



# City Year Miami Board Member Bio

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## MAYOR MANUEL ALBERTO DIAZ

Former Mayor

City of Miami

November 5, 1954 in Havana, Cuba) was the mayor of Miami, Florida from 2001-2009. Mayor Diaz and his mother, Elisa, left Cuba in 1961. He graduated from Belen Jesuit Preparatory School in 1973. He scored the first touchdown in Belen Jesuit football history, and was named "Mr. Belen" in his graduating class. In 1977, Diaz received his bachelor's degree in Political Science from Florida International University. In 1980, he earned his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Miami School of Law.

Diaz first came to prominence serving as the attorney for the Miami relatives of Elián González. A lawyer, Diaz was elected mayor in November 2001, replacing Joe Carollo, and reelected in 2005. As mayor, Diaz remains a partner in the law firm of Diaz, O'Naghten & Borgognoni, L.L.P. When he first took office, Miami city government was bankrupt, held junk bond status, and was under a state financial oversight board. Mayor Diaz pursued a vast administrative overhaul that brought with it financial stability, healthy level of financial reserves, continued tax cuts, lowered millage rates, and an A+ bond rating on Wall Street.

In 2004 Diaz was awarded the "Urban Innovator of the Year" award by the Manhattan Institute. In 2008, Diaz became president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Though an Independent and a former Republican, Diaz spoke at the 2008 Democratic National Convention and endorsed President Barack Obama.

Diaz is married to Robin Smith and has four children and three grandchildren. His son, Manny, is a college football coach and is the defensive coordinator for Middle Tennessee. His daughter, Natalie, recently received her Masters in Public Health with honors from Florida International University. His son, Robert, is pursuing a political science degree. His daughter, Elisa, is currently attending a magnet school for Drama. His grandchildren are Colin, Gavin, and Manny Jr.