



Bob Buckhorn
Mayor
City of Tampa

A 1980 graduate of Penn State University, Bob Buckhorn arrived in Tampa in 1982. After taking a marketing position with a national consumer product company, he became active in national and local politics, chairing along with Senator Pat Frank, the John Glenn for President campaign in Hillsborough County.

In 1985, he assumed the position of Director of Governmental Affairs for the Builders Association of Greater Tampa, a trade association representing the construction industry in Hillsborough County. As such, he led the effort to establish the Hillsborough County Housing Finance Agency, which has resulted in thousands of first time home buyers being given the opportunity for the American dream of home ownership through the use of low interest financing.

In 1987, he coordinated the successful mayoral campaign of Mayor Sandy Freedman and assumed the role of Special Assistant to the Mayor upon her election. He served in this capacity until March of 1995. During this time he was the recipient of the "Up and Comers" award by the Tampa Bay Business Journal and the accounting firm of Price Waterhouse. In addition, he was recognized as one of the states emerging young leaders by his selection for the Leadership Florida program by the Florida Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

In 1991, he was selected to Chair the MacDill Reuse Advisory Committee and over the ensuing four years helped lead the effort to save MacDill Air Force Base from closure. MacDill Air Force Base was one of only a handful of bases around the country that have successfully fought a decision of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission decision to close or realign them. As a result MacDill's 6000 jobs and 2 billion dollar economic impact are secure and in fact, MacDill is now home to a new flying mission.

As a result of his MacDill experience, he was nominated by the Governor and approved by the Legislature to serve as a member of Florida's Defense Transition and Conversion Commission. This Commission was charged with designing a blueprint for Florida's response to the 1995 recommendations of the Base Closure Commission as well as designing a strategy for the successful transition from a defense related economy to the conversion of military technology

to a civilian application.

He co-chaired with Florida Secretary of Commerce, Charles Dusseau, the Base Closure Committee that coordinated Florida's fight to save its bases. The end result was Florida suffered no base closures and in fact was the recipient of a net gain in military related jobs.

In 1995, he was elected to an at-large seat on the Tampa City Council for his first term. In that capacity he was the Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, a member of the Municipal Planning Organization and the Chairman of the Hillsborough River Interlocal Planning Board.

After his election to the City Council Bob undertook a vigorous agenda. Focusing on law enforcement in particular, he proposed and led the passage of the City's Rave Ordinance. This law which put an end to Raves in establishments with alcohol beverage permits was used as a model for the recently passed statewide Rave Ordinance and was highlighted in a ABC News 20/20 segment.

He led the effort to defend our public spaces and protect our families through a number of ordinances aimed at quality of life crimes.

He helped shape one of the nations most aggressive and comprehensive attacks on prostitution and was successful in passing a recent ordinance that allowed police to impound the cars of those arrested in the act of soliciting for prostitution. In addition he worked with police to strengthen curfew laws and remove drug dealers from public housing through the vigorous enforcement of the "One Strike and You're Out" policy. He also initiated "Predator TV" where the names, addresses and pictures of convicted sexual predators are shown on government access television in an effort to help parents and neighbors protect our children.

Fiscal discipline and neighborhood empowerment also remain high on his legislative agenda. He helped to lead the effort to pass the Save our Seniors initiative which allowed thousands of low income seniors to reduce their property tax burden by exempting a additional \$25,000 of their homestead exemption tax.

He initiated and got passed one of the areas toughest lobbyist registration ordinance, strengthened City Council financial disclosure requirements and has fought to interject competition into city government. In addition, in 2003 he proposed and helped write a massive overhaul of the City of Tampa's code of ethics that was subsequently implemented by the Iorio administration.

In the fall of 1998 he was nominated and selected from over 1000 nominations from around the country to represent the American Council of Young Political Leaders as a delegate to the Republic of South Africa and in 2000 was named as one of America's "100 to Watch" by the Democratic Leadership Council, a national organization.

In 1999 he was reelected to the Tampa City Council for a second term with 75% of the vote

where he served until 2003.

In 2003 he joined the Dewey Square Group, a nationally known public affairs company, where he served as a principal in the Florida office. In March of 2007 he opened Buckhorn Partners, a public affairs firm based in Tampa.

He is married to Dr. Catherine Lynch Buckhorn, an OB/GYN and the associate Vice President of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of South Florida Medical School. He is also the father of two daughters, Grace and Colleen Buckhorn.