

John G. "Gerry" Nolan
Qualified Write-In Candidate
CANDIDATE ID: HOFL06145
BIOGRAPHY

Gerry Nolan is known as the ultimate professional "task master" with an unmatched network of business and political leaders throughout Florida.

Gerry Nolan was born in 1962 and adopted by Bill and Peg Nolan on Valentine's Day February 14, 1963 in Riddlewood, PA. He attended seven different grade schools growing up as his family relocated to residences around the U.S. including Hillsdale NJ, Colorado Springs CO, Philadelphia PA, Princeton NJ and Lawrenceville NJ. The playground for his Philadelphia grammar school was on the roof one block from Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell during the Bicentennial Celebration in 1976. After attending Notre Dame High School in Lawrenceville NJ, Gerry moved for his senior year to Ormond Beach (located in FL's 6th) graduating in '81 from Father Lopez High School (also in FL's 6th) where he played football and baseball. After an unfortunate mishandling of his transcript he attend what is now Daytona Beach State College for one year. Gerry transferred to Macalester College in '82 to study economics where he played football as an outside linebacker and was happy to make the travel squad. Gerry's entrepreneurial passion became evident when dropped out prior to his senior year and returned to Daytona Beach to start his first company, Bold Boxers, selling officially licensed college clothing to college bookstores around the nation. His knowledge of the college student as consumer saw him hired in '86 as one of the first employees of the National Collegiate Sports Festival in Daytona Beach which channeled the energies of youth into a national championships in eighteen intramural sports during spring break. During this time Gerry also served on the Main Street Redevelopment Committee and Spring Break Safety Committee – of the Chamber of Commerce - Daytona Beach/Halifax Area.

After delivering first-ever national champions in 18 different intramural sports Gerry returned to college and finished 43 credit hours in less than one year and earned a B.S. in Economics from Florida State University, Tallahassee. While at F.S.U. he was both the Campus Manager for AT&T and program assistant (a "go for") with the Secretary of State's Division of Cultural Affairs. Nationally known for his professional skill set at 23 years old, Gerry was hired during his spring break from F.S.U. as the floor manager of the Rolling Stone Spring Break Showcase in Daytona Beach. Gerry also traveled around the country training other AT&T teams at other campuses around the southeast United States in '87 and '88.

After returning in '88 to Daytona Beach post-college, Gerry continued with another year at the National Collegiate Sports Festival before leaving to provide contract special event production and management to such clients as the City of West Palm Beach, City of Daytona Beach, Pepsi, Coca-Cola, AT&T, SPRINT, MCI, and the Downtown Daytona Beach Seafood Festival. Gerry believes his most personally rewarding project was his co-production in '90 of the Jackie Robinson Statue Committee and hosting Rachel Robinson and then President of the National League Bill White.

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In '90, Gerry filed to be the Democratic Party candidate for Florida House of Representatives District 28 and received the endorsement of the previous office holders Sam Bell and Bill Conway, but withdrew prior to the end of qualifying.

When the economy soured in '92 and dried up the special event industry, Gerry took a full time position selling office Equipment for DELTA Business Systems (IKON) in Orlando. One year later in '93, he was hired by the Greater Orlando Chamber of Commerce as the Director of Management and Community Programs where he handled the marketing of one of the most successful professional development programs in the nation – Leadership Orlando. In addition to his vast revenue responsibilities at the Chamber, he oversaw the information technology department of 50 user organization and personally secured the definitive web address, or second level domain name, Orlando.org. He successfully enabled companies to think of the Chamber as a place to go for cultivation of human capital as much as the revenue (B2B) side of the equation, and received the highest award possible in '98 from both the local chapters of the American Society for Training and Development and Society (ASTD) for Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM). He resigned in '98 from the Chamber as their VP of Management and Community Programs to immediately assume the position of Executive Director with the Central Florida Citizens for Public Transportation which was the definitive advocacy group for Orlando's \$600 million dollar light rail starter line. Gerry was hired because he displayed preparedness, adaptability and integrity in dealing with the media and "Building Community", as seven diverse partners pursued a Full Funding Grant Agreement.

The Economic Development Commission of Mid-Florida, Inc. hired Gerry in '99 as their first ever VP of Investor Relations. After an almost two year stint of working with contributors/investors/members Gerry departed to become President/Founder Orlando Venture Capital, Inc. in April '01 to focus on photonics technologies emerging from University of Central Florida's Center for Research Education and Optical Lasers (CREOL), but the market forces associated with 9/11 saw Gerry evolved the firm to a consultancy. One example - providing a 125 year old manufacturing company with a feasibility study/plan of using supercritical carbon dioxide to assist silicon wafer etching and cleaning from manufacturing research lab to fab facility.

While in Orlando, Gerry served as a Loaned Executive to the Heart of Florida United Way and as a member of the Board of Directors on a diverse group of not-for-profits including the Affordable Housing Institute and Orange County Teen Court. In '98, Gerry was a "Top 40 under 40" recipient from the Orlando Business Journal because he is highly skilled in all phases of sales, marketing and public/government relations. Gerry headed up the Orange County Young Democrats in '98.

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Understanding the economy in the late 2001 was fragile, Gerry returned to Daytona Beach and began assembling real estate for future development one block from the ocean. In that capacity, Gerry customized multi-million dollar capital stacks of debt-and-equity while pursuing personal "boutique" real estate assembly efforts and larger scale "planned unit developments" for others including real estate developments in Ocala. Gerry, understands personally the accomplishment of Final K-1 liquidating distributions to other economic contributors to take sole-ownership of 100% of a entity's capital within a multi-million dollar real estate assembly/holding.

From 2011 to 2018, Gerry was employed full-time with the Walt Disney World Co. in a non-career related position running the marina at the Yacht and Beach Club and captaining fireworks specialty cruises in the evening. Gerry considers his Disney experience a kind-of "Off Broadway" performance in the business world while he focused on the needs of 92 and 90 year old parents.

Regardless of the assignment - stakeholders, and partners, have always found Gerry agreeable. As comfortable at the podium in front of hundreds, or across the table in a one-on-one. Throughout Gerry's career he has challenged himself and consistently delivered results meeting, and exceeding, the expectations of those depending upon his on-time "deliverables". Gerry thrives on being part of the solution to difficult challenges - known as a consensus builder with the ability to initiate action, or intuitively follow a team's leader. He also possesses extensive information technology skills including networking, database research and web site development.