

Florida Advisory Committee

These business, military, farmer, faith, and community leaders understand that Florida wins when America leads in the world with strategic investments in development and diplomacy, alongside defense.

Co-Chairs

Hon. Ted Yoho

U.S. House of Representatives
(2013-2021)

Hon. Alex Sink

CFO of the State of Florida
(2007-2011)

Brig. Gen. John Adams*

Guardian Six, LLC
President
U.S. Army (Ret.)

Hon. Sandy Adams*

U.S. House of Representatives
Member (2011-2013)

Mary Alford

Alachua County Commission
Commissioner, District 1

Manuel Almira

Port of Palm Beach
Executive Director

Hon. Liz Alpert

Alpert Law, PA
Attorney
City of Sarasota
Mayor (2023-2024)

Hon. Jason Altmire

Career Education Colleges &
Universities
CEO
U.S. House of Representatives
Member (2007-2013)

Annette Alvarez

Global Ties Miami
Former Executive Director

Walter Alvarez

Absolut Financial Resources, Inc.
*Commercial Real Estate Lender &
Broker*
Rotary Club of Coral Gables
Member

Bryan Anderson

Hospital Corp of America
Vice President, Government Relations

Paul Anderson

Port Tampa Bay
President & CEO

Sebastian Aranguibel

U.S. House of Representatives
Content Developer
USGLC Next Gen Global Leader

Luis Arguello

DemeTECH Corporation
President & CEO

J. Frederick Arment

International Cities of Peace
Board Chair & Lead Facilitator

Allen Armstrong

New Venture Research Corporation
Chief Strategy Officer

Adam E. Babington

Walt Disney World
Vice President, External Affairs

Dr. Teo A. Babun, Jr.

Outreach Aid to the Americas, Inc.
President & CEO
Cuba-Caribbean Development Co.
Founder
Line Electric Co.
Founder

Jonathan Baety

TSG Financial Advisors
Financial Advisor

Ryan Barras

Tekesta Consulting
Founder & Owner

Oliver Barrett*

Center for Climate and Security
Senior Research Fellow

Mary Barzee Flores, Esq.

Florida Department of Agriculture and
Consumer Services
*Deputy Commissioner for Consumer
Services*

Hon. Dick J. Batchelor*

Florida Legislature
State Representative (1974-1982)

Hon. Dennis Baxley

Florida Legislature
State Senator (2016-2024)

Slater Bayliss

The Advocacy Partners
Co-Founder

Hon. Juan Carlos Bermudez

Miami-Dade County
County Commissioner, District 12
City of Doral
Mayor (2003-2012, 2016-2022)

Doug Bevis

Upper Tampa Bay Chamber of
Commerce
*Director of Business & Government
Affairs*

Basil Binns

Miami International Airport
*Deputy Director for Administration &
Business Development*

Sarah S. Boeckmann

Great Plains Foundation
Director

Hon. Aaron Bowman*

USO Florida
Executive Director

Hon. Doug Broxson

Florida Legislature
State Senator (2017-2024)

Bob Burleson

Ballard Partners
Partner

Jeb Bush, Jr.

Finback Investment Partners
Managing Partner

Hon. Dean Cannon

Gray Robinson
President & CEO
Florida Legislature
Speaker (2010-2012)
State Representative (2004-2012)

Kristen Carlson

Florida Citrus Processors Association
Former Executive Director
Macfarlane Ferguson & McMullen
Of Counsel

Hon. Betty Castor

University of South Florida
President (1994-1999)
Florida Legislature
*State Senator (1976-1978, 1982-
1986)*

Hon. Jane Castor

City of Tampa
Mayor

Florida Advisory Committee

Joe Catrambone

Stuart/Martin County Chamber of
Commerce
President & CEO

Hon. Paul Cejas

U.S. Department of State
Ambassador to Belgium (1998-2001)

Col. Allan Childers*

General Dynamics Information
Technology
Consultant
U.S. Air Force (Ret.)

Ross Clemons*

Panama City Rescue Mission
Executive Director

Dr. Nat J. Colletta

Sarasota World Affairs Council
President, Board of Directors
New College of Florida
Professor of International Studies
The World Bank
*Founding Manager, Conflict Prevention
/Post-Conflict Reconstruction Unit*

Hon. Bob Cortes

Seminole County Sheriff's Office
*Senior Administrator, Government &
Community Affairs*
Florida Legislature
State Representative (2014-2018)

Dr. Grant H. Cornwell

Rollins College
President

Jon Costello

Capitol Strategy Group
President

Bill Cronin

Pasco Economic Development Council
President & CEO

Ana Cruz

Ballard Partners
Managing Partner, Tampa Office

Husein Cumber

Florida East Coast Industries
Chief Strategy Officer

Hon. Carlos Curbelo

Vocero, LLC
Principal
U.S. House of Representatives
Member (2015-2019)

Hon. John E. Dailey

City of Tallahassee
Mayor

Hon. Daniel Davis

JAX Chamber
President & CEO
Florida Legislature
State Representative (2010-2014)

Hon. Jim Davis

Holland & Knight LLP
Partner
U.S. House of Representatives
Member (1997-2007)

Hon. John A. Delaney

Flagler College
President
City of Jacksonville
Mayor (1995-2003)

Maj. Teague de la Plaine*

Writers Guild of America
Author
United States Marine Corps (Ret.)

Hon. Manny Diaz, Jr.

Florida Department of Education
Commissioner (2022-2025)
Florida Legislature
State Senator (2018-2022)
State Representative (2012-2018)

Hon. Manuel A. Diaz

Florida Democratic Party
Chairman (2021-2023)
City of Miami
Mayor (2001-2009)

Brett Doster

Front Line Strategies
President

Kevin Doyle

Consumer Energy Alliance
Executive Vice President
Carrick Falcons Northern Irish
Women's Football Team & FK Cesis
Latvian Football Team
Owner

Hon. Melissa Dunn

City of Lauderhill
Commissioner

Nicole Duque

Florida Health
Deputy Communications Director
USGLC Next Gen Global Leader

Hon. Buddy Dyer

City of Orlando
Mayor

Commander Phil Ehr*

Ehr Force PAC
Chair
U.S. Navy (Ret.)

Eric Eikenberg

The Everglades Foundation
CEO

Maj. Gen Kenneth P. Ekman*

U.S. Air Force (Ret.)

Clint Elbow

United Nations Association – Tampa
Bay Chapter
Treasurer, Board of Directors

Allen Ellison

Bangko Maharlika
Member, Board of Directors
Prince of Nok Kingdom

David Erickson

ECHO, Inc
Former President & CEO

Hon. Anna V. Eskamani

Florida Legislature
State Representative

Hon. Tom Feeney

GrayRobinson, P.A.
Of Counsel
U.S. House of Representatives
Member (2003-2009)

Hon. Simon Ferro

AVILA Law
Partner
U.S. Department of State
Ambassador to Panama (1999-2001)

Kelly A. Flannery

South Tampa Chamber of Commerce
President & CEO

Rabbi Joel Fleekop

Temple Beth El

Dr. Ken Ford*

Institute for Human and Machine
Cognition
Former CEO

Dr. Sean D. Foreman

Bary University
Professor of Political Science

Jamil French

Arche Investments, LLC
Founder & CEO
Sterlington
Partner

Nikki Fried

Florida Democratic Party
Chairwoman
Florida Department of Agriculture and
Consumer Services
Commissioner (2019-2023)

Florida Advisory Committee

Brenda Frinks*

Sun City Events & Entertainment
President

Sondie Frus

GlobalJax
Former Chairwoman

Julio Fuentes

Florida State Hispanic Chamber of
Commerce
President & CEO

Sarah Gal

WorldOrlando
Executive Director

Hon. Joe Garcia

Mercury
Co-Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives
Member (2013-2015)

Betsy Gardner Eckbert

Winter Park Chamber of Commerce
President & CEO

Dr. Antoantnio Garrastazu

International Republican Institute
*Senior Director, Latin American &
the Caribbean*

Danny Gaekwad

NDS USA
Founder & CEO

Hon. Anne Gerwig

Florida Legislature
State Representative
City of Wellington
Mayor (2016-2024)

Adela Ghadimi

United Faculty of Florida
Executive Director
USGLC Next Gen Global Leader

Hon. Oliver G. Gilbert III

Miami-Dade County
County Commissioner, District 1
City of Miami Gardens
Mayor (2012-2020)

Tim Giuliani

Orlando Economic Partnership
President & CEO

Hon. Dana Goldman

Dana Goldman, P.A.
Attorney
City of Sunny Isles Beach
*Commissioner & Mayor (2021-
2023)*

Carmenza Gonzalez

Catholic Charities of Central Florida
*Chair Board of Directors, Community &
Support Services*

Alexandra Gordon

ONE Campaign
Congressional District Leader
CARE
District Chair

Gary Gould

TOP Jewish Foundation
Member Board of Trustees

Thiru Govender

BDO United States
Assurance Office Managing Partner

Hon. Steven Grant

City of Boynton Beach
Mayor (2016-2022)

Mimi Gregory

Naples Council on World Affairs
VP of Programs
Federation of Alliances Française USA
Past President

Steve Grossman

Jacksonville Aviation Authority
Former CEO

Hon. Joe Gruters

Florida Legislature
State Senator
Florida Republican Party
Chairman

Hon. Kent Guinn

City of Ocala
Mayor (1999-2024)

Hon. Carlos Gutierrez

EmPath
Chairman & CEO
National Foreign Trade Council
Chairman

Ned Hancock

Florida Citrus
Fifth-Generation Grower

David A. Hart

Florida Chamber of Commerce
Executive Vice President

Jillian Hasner

Take Stock in Children of Florida
President & CEO

Hon. Randy Henderson

City of Fort Myers
Mayor (2009-2022)

Rachel Hendrix

University of West Florida
Director, International Affairs

Dr. James Henningsen

College of Central Florida
President

RADM Len Hering*

U.S. Navy (Ret.)

Hon. Frank Hibbard

Steward Partners Global Advisory
Managing Director
City of Clearwater
Mayor (2005-2012, 2020-2022)

Sharon Hillstrom

Bradenton Area Economic Development
Corporation
President & CEO

Charles R. Hokanson, Jr.

Hokanson Consulting Group
President & CEO
U.S. Department of Education
*Former Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Elementary and Secondary Education*

Dr. Karen A. Holbrook

University of South Florida
Sarasota-Manatee
Former Regional Chancellor

Major General Jay Hood*

HoodUSA Consulting, LLC
President
U.S. Army (Ret.)

Greg Howell

The Solarium Group
Senior Affiliate

Tramm Hudson*

Caldwell Trust Company
Member Board of Directors

Hon. Jeanette W. Hyde

U.S. Department of State
*Ambassador to Barbados & the Eastern
Caribbean (1994-1997)*

Hon. Pam Iorio

Big Brothers Big Sisters of America
Former President & CEO
City of Tampa
Mayor (2003-2011)

Daniel Jacobson

Akerman Senterfitt
Partner

Richard A. Jacobson

Tampa Bay Area Committee on Foreign
Relations
Director
Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC
Shareholder

Florida Advisory Committee

Hon. Keith James

City of West Palm Beach
Mayor

Barry E. Johnson

Greater Miami Chamber of
Commerce
President & CEO (2006-2016)

Steve J. Kalishman

Kalishman Law
Principal
Gainesville/Novorossiisk Sister City
Founding Director
Gainesville/Kfar Saba/Qalqilya
Sister City Program
Founding President

Merrie Karimov

Harbour Hope International
Executive Director & Co-Founder

Heather Kasten

Greater Sarasota Chamber of
Commerce
President & CEO

Dr. Susan Kaufman Purcell

Valero
Consultant, Latin America
University of Miami
*Former Director, Center for
Hemispheric Policy*

Mark Khouri

Food for the Poor
Chief Operating Officer

Sean Kim

Bay County Chamber of Commerce
*Vice President of Strategic
Partnerships*

Hon. Ron Klein

Holland & Knight LLP
Public Policy Partner
U.S. House of Representatives
Member (2007-2011)

Michael Langley

Florida Justice Institute, Inc.
Executive Director

Leanne Lapp

IBM
Corporation Client Executive

Ken Lawson

ATLYS Global, LLC
Lead Director, Florida
FL Department of Economic
Development
Former Executive Director

Hon. Andrew Learned*

GradePower Learning
Owner & Director
Florida Legislature
State Representative (2022-2022)

Nelson Lees*

Academy of Senior Professionals at
Eckerd College (ASPEC)
Vice President

Lt. Gen. William Lennox*

African Sisters Education Collaborative
Associate Member Board of Directors
Saint Leo University
Former President
U.S. Army (Ret.)

Brandon Leon

Greenberg Traurig LLP
Shareholder
USGLC Next Gen Global Leader

Maj. Gen. Steven J. Lepper*

U.S. Air Force (Ret.)

Col. Rick LoCastro*

Collier County
Commissioner, District 1
U.S. Air Force (Ret.)

Hon. Carlos Lopez-Cantera

Pan American Companies
Principal
State of Florida
Lieutenant Governor (2014-2019)

Pamela Lopez

TCC Pharma
Urgent Surgery Solutions
Global Sourcing Initiative
Business Development Manager

Hon. Luis J. Lauredo

U.S. Department of State
*Ambassador to the Organization of
American States (2000-2001)*

Brig. Gen. David MacEwen*

Council on Criminal Justice
Director, Veterans Justice Commission
MacEwen Group, LLC
CEO
U.S. Army (Ret.)

Joe Mayer

Lockheed Martin
*Former Director, Government
Relations*

Henryka Manes

EcoWorks International
Founding Executive Director

Andrew J. Markus

Republic of Bulgaria
*Honorary Consul for the State of
Florida*
Carlton Fields
Of Counsel

Sonless Martin

Port of Miami
Global Trade & Business Development

Jon Mast

Suncoast Builders Association
CEO

Col. Mike McCalister*

U.S. Army (Ret.)

Donald McCorkell

Regions Bank
*Senior Vice President & Global Trade
Group Head*

J. Brock McClane

Federal Republic of Germany
Honorary Consul
Climate First Bank
Director
Brennan Manna Diamond
Member, Attorney

Trina Medarev

World Affairs Council of Jacksonville
President & CEO

Jena Melançon

Gulf Coast Diplomacy
Founder & Executive Director
U.S. Department of State
Liaison Officer

Collier Merrill

Merrill Land Company
President

Rev. Russell Meyer

Florida Council of Churches
Executive Director
St. John's Lutheran Church
Pastor

J. Patrick Michaels

CEA Group
Founder, Chairman & CEO

Ed Miyagishima

Athletes' Cloud
EVP & Chief of Staff
Honor First Group
COO & Co-Founder
Churchill Strategy Group
Founder & Managing Partner
Firewall Strategies, LLC
Founder & Principal

Dr. Ed H. Moore

Independent Colleges and Universities
of Florida
President Emeritus

Hon. Sandra Murman

Shumaker
*Executive Vice President & Principal
Local Practice*
Hillsborough County
Commissioner (2010-2020)

Florida Advisory Committee

Hon. Jeri Muoio, Ph. D

Great Cities for All
President & CEO
Thriving Workplaces
Partner
City of West Palm Beach
Mayor (2011-2019)

Hon. Patrick E. Murphy

Togal.AI
Founder & CEO
U.S. House of Representatives
Member (2013-2017)

Dawn Nagy

CARE
Florida State Chair
ONE Campaign
Congressional District Leader

Jay Narang

Tech Army
CEO

J.P. Natkin

Macro-Advisory Ltd.
Chief Business Officer

Hon. Pat Neal

Neil Communities
CEO
Florida Legislature
State Senator (1978-1986)

Janet Nichols

Raymond James
*Managing Director & Senior Vice
President of Investments*

David P. Norton, Ph.D.

University of Florida
Vice President for Research

Gen. William Nyland*

U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.)

Rear Admiral Cathal O'Connor*

O'Connor Global LLC
Consultant
U.S. Navy (Ret.)

Ramón Ojeda

National Mango Board
Executive Director

Remedios Diaz Oliver

All American Containers
Former President

Meredith M. O'Rourke

The O'Rourke Group
Owner

Col. EJ Otero*

Gemini Industries
Division Director
U.S. Air Force (Ret.)

Dr. Eduardo J. Padrón

Miami Dade College
President Emeritus

Dr. Athena Passera

Global Ties Miami
President & CEO
Orcos Corp
Co-Founder

Hon. Kathleen Passidomo

Florida Legislature
State Senator

Tico Perez

Tico Perez Solutions LLC
President
Boy Scouts of America
Former National Commissioner

Hon. Lauren Poe

Greater Gainesville International
Center
Executive Director
City of Gainesville
Mayor (2016-2023)

John Price

Americas Market Intelligence
Managing Director

Margaret Pulles

Vamos Global
President
PuMa Communications and Cultural
Services
Founder, President & CEO

Spencer Pylant

TECO Peoples Gas
Regional Manager, External Affairs

Olga Ramudo

Express Travel
*Sr. Vice President Florida & Latin
America, Former
Owner/President/CEO*

Pam Rauch

Florida Power & Light Company
*Vice President, External Affairs &
Economic Development*

Kay Rawlins

Orlando City & Orlando Pride
*Founder, Senior Vice President of
Community Relations*

Sherry Reeves

Manufacturers Association of Central
Florida
Former Executive Director

Isabelle Renault

St. Johns County Chamber of
Commerce
President & CEO

Hon. Spencer Roach*

Florida Legislature
State Representative (2022-2024)
U.S. Coast Guard (Ret.)

Lynare Robbins*

US Peace Corps
*Recruiter – Office of Volunteer
Recruitment and Selection*

Hon. Grover Robinson, IV

City of Pensacola
Mayor (2018-2022)

Dr. Larry Robinson

Florida A&M University
President Emeritus

Hon. Ray Rodrigues

State University System of Florida
Chancellor
Florida Legislature
*State Senator (2020-2022)
State Representative (2012-2020)*

Jason Rodriguez

BayCare Health Systems
Director of Government Relations

Bob Rohrlack

Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce
President & CEO

Dr. Kerry D. Romesburg

Jacksonville University
Former President (2004-2013)

Hon. Bob Rommel

Florida Legislature
*2026 State House Candidate
State Representative (2016-2024)*

Hon. John D. Rood

The Vestcor Companies
Chairman
U.S. Department of State
*Ambassador to the Commonwealth of the
Bahamas (2004-2007)*

Hon. Tom Rooney*

U.S. House of Representatives
Member (2009-2019)

Hon. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
Senior Policy Director
U.S. House of Representatives
Member (1989-2019)

Hon. Leslie V. Rowe

U.S. Department of State
*Acting Special Representative for Global
Health Diplomacy (2013-2014)
Ambassador to the Republic of
Mozambique (2010-2012)
Ambassador to Papua New Guinea,
Solomon Islands, & Vanuatu (2006-
2009)*

Florida Advisory Committee

William D. Rubin
Rubin, Turnbull & Associates
Founder & Chairman

Hon. Ken Russell
Arquest Partners LLC
Founder
City of Miami
Commissioner (2015-2022)

Mario J. Sacasa
Miami-Dade Beacon Council
*Senior Vice President, International
Economic Development*

Hon. Bill Sanders
City of Bradenton
Councilman, Ward 4 (2019-2023)

Dr. Martha Dunagin Saunders
University of West Florida
President

Steve Schale
Unite the Country
CEO
The Advocacy Partners
Associate
Schale Strategies
President

Mark R. Schlakman
Florida State University
*Senior Program Director, Center for the
Advancement of Human Rights*

Shawn Seipler
Clean the World
CEO

Hon. Mark Sharpe
Tampa Innovation Partnership
Chief Potential Officer
Hillsborough County Commission
Commissioner (2004-2014)

Brian Siegal
American Jewish Committee (AJC)
Regional Director Miami & Broward

Celeste M. Simon
World Affairs Council of Palm Beach
CEO, Board Member

Betsy Skipp
Social Change Advocate

Christina Sleszynska
European American Chamber of
Commerce
Executive Director

Lester Sola
Miami International Airport
Former Director & CEO
City of Miami Beach
Former Assistant City Manager

Ann Marie Sorrell
The Mosaic Group
President & CEO

Allen Speer
Agape Flights
CEO

Hon. Kelli Stargel
Florida Polytechnic University
*Vice President, Strategic Initiatives,
Development, and External Relations*
Florida Legislature
*State Senator (2012-2022)
State Representative (2008-2012)*

Lt. Gen. Martin Steele*
U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.)

Evelyn Suero
Suero Law
Founder & Principal Attorney
Organization of Women in International
Trade (OWIT)
General Counsel

RADM Paul Tobin*
U.S. Navy (Ret.)

Emmanuel Tormes
Boeing
*Former Senior Manager, Government
Operations*

Mark A. Trowbridge
Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce
President & CEO

Hon. Jay Trumbull
Florida Legislature
State Senator
State Representative (2014-2022)

Hon. Jim Turney*
City of Altamonte Springs
Commissioner

Hon. Toby Unwin
Litigators.org
Founder
Premonition Analytics
Founder
Republic of Austria
Honorary Consul (2006-2021)

Zoraida Velasco
FloridaMakes
Executive Vice President

Liane Ventura
Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
Senior Vice President
Foreign Trade Zone
International Executive Director

Hon. Adis M. Vila
Vila & Associates
President & Founder
U.S. Air Force Academy
Chief Diversity Officer (2010- 2013)
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Assistant Secretary (1989-1992)
Florida Department of Administration
Secretary (1987-1989)

Hon. Will Weatherford
Weatherford Capital Managing
Partner
Florida Legislature
Speaker (2012-2014)
State Representative (2006-2014)

Frank Wells
Bright Community Trust
President & Chief Impact Officer

Most Rev. Thomas G. Wenski
The Archdiocese of Miami
Archbishop

Rick Whitted
U.S. Hunger
CEO

Deborah Wilkinson
Wilkinson Global Connections, LLC
Founder
Tampa Bay Trade & Protocol Council
Former Executive Director
Broward County Office of Economic
Development
Former Chief Development Officer

Eric Williams*
E2 Innovation Group, LLC
Founder & Principal

Gen. Scott Wuesthoff*
The Flag and General Officers
Network
Member Board of Directors
Operation Gratitude
Member Board of Directors
U.S. Air Force (Ret.)

Brian Wyer
Gulf Coast Minority Chamber of
Commerce
President & CEO

*Indicates Veteran of the
U.S. Armed Forces

As of January 14th, 2026