

Kevin M. Johnson

Mayor | City of Sacramento



Elected in November 2008, Kevin Johnson is the 55th mayor of Sacramento and the first African American to serve in this office. Mayor Johnson's vision is for Sacramento to become "a city that works for everyone."

As mayor, Johnson has made civic engagement a top priority and is a tireless advocate for strengthening volunteer service efforts in Sacramento. He strongly believes that in order to be a great city, you have to have an engaged citizenry and is committed to identifying ways to allow for unprecedented levels of private action for the public good. During the first two years of his administration,

Johnson accomplished a number of objectives in his ambitious plan to ensure that all Sacramento citizens have a meaningful opportunity to serve and is recognized nationally for his efforts. Key actions to date include:

- Leading Volunteer Sacramento, his local initiative to promote and support volunteer service focused on set metrics to strategically deploy volunteers to help solve some of the area's priority needs.
- Setting volunteer participation goals to help make Sacramento one of the most caring cities in the nation, logging 3 million service hours in 2010, worth an estimated added value of \$64 million to the Metropolitan Sacramento Area's economy in time, energy and talent.
- Founding member of the Cities of Service Coalition, a national coalition that aims to accelerate the service movement at the most local level, connecting local needs to willing volunteers in innovative and impactful ways.
- Positioning Sacramento to have one of the largest National Service footprints in the nation, affording more people the opportunity to service in AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve and Senior Corps programs.

Johnson's dedication to the engaging the community began long before he started his tenure as mayor. Upon retiring from the NBA after 12 seasons with the Phoenix Suns in 2000, he returned to his Oak Park neighborhood in Sacramento to serve as the CEO of St. HOPE, a non-profit community development organization he founded in 1989 to revitalize inner-city communities through public education, economic development, civic leadership and the arts. To address a shortage in quality schools in Oak Park, he founded St. HOPE Public Schools, pre K – 12 charter school system. PS7 (grades K-8) has demonstrated a reverse achievement gap—where socioeconomically disadvantaged black students outperform their more affluent white peers and is considered one of the top schools in the state with an Academic Performance Index (API) score of 913. In 2009, PS7 was recognized as a California Distinguished School. Sacramento High School, one of the first successful transformation schools in the country, has seen a significant improvement in academic achievement since re-opening as a charter school in 2003 with a 196 point increase in API and a four-year college acceptance rate of over 70%, up from 20%. The school earned a Pillar of Promise Award for Excellence in the Commitment of Providing Effective Education from the America's Promise Alliance in October 2010.

Mayor Johnson is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley (B.A., Political Science). He served on the Board of Directors for LISC National, the CA Charter School Association, the UC Berkeley Foundation, the Institute of Governmental Studies National Advisory Council and the Harvard Divinity School SLI Advisory Board. His passion for service to children prompted President George Bush to honor Johnson with the 411th "Point of Light" award. In addition, Johnson was selected as one of the "15 Greatest Men on Earth" by McCall's Magazine and has received the NBA's J. Walter Kennedy Citizenship Award, the Good Morning America Award from Sports Illustrated, the "Most Caring American" award by the Caring Institute, and induction into the World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame in Boise, Idaho, and the Pac-10 Hall of Fame.