

Glenda E. Hood

The Honorable Glenda E. Hood is former Florida Secretary of State and Mayor of Orlando. She has dedicated her adult life to making her community and state a better place to live, work and raise a family.

As a businesswoman, volunteer and public leader, Glenda Hood has been an active force in the community and government for decades. She has served in a myriad of leadership roles at the local, state and national levels. The Orlando Sentinel refers to Hood as a “tireless visionary” with “marketing savvy”, “tenacity and experience”. (Editorial 2005)

Glenda Hood was first elected to public office in 1982 as an Orlando City Council member, reelected in 1986 and 1990. She was also president of her own public relations firm.

The first woman elected Mayor of Orlando in 1992 and again in 1996 and 2000. Mayor Hood served three terms as the chief executive officer for the City with responsibility for a workforce of 3,200 employees and an annual budget of \$526 million.

As Mayor, Glenda Hood used growth management strategies and smart growth principles to build safe, livable neighborhoods, a revitalized downtown and a strong local economy. Under Mayor Hood’s leadership the City grew through annexations by 50%, older and historic in-town neighborhoods were restored and revitalized, compatible new mixed-use infill was constructed, the city’s largest parks initiative built new parks and refurbished existing ones, unprecedented partnerships in education were established, transportation alternatives were championed, Orlando became a high-tech center and competitive world marketplace, and the arts became a civic priority.

Mayor Hood served as a board member of the Orlando Utilities Commission, the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority, MetroPlan, and chairman of Lynx, the regional transportation authority.

She spearheaded the reuse plan for the Orlando Naval Training Center, the most ambitious economic development project in the City’s history. The new Baldwin Park neighborhood is recognized across the country as one of the finest examples of reuse of former government properties and a model for incorporating all the elements of smart growth. This achievement received the Urban Land Institute’s (ULI) Award for Excellence.

Shortly after September 11, 2001, Governor Bush appointed Mayor Hood to chair the State of Florida Domestic Security Advisory Panel. In April 2002, Mayor Hood established one of the nation’s first Citizens Corps, a volunteer disaster preparedness initiative. She was appointed to the U. S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary’s Homeland Security Advisory Council, the State and Local Officials and Private Sector Senior Advisory Committees, and chaired the Administration Transition Task Force where she served through February, 2009.

Mayor Hood was tapped by Governor Jeb Bush to be Florida Secretary of State in December 2002 while serving her third term as Mayor of Orlando. She lead the

Department of State through the transition from an elected constitutional office to an appointed Governor's agency and was responsible for the Department's Divisions of

Administrative Services, Corporations, Cultural Affairs, Elections, Historical Resources, and Library and Information Services. Secretary Hood served as the State's Chief Elections Officer and Chief Cultural Officer.

Secretary Hood was immediately thrust into the international spotlight as the public official charged with ensuring the integrity of Florida's elections system. She spearheaded a highly successful voter education campaign which led to greater citizen involvement, higher turnout and increased voter confidence. She has been widely credited for overseeing the seamless 2004 election cycle, as well as for assisting counties in election preparation during hurricane recovery efforts.

Secretary Hood was instrumental in crafting the State's Strategic Plan for Economic Development which is now being implemented across the state in partnership with Enterprise Florida. She commissioned economic impact studies to assess Florida's programs in the arts, historic preservation and libraries. Under Glenda Hood's leadership the state's 10-year cultural strategic plan – *Culture Builds Florida's Future* – was developed. In the 2005 legislative session, Secretary Hood obtained the highest arts funding in recent years. She also ensured that access to the most comprehensive, accurate and reliable information available through the Florida Electronic Library was provided to the 2.7 million students in Florida's 2,600 public schools.

Glenda Hood has always been a leader in international business initiatives. She organized the Metro Orlando International Affairs Council and led missions to Latin America, Europe, Asia and Africa as Mayor. Most recently she led State of Florida missions to Japan, Korea, China, Peru and Brazil. She also helped establish the Florida/China business initiative. She has been a key player in building partnerships among 34 countries in The Americas and Caribbean to secure the permanent Secretariat for the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) in Florida, participated in high level negotiations and been a speaker at various international forums.

As Secretary of State, Glenda Hood served on the Boards of Enterprise Florida (state's public-private partnership for economic development), the Council of 100 (private, non-profit, non-partisan organization on business issues), the Base Realignment Advisory Commission (BRAC), and the Florida Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

Governor Bush expressed gratitude to Secretary Hood for providing "strong, courageous leadership for our state" and noted that she is an "extraordinary leader" and "invaluable asset to my entire administration as she brought her perspectives on local government and economic development".

She lead the nation's cities and towns as their chief advocate during her tenure as President of the National League of Cities and has served as President of the Florida League of Cities and Chairman of the Board of the Florida Chamber of Commerce.

Glenda Hood serves on the corporate boards of SantaFe HealthCare and Baskerville-Donovan, Inc. engineering firm. She is immediate past-Chairman, a board member and chair of the Audit Committee of Partners for Livable Communities, a national/international organization designed to enhance community life through innovation, studies and programs. She also serves on the national boards of the

Alliance for Regional Stewardship and the AfterSchool Alliance. She was elected a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration, an independent, non-partisan organization chartered by Congress to assist federal, state and local governments in improving their effectiveness, efficiency and accountability and has served on their consulting panels for *Prioritizing America's Water Resources Investments* and *Addressing the 2009 Presidential Transition at the Department of Homeland Security*. Glenda Hood is an active participant with the Urban Land Institute's (ULI) advisory panels in cities across the nation and serves on the ULI Daniel Rose Center for Land Use and Leadership Advisory Board. She is a trustee of the Florida Chamber Foundation and a trustee of the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation; a board member of Florida's Gubernatorial Fellows Program, the Boy Scout Central Florida Council; and member of Arnold Palmer Hospital National Advisory Council. Most recently, she was asked to serve on the Climate Prosperity, Inc. National Advisory Board.

Hood is President and CEO of her own business development and consulting company, Hood Partners LLC.

An Orlando native and fourth generation Floridian, Glenda Hood received her BA degree in Spanish from Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida, and completed the Executive Program at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, the Society of International Business Fellows Program at Georgia State University and the Mayor's Urban Design Institute at the University of Virginia.

Glenda and her husband, Charlie, have been married for 37 years and have three married children and seven grandchildren. They are active members of St. Michael's Episcopal Church.