

## Biography – Mayor Walter Maddox, City of Tuscaloosa, Alabama



Walter Maddox received his undergraduate (political science) and graduate (public administration) degrees from UAB and established his career in public education. Maddox became involved in City government after being elected City Councilman for the Sixth District and was sworn in for his second term as Mayor of Tuscaloosa in November of 2009. Since his first inauguration, Mayor Maddox has led initiatives to increase economic development, improve customer service and provide quality pre-k education for academically at-risk four-year-old children. Maddox is most recognized for his exceptional leadership following events of April 27, 2011, when an EF-4 tornado destroyed 12% of the City of Tuscaloosa in less than 6 minutes. The mile-wide tornado took the lives of 53 citizens and damaged more than 5,000 residential properties, 600 businesses and critical city infrastructures, including a fire station, police precinct,

schools, communication towers and the facility housing Environmental Services and the Emergency Management Agency.

Mayor Maddox managed the recovery efforts with the goal to not only rebuild, but to rebuild better. Immediately following the storm, he engaged the public through social media and assumed the role as media point of contact to deliver accurate and instant information. Over 3,000 citizens attended public meetings and more than 74,000 visited an open website to share personal visions for recovery, and Tuscaloosa Forward—a strategic community plan to renew and rebuild—was established. Since April 27th, 2011, approximately 3,000 rebuild permits have been issued and the number of registered volunteers has increased from 243 to 28,593. Most importantly, Maddox continues to channel the resilient spirit of the citizens of Tuscaloosa by refusing to let the disaster define the City and highlighting the compassion and generosity of the people of Alabama.

Mayor Maddox is married to Stephanie Roberts Maddox. He has two children: Trey (22) and Taylor (10) and his favorite hobby is running. Mayor Maddox has completed several marathons and half-marathons.

### **Education:**

- Master of Public Administration,  
University of Alabama Birmingham
- Bachelor of Arts, Political Science,  
University of Alabama Birmingham
- Graduate, Central High School – Tuscaloosa

**Professional Experience:**

- Councilman, District Six, City of Tuscaloosa  
October 2001 - September 2005
- Executive Director of Personnel, Tuscaloosa City Schools  
March 2001 - September 2005
- Field Director, Alabama Education Association  
July 1997 - February 2001 (Tuscaloosa)  
April 1996 - June 1997 (Muscle Shoals)

**Religious Affiliation:**

- Forest Lake United Methodist Church

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