



## Biography of Carolyn J. Mason

For decades, Carolyn J. Mason has been a steady, passionate force for progress in Sarasota County—building stronger neighborhoods, amplifying community voices, and dedicating her life to public service.

Her journey began with a commitment to helping people navigate systems and access opportunities. From her early work with the City of Sarasota to leadership roles in nonprofit organizations, Mason consistently chose work that placed people and community at the center. Along the way, she developed a reputation as a connector—someone who brings together leaders, organizations, and resources to create meaningful change.

That commitment to service led her to elected office, where she broke barriers and made history. Elected to the Sarasota City Commission in 1999, she was later selected as Mayor—demonstrating her peers' confidence in her leadership and vision for the community. She would go on to serve as a Sarasota County Commissioner from 2008 to 2016, representing District 1 and earning re-election without opposition—a testament to the trust she built with those she served. During her tenure, she was chosen as Chair twice, guiding county leadership through key decisions and initiatives.

Whether working in government or the nonprofit sector, Mason has always remained focused on impact. As a Grant Manager for the School Board of Sarasota County, she led violence prevention efforts in schools, while her role in donor and community engagement strengthened partnerships that support vulnerable individuals and families.

More recently, she has continued that mission through her work with Sarasota County and Legal Aid Manasota, helping residents access critical financial and legal resources during times of need.

Beyond her professional roles, Mason's influence is woven throughout the fabric of the community. She has served on countless boards and advisory committees—supporting

everything from youth development and the arts to housing, public health, and civic engagement. Her leadership has helped shape programs, strengthen organizations, and create opportunities for generations to come.

But perhaps what defines Carolyn J. Mason most is her unwavering belief in people and her commitment to making her community stronger, more connected, and more inclusive. Her legacy is one of leadership in action and service with purpose, inspiring others to step forward and make a difference.