



## Who we are

The Conservative Caucus was founded in 1974 by **Governor Meldrim Thomson** and **Howard Phillips**. Governor Thomson (R-New Hampshire) was the only sitting governor to support Ronald Reagan for president in 1976. Phillips was one of the founders of William F. Buckley Jr.'s conservative youth group Young Americans for Freedom, served as student body president at Harvard, and was President Nixon's acting director of the Office of Economic Opportunity (Democrats refused to confirm his nomination).

**Chairman Peter J. Thomas** was formerly TCC National Field Director, in charge of Caucus chapters in 225 congressional districts. He served as director of communications for Papa Gino's restaurants, founded and served as President of the Massachusetts Foundation for Economic Research, and was chief of staff to U.S. Representative Peter Torkildsen. He was regional administrator of the General Services Administration under President Reagan, worked in the Small Business Administration under President Bush the elder, and was acting assistant secretary for administration in the Agriculture Department under President Bush the younger.

**Vice Chairman Dr. Steven J. Allen** (J.D., Ph.D.) served as press secretary to U.S. Senator Jeremiah Denton and as senior researcher for Newt Gingrich's presidential campaign. He was a staffer in the 1976 and 1980 Reagan campaigns, was a Reagan delegate in 1976, 1980, and 1984, and served as congressional district co-chairman for Kemp for President. He is Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Capital Research Center, a Washington, DC think tank. He was the first journalist to defend Donald Trump in the Russia hoax, and the first to criticize Al Gore for his "creating the Internet" claim. Called a "digital revolutionary" (*National Journal*) and "the Tea Party's editor in chief" (*The Daily Beast*), he has written for *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Newsday*, *The Washington Times*, *The Washington Examiner*, *The Hill*, *The American Thinker*, *Townhall*, *The Daily Caller*, and *American Greatness* magazine.

**Secretary Melissa Ortiz** is senior advisor to the Able Americans Project at the National Center for Public Policy Research. She was Ms. Wheelchair New York, worked at *Tea Party Review* magazine, and served as a visiting fellow at the Independent Women's Forum, the top woman-oriented conservative think tank. Called "a pro-life advocate for Americans with Disabilities" by the Susan B. Anthony List, she served as commissioner of the Administration on Disabilities at HHS in the Trump administration and was called the administration's "disability czar."

**Board Member Donna Jackson** is director of membership development for Project 21, the leadership network of African-American conservatives. She served as deputy controller for the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and worked in recruiting and communications for campaigns of Governor Mike Huckabee, U.S. Senator Tim Hutchinson, and U.S. Representative (later Governor) Asa Hutchinson. In the Huckabee administration, she recruited African-American candidates for state boards and commissions. Her articles have appeared in more than 30 news outlets.

**Board Member Art Kelly** held senior management positions at the U.S. Department of Education during the Reagan administration. He was vice president for field operations at United Seniors Association, chief of staff to Texas State Senator Walter Mengden, and vice president of CNP Action, an umbrella group for conservative leaders. A Vietnam veteran, he served in the U.S. Army as a special agent in military intelligence, and is President Emeritus of the National Press Club Toastmasters in Washington, D.C.

**Executive Director Art Harman** was a TCC staff member for decades, directing major grassroots lobbying and outreach programs and producing the television program "Conservative Roundtable," which appeared on 125 channels across the country. He is president of the Coalition to Save Manned Space Exploration. As Legislative Director for U.S. Representative Steve Stockman, he created the successful strategy to kill the 2013 Senate amnesty bill and wrote the legislative framework for post-Brexit trade relations.



# The Conservative Caucus

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**Our Mission:** The Conservative Caucus (TCC) was founded in 1974 on the belief that, to win, conservatives must be active at the local, congressional district, and state level, as well as nationally. TCC's mission is to create a grassroots conservative network, uniting people of widely varying backgrounds in peaceable defense of our country, our Constitution, and our common values rooted in liberty and equal rights.

**Our Vision:** So that all conservatives have a voice in Washington, D.C., in state capitals, and in counties and cities across America, TCC will create organizations in all 435 congressional districts and wherever conservatives can be brought together, to learn about important issues, protest bad policies and promote good ones, and **ensure that the vote of every person who shares our values is cast and counted.**

## Our Principles

- **Patriotism** – love of our country and of what it stands for, “warts and all”
- **American Exceptionalism** – seeing the U.S. as a special place, where our tradition of freedom and opportunity attracts the smartest, most talented, hardest-working people from around the world
- **Nationalism** – putting the concerns and just interests of the American people first
- **Populism** – a philosophy that opposes slavery and aristocracy, that sees all people as created equal, that puts the interests of working-class and small-business-class people ahead of the interests of the privileged and well-connected
- **The Constitution with its Bill of Rights**, especially with regard to rights currently under massive threat such as **Freedom of Speech, Religious Liberty, the Right to Self-Defense, Freedom from Mass Surveillance, and Freedom from Political Persecution**
- **Opposition to Abuse of Power** such as that committed recently by federal law enforcement officials, the Intelligence Community, and the President and Attorney General
- **Parents' Rights, School Choice, and Freedom from Indoctrination in Schools**
- **The Family** as the most important unit of society
- **Localism** – decisions made, whenever possible, by (in this order) individuals and families, neighborhoods and localities, state elected officials, and federal elected officials – not by unelected bureaucrats or international authorities
- **Honest Elections, using the Secret Ballot**
- **Nonviolence**
- **Equality for All**, not so-called “equity” as a euphemism for bigotry and discrimination, and **an end to Identity Politics** (racism, sexism, orientationism, etc.)
- **Respect for All**, treating all people fairly, without regard to their beliefs, backgrounds, or their circumstances of birth
- **Opposition to Wokeness** and other forms of ignorance and authoritarianism
- **The Right to Life**
- **Free Trade/Fair Trade**, policies that promote free markets while protecting national security and our supply chain
- **Peace Through Strength**, with a military sufficiently strong to protect our country and its just interests, and **Prudent Noninterventionism** (avoiding foolish entanglement in conflicts in other countries)
- **Affordable, Reliable Energy**
- **Free Enterprise and Opposition to corruption such as ‘Crony Capitalism’**
- **Fighting Inflation** by stopping deficit spending and by opposing policies that hurt economic growth
- **Lower Taxes, Less Bureaucratic Regulation, and a Balanced Budget** except in times of war or short-term emergency
- **Term Limits** for Members of Congress
- **Real Science**, not pseudoscience such as promoted by “green” extremists, “trans” extremists, and authoritarian officials pushing harmful policies in the name of “public health”
- **Being Tough on Crime**
- **Legal Immigration**, not Open Borders
- **The Rule of Law**, with courts following the law as it's written rather than as judges would like it to be