvania



County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper took office as Erie County Executive on January 7, 2014. After being re-elected in November 2017, she was sworn in to her second four-year term on January 2, 2018.

Dahlkemper was elected on a platform to create a more efficient, effective and transparent county government. She continues to work to streamline county operations; to improve collaboration, both within county departments and among community organizations; and to help build a more vibrant Erie County for all residents.

Dahlkemper previously represented Pennsylvania's 3rd Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives, serving from 2009 to 2011. She was the first woman elected from the district to this position. During her tenure in Congress, she authored the Young Invincibles legislation, which allows young adults to remain on their parents' health insurance up to age 26 under the Affordable Care Act.





Born and raised in Erie, Dahlkemper earned a bachelor's degree in dietetics from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and worked as a clinical dietitian and later in human resources. In 1998, she and her husband co-founded the nonprofit Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park (L.E.A.F.). Under Dahlkemper's 10-year leadership as executive director, L.E.A.F. raised more than \$2 million for improvements to Frontier Park, creating a multi-use urban park that has become a community hub in Erie.

On a national level, Dahlkemper serves on the National Association of Counties-National League of Cities taskforce on the opioid epidemic, the only representative from Pennsylvania in the group. She also was appointed by Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf to serve on the Great Lakes Commission, as well as on the state's Redistricting Reform Commission and Local Government Advisory Committee. She serves as second vice president for the County Executives of

America and on the boards of the National Ocean Council's Governance Coordinating Committee and the Pennsylvania Center for Women and Politics.

Dahlkemper and her husband, Dan, have five children and eight grandchildren. They live in the city of Erie.



Erie County is in northwest Pennsylvania, with a 2017 population of 274,540 people, and its county seat in Erie.

For more details about Erie,

please see the following resources:

- NACo County Explorer <u>profile</u>
- County economic snaphot

Supervisor Lena Fowler, Coconino County, Arizona



Supervisor Lena Fowler is serving her third term as Coconino County Supervisor for District 5.

She is Navajo, and was raised traditionally, herding sheep as a child and attending Kaibeto boarding schools.

Lena's community service and volunteer work began in 1980 as a

founding member of Tuba City Concerned Citizens. The group began the first coordination of the cleanup of the former Rare Metals Uranium Mill Tailings Site five miles north of Tuba City. She then served as a in his successful bid to become the first Navajo president re-elected in 28 years.

From 2001 to 2005, Lena was a founding member and Health Service which resulted in TCRHCC receiving the second largest IHS health care contract in the country.

From 2002 to 2005, Lena served as president of the Association for Indian Self-Determination in Healthcare. In that capacity, she organized all of the 638 health care contractors on the Navajo Nation,

deputy registrar for the Navajo Nation and Coconino County. She was recognized twice for registering the most voters in Coconino County.

In 2006, she was appointed to the Navajo Nation Water Rights Commission and served as its vice chairwoman until she stepped down to assume her duties on the Board of Supervisors. She was a member of the Commission's negotiation and legislative teams, lobbied Congress, and worked with water rights attorneys, technical staff and consultants to establish Navajo Nation water rights in New Mexico, Arizona and Utah. She also served as the Navajo Nation's representative to the Coconino Plateau Water Advisory Council. Also that year, she put her organizational skills to work as campaign manager for Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr.,

vice president of the Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation Board of Directors. In that capacity, she participated in negotiation sessions with the Indian

worked cooperatively to solve issues of common interest, and coordinated successful lobbying efforts to the Navajo Nation and Congress.

She has three children: Raelene, Christopher and Shonie.







Coconino County is located in the north central part of Arizona, has a 2017 population of 140,780 people, and its county seat in Flagstaff.

For more details about Coconino, please see the following resources:

- NACo County Explorer profile
- County economic snaphot

Commissioner Marion Greene, Hennepin County, Minnesota



Commissioner Marion Greene represents Hennepin County's Third District. and serves as Board Chair. 3 includes District much of Downtown Minneapolis, Southwest Minneapolis, and the entirety of the city of St. Louis Park. Marion

was elected for her second term in 2018. At 2019's first board convening she was unanimously elected Board Chair by her colleagues.

A former State Representative, Marion Greene was chief author of legislation to fully fund all-day kindergarten in Minnesota, and co-author of legislation to establish the Minnesota Health Exchange, now MNSure.

Marion leads on innovative local policies at Hennepin County that have immediate impact on the community including funding for permanent staff to pursue and prevent sex trafficking of young people and to provide services to victims, a fund for county residents who are facing removal proceedings to access legal aid, and phase-out of Hennepin County carbon-emitting fleet vehicles to be replaced with electric vehicles. She is also welcoming a light rail line through her district, to be completed in 2023. Looking to the future, Marion is focused on financial inclusion, justice reform, and continuing the shift towards being a carbon-free county.



Hennepin County is in eastern Minnesota, with a 2017 population of 1.25 million people, and its county seat in Minneapolis.

For more details about Hennepin, please see the following resources:

- NACo County Explorer profile
- County economic snaphot

John Greer Jr., Holmes County, Mississippi



John C. Greer, Jr. is the Chief Executive Officer for the Holmes County Economic **Development District in** Holmes County, MS whose primary mission focus is encourage the growth of Holmes County's existing business and industry, attract new investments...both

foreign and domestic,

recruit industry with skilled, high paying jobs and increase the county's global competitiveness in leading a diverse vibrant economy benefiting its citizens. As a recognized leader, Mr. Greer has worked multi-levels of the business, community and economic development spectrum on the Federal, state and local levels where he has held leadership roles as well as successfully managing their missions, visions and objectives.

Prior to his tenure with the Holmes County Economic Development District, Mr. Greer served as the longest serving (14 Years) Chief Executive Officer of the Mid-Delta Community Development Corporation ("Mid-





Delta CDC") which was a 501 C (3) tax exempted community & economic development corporation designated by the Clinton/Gore Administration with 40 million dollars for programs and 60 million dollars for lending to afford Mississippi Delta communities real opportunities for business, community, economic, social growth and revitalization throughout the Mississippi Delta region with particular emphasis on the counties of Bolivar County, MS, Holmes County, MS, Humphreys County, MS, Sunflower County, MS and Washington County, MS. Under his leadership, Mid-Delta CDC announced competitive project wins involving a dozen of leading companies such as Dollar General Distribution Center, Heartland Catfish, Viking Range, Visteon and Mississippi Delta Community College's Charlie C. Capps Technology Center which created numerous skilled, high paying jobs.

In addition, Mr. Greer worked as a senior managing executive with the United States Small Business Administration in Mississippi where he oversaw the SBA's One Stop Capital Shop through its functions, programs and services as well as serve as SBA's primary contact point for visiting local, state, and national dignitaries, Congressional communications, and the press, regarding Federal level programs conducted by SBA to revitalize the empowerment zone and the greater Mississippi Delta region. Over his five (5) years tenure with the SBA, Mr. Greer assisted Mississippi Delta business clients in securing over 15.3 million dollars in economic development grants and loans. Also, Mr. Greer served as the SBA's Native American representative in Mississippi.

Mr. Greer's other work experience in leadership roles has been with the Mississippi Development Authority as the 1st Director of the Mississippi Rural Minority Business Development Center and Senior Congressional Aide to former Congressman G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery ('Deceased") in the public policy areas of banking, rural/urban economic development, international trade/commerce, justice and agriculture. Additionally, Mr. Greer has been an adjunct professor of government and history at several community colleges and universities in Mississippi.

Mr. Greer holds a Bachelor of Science degree in political science from Tougaloo College and a Master's degree in public administration from the University of Mississippi.



Holmes County is in western central Mississippi, with a 2017 population of 17,740 people, and its county seat in Lexington.

For more details about Holmes, please see the following resources:

- NACo County Explorer profile
- County economic <u>snaphot</u>

Commissioner Natalie Hall, Fulton County, Georgia



Commissioner Natalie Hall is Fulton County Commissioner of District 4, which encompasses the heart of Atlanta, downtown. Midtown. Ward, and Old 4th neighborhoods west of downtown Atlanta to Fulton Industrial Boulevard. The unique attribute about this district is that it's completely inside of the City of Atlanta.

Commissioner Hall is passionate about making a positive impact in the lives of the citizens of Fulton

County. She previously served Fulton County faithfully for 6 years as the Chief of Staff to the late Fulton County District 4 Commissioner Joan P. Garner and has over 25 years of management experience in the public and private sectors.

An honors graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems, Natalie earned her masters' degrees in Business Administration and Public Administration from Keller Graduate School of Management in Atlanta, Georgia. She received Executive Management Certification via Caliber Learning Center from the Wharton School of Business of the University of Pennsylvania. Commissioner Hall is continuing her education with coursework through Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) and the University of Georgia Carl Vinson Institute of Government.





In September 2017, Natalie received the Certified Public Manager (CPM) certification from the Carl Vinson Institute of Government of the University of Georgia. In 2018, Commissioner Hall received her certification as a Certified County Commissioner through Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) and the University of Georgia Carl Vinson Institute of Government.

Commissioner Hall is a member of several boards including Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) where she is a part of the following policy committees: Revenue and Finance, Economic Development and Transportation, and Federal. Commissioner Hall is a member of the Fulton County Board of the Health, the Atlanta Homeless Continuum of Care Governance Council, and has been appointed to a number of NACo boards and committees such as the Healthy Counties Initiative Advisory Board, Information Technology Standing Committee, Resilient Counties Advisory Board and the Large Urban Caucus Steering Committee.

On the County Commission, Commissioner Hall will serve as Executive Sponsor for Fulton's Strategic Priority "All People are Healthy." She believes in a holistic approach to health that includes, but is not

limited to, having good physical and mental health, access to healthy food, access to quality healthcare, gainful employment, and obtaining an overall quality of life that sustains the individual and their family.

Natalie is the mother of two adult sons. She currently resides a few blocks from the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site in the Old Fourth Ward neighborhood with her husband, former District 2 Atlanta City Councilmember Kwanza Hall. She has been a resident of Atlanta since 1988 and has lived in the Old 4th Ward for the past 18 years.



Fulton County is in north central Georgia, with a 2017 population of 1.04 million people, and its county seat in Atlanta.

For more details about Fulton, please see the following resources:

- NACo County Explorer <u>profile</u>
- County economic snaphot

Commissioner Maggie Hart Stebbins, Bernalillo County, New Mexico



Commissioner Maggie Hart Stebbins has served on the Bernalillo County Commission since May 2009, representing the District 3 neighborhoods she has called home for more than 50 years.

In her time on the commission,
Commissioner Hart
Stebbins has focused on ethics reform;

expanding local economic opportunities through responsible job creation; feeding hungry children; improving access to mental health and substance use treatment services; supporting at-risk students and their families through the ABC Community School Partnership; protecting Bernalillo County's great open spaces including the county's first urban open space at the UNM North Golf Course; increasing the county minimum wage; and working to make sure men and

women receive equal pay for equal work.

As a member of the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority Board, she is committed to protecting our precious groundwater resources. She led early efforts to remediate the Bulk Fuels Facility jet fuel spill at Kirtland Air Force Base and sponsored county policies to reduce nitrate contamination from leaking septic systems.

Commissioner Hart Stebbins has always been willing to listen to county residents and respond to their needs. She invests the time necessary to study and thoughtfully evaluate all issues that come before the commission to make sure that taxpayers are getting the services and outcomes they deserve. She and her husband, Eric, are raising their family in District 3.







Bernalillo County is the most populous county in New Mexico, with a 2017 population of 676,770 people, and its county seat in Albuquerque.

For more details about Bernalillo, please see the following resources:

- NACo County Explorer profile
- County economic <u>snaphot</u>

Commissioner Jim Hinebaugh, Garrett County, Maryland



Commissioner Jim Hinebaugh is a Garrett County native and lifelong Republican. He graduated from Southern High School attended and State Frostburg before University entering the U.S. Army via the draft. serving as an enlisted

member, Hinebaugh attended Engineer Officer Candidate School (OCS) and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers. He subsequently retired as a Colonel/06 in 1995 with almost 29 years of service, including eight years of duty overseas.

During his military career, Hinebaugh served as Company Commander (Vietnam and Germany), Battalion Commander (Germany), Commander of Red River Army Depot (Texarkana, Texas), Commander of the Defense Industrial Supply Center (Philadelphia, PA) and Commander of the Defense Distribution Center East (New Cumberland, PA). His military schooling includes the Command & General Staff College, the Army War College, and the U.S. Army Airborne School. His military awards include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with "V" device, Air Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Valorous Unit Award, and Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

Commissioner Hinebaugh is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi (BS in Computer Science/Math) and Shippensburg University (MBA in Public Administration). Hinebaugh ended his military career two years early to return home and become Garrett County's Director of Economic Development.

Hinebaugh worked with local elected officials, state officials, state and federal agencies, and business and community leaders to develop the County's first Strategic Plan for Economic Development. Following this plan, the County reduced its annual average unemployment rate from 13.7% to less than 5%, tripled the acreage available in its business parks, expanded infrastructure to support business growth, and improved educational attainment. From 2000 to 2010, County businesses added over 3,000 new jobs for a growth rate of 17%, exceeding the state and national growth rates.

Commissioner Hinebaugh has served on a number of state commissions and local committees and currently serves on the Boards of the Garrett County Development Corporation and the Maryland Association of Counties. He is a member of VFW Post 10077 in Deer Park, American Legion Post 0071 in Oakland, and Elk's Lodge 2481 in Oakland. Hinebaugh's hobbies include hunting, hiking, reading and working out. He and his wife Barbara have two children, Laura and Chris, reside in the Swallow Falls area and are members of St. Matthews Episcopal Church.



Garrett County is the western most county in Maryland, with a 2017 population of 29,230 people, and its county seat in Oakland.

For more details about Garrett, please see the following resources:

- NACo County Explorer profile
- County economic <u>snaphot</u>





Commissioner Merceria Ludgood, Mobile County, Alabama



Attorney, civic leader and District One Mobile County **Commissioner** Merceria Ludgood's and work life experiences are а testament to her personal motto: "To whom much is given, much is required.

The native of Mobile's Crichton neighborhood graduated with honors in 1970 from Toulminville High School. In 1974, she earned her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Alabama, followed in 1976 by a Master of Arts degree. An avid supporter of higher education, Ludgood also earned a Master of Divinity degree from the Alabama Interdenominational Seminary in 1990.

Ludgood earned her law degree in 1981 from the Antioch School of Law in Washington, D.C. She also worked as a law clerk in 1980 to the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Jurisprudence and Governmental Relations, chaired by Sen. Howell Heflin of Alabama.

She returned to Mobile in 1981 to begin her law practice with the firm of Figures, Irby and Ludgood, where she remained until 1988 when she opened her own office. In 1991, she continued her commitment to social justice when she was selected to lead the Legal Services Corporation of Alabama, which provides free civil legal services for income-eligible clients. She supervised 14 offices serving 60 of Alabama's 67 counties. The job led Ludgood back to Washington, D.C. in 1995, when she became director of the Office of Program Services in the national office of the Legal Services Corporation. She returned home to Mobile 1998 and served as a full-time assistant county attorney and assistant city attorney, respectively, until she was elected to her present position on Oct. 9, 2007.

Ludgood is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including being selected for Leadership Mobile, Leadership Alabama and the prestigious Kellogg National Leadership Fellowship. As a Kellogg Fellow, she traveled to 17 countries on five continents, interviewing women leaders. She has been honored for her public service by many community organizations including in 2008, recipient of Mobile United's A.F. Delchamps Award for creating community by forging unity from diversity; 2012 Mobile Bar Association Trailblazer Award; 2016 al.com Women who shape the state; 2017 Governing Magazine Women in Government Leadership Class and 2016 Inductee Alabama Lawyers Association Hall of Fame.

The Commissioner has distinguished herself as a member of the inaugural class of "Herstory of Mobile," a Museum of Mobile project recognizing the outstanding contributions of women to the social, economic and cultural heritage of the Gulf Coast region.

Ludgood donates her time to many organizations, including Mobile United/Leadership Mobile, Leadership Alabama, Alabama Appleseed Center of Law and Justice, United Way of Southwest AL, and the United Way Women's Initiative.



Mobile County is the southwestern most county in Alabama, with a 2017 population of 413,960 people, and its county seat in Mobile.

For more details about Mobile, please see the following resources:

- NACo County Explorer profile
- County economic <u>snaphot</u>





Supervisor Allison Mays, Washington County, Virginia



Supervisor Allison Mays serves as Vice-Chair of the Washington County Board of Supervisors and is the Director of Corporate and Government Relations at Barter Theatre in Abingdon, Virginia.

Allison is involved with NACo as Vice-Chair of the Arts and Culture Commission and a member of the Rural Action Caucus. Allison is very active in the community and serves on

the Washington County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Smart Beginnings Virginia Highlands Coalition and as a Community Ambassador for Virginia Highlands Community College. She was also a Past-President of the Emory & Henry College Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Allison's prior community involvement on the local level includes:

- Rotary Club of Washington County
- Leadership Washington County Class of 2014
- Town Square Center for the Arts Board of Directors
- Arts Alliance Mountain Empire Board of Directors

On the state level, Allison has been active in the following organizations:

- Virginia Commission for the Arts Advisory Panelist
- LEAD VIRGINIA Class of 2014

On the national level, Allison participated in:

- National Endowment for the Arts Advisory Panelist
- Jessie Ball duPont Fund Developing Excellence in Leadership Institute through Georgetown University Class of 2014

Prior to joining Barter Theatre in 2012, Allison worked 14 years in the financial services industry, most recently as a Financial Advisor with Merrill Lynch.

Allison enjoys reading, being active in the community, outdoor activities and spending time with her family.



Washington County is southwestern Virginia, with a 2017 population of 54,390 people, and its county seat in Abingdon.

For more details about

Bernalillo, please see the following resources:

- NACo County Explorer profile
- County economic <u>snaphot</u>

Supervisor Larry Nelson, Waukesha County, Wisconsin



Supervisor Larry Nelson was a middle school Language Arts teacher for 30 years at Butler Middle School until he was elected Waukesha Mayor in 2006. As Mayor, he helped to get Lakes the Great Compact passed by the Wisconsin Legislature in 2008. The Waukesha Common Council was the first community in the U.S. to submit a

Great Lakes Water Application in 2010 and the first to be approved by all eight Great Lakes Governors in 2016.

Larry was also a Waukesha Alderman for 6 years and in 2009, was elected by his peers as President of the Wisconsin Alliance of Cities. He was elected as a Waukesha County Supervisor in 2012 and re-elected to a fifth term in 2020.

As a county supervisor, Larry strongly supported and voted for the West Bypass (while serving as Waukesha Mayor, he collaborated with former County Executive Vrakas to successfully negotiate an agreement with the Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation) which was completed in 2020. He voted for 9 Waukesha County budgets that have kept Waukesha County with the lowest property tax rate among counties without a sales tax in Wisconsin and to maintain best budgeting





practices to protect Waukesha County's AAA bond ratings.

Larry supported and voted for the Joint Employee Health and Wellness Center in partnership with the City of Waukesha and Waukesha School District saving city taxpayers \$7 Million over 5 years in healthcare costs.

He strongly supported and voted for Jefferson County to join the Waukesha County Federated Library System, creating the Bridges Library System, which is saving taxpayers money and expanding access to more library items.

Larry serves as a Vice Chair of the NACo Community, Economic and Workforce Development Steering Committee and the NACo Arts and Culture Commission. He is Co-Chair of the Waukesha County Heroin Task Force, Chair of the HHS Board, and serves on the Wisconsin Counties Association HHS Steering Committee.



Waukesha County is in south east Wisconsin, with a 2017 population of 400,620 people, and its county seat in Waukesha.

For more details about Waukesha, please see the following resources:

- NACo County Explorer profile
- County economic snaphot

Commissioner Kathleen Peters, Pinellas County, Florida



Commissioner Kathleen
Peters moved to Pinellas
County in 1985 and raised
her four sons in St.
Petersburg and the beaches.
She received her BA in
Human Development from
Eckerd College and her AA
degree from St. Petersburg
College. Kathleen has owned
and operated a business in
St. Pete Beach, and in serving
with the Juvenile Welfare
Board of Pinellas County, the

YMCA, and the Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce, she has extensive ties to the Pinellas community and businesses.

Serving southwest Pinellas County in the Florida House of Representatives (2012 - 2018), Rep. Peters served as Chair of the Energy and Utilities Committee. She also served as a member of the Commerce and Ways & Means Committees and on the Children, Families, & Seniors Subcommittee. Her legislative achievements range from reforming Florida's mental health system, to protecting utility ratepayers from creative billing, securing funding to protect and re-nourish our beaches and waterways, to tightening reporting requirements when sewage is released into the environment.

As a State Representative, Kathleen passed several bills that benefit Floridians in Pinellas and across the state, including reducing taxes for apartment and condominium owners. In the name of a local teenage girl who lost her life in a boating accident, Rep. Peters passed legislation for better boater safety requirements. She also spearheaded a social marketing campaign, "Who knew?" to bring attention to the true face of the homeless population, veterans, single moms, and children.

In her role with the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County, Kathleen coordinated a statewide advocacy group to develop a legislative agenda for positive youth policies associated with juvenile justice. She also coordinated a group of more than seventy youth for developing program criteria and acquiring funding to open a local teen center as a millennium youth legacy project in Pinellas Park.

In 2001, she began work at the YMCA of Greater St. Petersburg as grant manager and later as the Financial Development Director. Along with developing numerous partnerships for the YMCA, Kathleen built consensus to identify strategies to combat the elevated rate of school suspensions and school related arrests among middle school students. This research resulted in the development of the award-winning YMCA Youth Enhancement Skills Program, which demonstrated strong positive outcomes. In 2004, Kathleen presented this award-winning program at a Congressional Briefing for the U.S. House and Senate.







Pinellas County is on the central west coast of Florida, with a 2017 population of 970,640 people, and its county seat in Clearwater.

For more details about Pinellas, please see the following resources:

- NACo County Explorer profile
- County economic <u>snaphot</u>

Commissioner Greg Puckett, Mercer County, West Virginia



Commissioner Greg **Puckett** is a native southern West Virginian with a passion for community! As alumnus of Princeton Senior High School and Concord College, Greg has worked diligently communities with across the country to bring in special projects

and initiatives in the hopes of preventing the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs amongst youth and their families. He has also been an integral part of several community revitalization and conservation initiatives.

Although he has held a number of positions in the local community prior to serving as County Commissioner, he is currently the Executive Director of Community Connections Inc. (CCI) (the County's Family Resource Network), where he continually reaches across county and state lines to help guide the prevention and community building process. As such, he currently serves on several state committees including the Governors Committee on Crime, Delinquency and Correction: Juvenile Justice Subcommittee, the WV Drug Endangered Children Taskforce, the state Underage Prevention Workgroup, WV MADD Leadership Committee, and is one of a team of local businesses and individuals passionately dedicated to revitalization and economic stabilization through the Princeton Renaissance Project (a partnership with the West Virginia HUB initiative).

Since being elected as County Commissioner in November 2014, Greg has worked in cooperation with other Commissioners to re-establish the Mercer County Planning Commission, expanded the litter control efforts to establish the nationally recognized and award winning Keep Mercer Clean Campaign, established tighter policies and ordinances to insure accountability, and, worked to pay off the county debt

to our regional jail. Together, the Commission has invested over \$500,000 into our county park, worked to expand technology within the courthouse, and strengthened new community-based partnerships.

He currently serves on the Mercer County 911 Board of Directors, as well as the Board of the Mercer County Convention and Visitor's Bureau. He is on the board to promote the King Coal Highway, the Mercer Planning Commission, the West Virginia Risk Pool Board, and has been added to the County Commission Association of West Virginia (CCAWV) Board of Directors and Legislative Committee. He is currently West Virginia's representative on the Health Committee for the National Association of Counties (NACo), and also serves as Vice Chair of the Juvenile Justice Subcommittee and is a member of NACo's Arts and Culture Subcommittee. Greg was formerly on the National Coalition Advisory Committee for CADCA (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America) and was promoted to Secretary of the Board of Directors in 2018. He works in close partnership with Federal Legislators and other national organizations such as SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) to carry out a host of national initiatives and pilot programs.

He is the proud father of two kids (Lauren and Joseph) that keep him dedicated to making positive change happen and leaving a legacy for the next generation to follow.

Commissioner Puckett serves as the Region III representative.



Mercer County is in southern West Virginia, with a 2017 population of 59,750 people, and its county seat in Princeton.

For more details about





Mercer, please see the following resources:

- NACo County Explorer profile
- County economic <u>snaphot</u>

Commissioner Phyllis Randall, Loudoun County, Virginia



Commissioner Phyllis Randall was elected Chair at Large of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors in November 2015. Her election was historic as she became the first woman of color in Virginia's history to be an elected chair of a county Board.

As Loudoun's Chair at Large, she represents Loudoun on various regional, state and

national bodies including, serving as Chair of the Virginia Association of Counties Health and Human Resources sub-committee, Vice Chair of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, member of the Council of Governments Board of Directors and member of the National Association of Counties Health and Human Resources Committee

In June of 2018, Chair Randall was selected as one of only twenty-five women in the country to be included in the 2019 class of Governing Magazine's Women in Government Leadership Program. In addition, in 2018, the citizens of Loudoun County voted Chair Randall Favorite Public Official, an honor which she is most humbled by and proud of.

From 2009-2011, Chair Randall served as Chair of Virginia's Fair Housing Board under Governors Tim Kaine and Bob McDonnell. From 2014 to June of 2018, she served as Chair of Virginia's State Board of Corrections under Governor Terry McAuliffe.

By profession, Chair Randall is a mental health therapist, working with substance abusing offenders in a local adult detention center, a position she enjoyed for over fifteen years.

She and her husband Thaddeus (T.W.) have lived in Loudoun since 2003, and are the proud parents of two sons, Ashon and Aaron.



Loudoun County is in northern Virginia, with a 2017 population of 398,080 people, and its county seat in Leesburg.

For more details about Loudoun, please see the following resources:

- NACo County Explorer profile
- County economic snaphot

Supervisor Manuel Ruiz, Santa Cruz County, Arizona







Supervisor Manual "Manny" Ruiz is in his 5th term as Supervisor. goals are continue to work and establish better working relationship with the City of Nogales as it is very important to develop that trust to make a greater impact on the quality of life for

all Santa Cruz residents and no one entity can make this happen by themselves. By working together, Santa Cruz can make this a model community for all of its residents to have the opportunity to succeed. Supervisor Ruiz has been very fortunate in having leadership positions in state, national and local associations. This has allowed him to exchange ideas and problems with other elected officials across the nation both to find creative solutions to issues and ask them how they solved some of the same issues they have in common. Every day there are opportunities to work with local organizations to create and improve the quality of life for all Santa Cruz's residents.

He has served on the Nogales Unified School District Board for 22 years and understands the importance of a quality education in economic development for our community. As the Public Works Director for the City of Nogales, he worked very hard on improving our infrastructure, both streets and utilities, as they are vital if the county wants to attract good paying business to our community.

He earned his AA degree from Cochise College with honors in 2006 and in 2008 he earned a Public Manager Certificate from Arizona State University.

Supervisor Ruiz is a lifelong resident of Nogales and Santa Cruz County. His wife Lupita and he have been married for 38 years and are the proud parents of 2 children (a young man and young lady) living in Phoenix, Arizona who are furthering their education and working to become productive members of our society.



Santa Cruz County is in southern Arizona with a 13-miles of border between the U.S. and Mexico, with a 2017 population of 46,210 people, and its county seat in Nogales.

For more details about Nogales, please see the following resources:

- NACo County Explorer profile
- County economic snaphot

Commissioner Lori Stegmann, Multnomah County, Oregon



Commissioner Lori Stegmann grew up in Rockwood neighborhood West Gresham after being adopted as an infant from an orphanage in South Lori Korea. put herself through college, attended

Mt. Hood Community College and received her bachelor's degree in business from Portland State University. She has been a small business owner and insurance agent for over 20 years, specializing in commercial insurance.

Prior to serving on the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners, she served six years on the Gresham City Council and served as City Council President in 2014. In 2016 she was elected into her first term as a

Multnomah County Commissioner and represents District 4.

District 4 begins in East Portland at 148th Street and ends at the Hood River County line near the Bonneville Dam. District 4 encompasses East Portland and the cities of Fairview, Gresham, Troutdale and Wood Village, as well as the unincorporated areas of Corbett, Dodson, Latourell and Warren.

In her last three years she has continued to be a champion for underserved communities in her district addressing issues in areas of housing stability, economic development and public safety.

This year she serves as a board liaison to Governor Kate Brown's Regional Solutions Board, the Library Advisory Board, Greater Portland Inc, the East Metro Economic Alliance, the Association of Oregon Counties and the East Multnomah County Transportation Committee.





Presently, she is coordinating Census 2020 efforts for Multnomah County, and combining efforts regionally with Clackamas and Washington Counties, cities within each of the three Metro Counties, Metro regional government, and the Governor's office to make sure our communities reflect an accurate count.



Multnomah County is in northern Oregon, with a 2017 population of 807,560 people, and its county seat in Portland.

For more details about

Multnomah, please see the following resources:

- NACo County Explorer <u>profile</u>
- County economic <u>snaphot</u>