

Biography for Dave Norris, Mayor of Charlottesville, VA

Dave Norris voted onto City Council in May 2006 and was elected Mayor in 2008. Since moving to Charlottesville in 1995, Dave has been very involved in efforts to enhance the quality of life in Charlottesville. In his professional life as a non-profit director, in his civic life as an advocate for affordable housing, social justice and the environment, and in his personal life as a father of three wonderful children (Eli, Chloe and Ben), he has enjoyed being an active member of the Charlottesville community. Dave currently works as Executive Director of **Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Central Blue Ridge**, which helps area children realize their highest potential through one-on-one mentoring relationships. In previous positions, he's served as Executive Director of **PACEM**, Associate Director of **Madison House**, Interim Director of **PHAR** (the Public Housing Association of Residents), founding Director of the **Connecting People to Jobs Initiative** (a joint venture between PHAR and Piedmont Virginia Community College), and Coordinator of the Virginia Economic Development Corporation's **Micro Loan Program** for low-income, minority and female entrepreneurs. Dave is also the proud founder of the **Charlottesville Vegetarian Festival**, which draws thousands of people to downtown Charlottesville each year to eat good food and support local businesses & organizations committed to peace, ecology and natural health. Dave is a 1997 graduate of the **Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce's "Leadership Charlottesville"** program and a 2003 graduate of the **Quality Community Council's "Explorations in Excellence"** leadership development program. He was named one of the "Distinguished Dozen" by the **Daily Progress** for 2005 and was honored as "Virginia Citizen of the Year" (for his work with PACEM) in 2005 by the **Virginia Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors**.

On a personal note, Dave was born into a military family at Fort Belvoir, VA, in 1970 and spent much of his childhood in and around Northern Virginia. After graduating from high school in Stuttgart, Germany, in 1987, he received a B.A. in Politics & History from Curry College in Milton, MA, and an M.A. in Government from the College of William and Mary. Following a brief stint working in state government in Richmond, he moved to Charlottesville in 1995 and has lived in various parts of the city ever since.

Organizational description:

Charlottesville voters, at large, elect a 5-member Council to serve as the City's legislative and governing body. The members serve 4-year terms, and they elect one Councilor to serve as Mayor and one as Vice Mayor for two years. The terms of Council members are staggered so that three are elected in one year and two are elected two years later. If a vacancy occurs, council elects a new member to serve out the unexpired term. The Mayor presides over meetings, calls special meetings, makes some appointments to advisory boards and serves as the ceremonial head of government. The Vice Mayor substitutes whenever the Mayor is unavailable. City Council appoints the City Manager, the Director of Finance, the City Assessor, the Clerk of the Council and members of major policy-making Boards and Commissions. Council makes policy in the areas of city planning and finances, human development, public safety and justice, public utilities, and transportation. It has specific powers to pass ordinances, levy taxes, collect revenues, adopt a budget, make appropriations, issue bonds, borrow money, and provide for the payment of public debts. Regular meetings of the council are held the **first and third Mondays each month at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers** (in City Hall on the Downtown Mall at 7th and East Main Streets). Agendas of regular council meetings are available in advance from the clerk or on the council website.