

John M. Nations

John Nations was born and raised in St. Louis. He graduated from the University of Missouri – St. Louis in 1985, and from St. Louis University School of Law in 1988.

Nations first gained regional attention during his public service in the City of Chesterfield, Missouri. In 1997, he served on that City's Residential Building Moratorium Commission until he became President of the City's Industrial Development Authority and Chairman of its Tax Increment Financing Commission, where he focused on the recovery of the Chesterfield Valley from the Flood of 1993. Widely regarded as one of the best uses of TIF in the country, the success of the Valley allowed its TIF obligations to be paid off ten years ahead of schedule, and is now home to more than 9,000 jobs. From 1997-1999, he also served on the Board, and as President, of the Chesterfield Community Institute. In 1999, he was appointed to the City's Planning Commission, where he served until his election to the Chesterfield City Council in 2000. In 2001, he was elected to the first of three successive four year terms as Mayor of Chesterfield. Among the many accomplishments of his administration, he successfully led the campaign for the City's Parks tax, which has allowed the construction of some of the finest parks and recreation programs and facilities in the Country, established the Chesterfield Valley Transportation Development District to improve the infrastructure and quality of life for residents near Chesterfield Valley, started the City's annual July 4th Celebration, and became the first person from West St. Louis County to serve as President of the St. Louis County Municipal League. In 2008, Chesterfield became the first City in the State of Missouri to receive Moody's coveted AAA bond rating. In 2005, he was appointed by County Executive Charlie Dooley as a Regional Citizen representing St. Louis County on the East West Gateway Council of Governments, a position he held until 2010. In recognition of his efforts to promote economic development while preserving our natural heritage, Nations was inducted into the National Environmental Hall Of Fame in 2010.

In 2009, faced with drastic cutbacks in public transportation services, Nations successfully negotiated an arrangement with the Bi-State Development Agency / Metro to continue services to his City because of the critical role public transportation has in economic growth and job creation. His leadership on the transportation issue led Metro Board Chairman Vincent C. Schoemehl and President/CEO Robert J. Baer to ask Nations to lead the campaign for a one-half percent sales tax in St. Louis County to support public transportation. Building what is now widely viewed as one of the greatest civic coalitions in the last half century, "Proposition A" was approved by St. Louis County voters in April 2010 with 63% of the vote. In August 2010, the Metro Board selected Nations to succeed Baer and to lead the Agency into the 21st Century, building on its proud past as an economic development agency specially created by the United States Congress in 1949 to serve the Missouri-Illinois bi-state region. In June 2011, he returned to the Board of Directors of the East West Gateway Council of Governments as the representative of Metro. Nations was elected to the Board of the Missouri Public Transit Association in 2011.

From 1988 to 2010, he was engaged in the private practice of law primarily in the areas of business, real estate, real estate finance, land use, estate planning, and municipal law. In 2010, he was named to the list of "Best Lawyers in America".

Nations has been involved with many charities over the years, including the Salvation Army, STAGES! St. Louis, Wings of Hope, the Humane Society of Missouri, St. Luke's Hospital, Chesterfield Arts, Chesterfield Athletic Association, and many others.