

Mayor Andy Berke Bio

Born and raised in Chattanooga, Tennessee, Andy Berke served as State Senator for Tennessee's 10th District from 2007 to 2012 before becoming the 65th Mayor of Chattanooga in 2013. As Mayor, Andy is focused on growing the local economy, ensuring every child has the opportunity to succeed, making Chattanooga's streets safer and neighborhoods stronger -- all while running a high-performing and effective government. Under Mayor Berke's leadership, Chattanooga has maximized their gigabit infrastructure and become a leader in the 21st century economy. In 2014, Mayor Berke established the first Innovation District in a mid-sized city and has since focused his efforts on digital equity, to ensure more citizens have the opportunity to participate in this burgeoning tech sector. To increase connectivity in the home, Mayor Berke has partnered with Chattanooga's local fiber optic provider, EPB, to offer reliable, low-cost, high speed broadband to all families with a child on free or reduced lunch. In addition to digital equity, Mayor Berke works hard to strengthen Chattanooga families through a variety of initiatives, including Baby University which provides new parents with the tools and resources they need to get their child off to a great start in life and a Pre-K Scholarship program to increase access to early learning for families caught in the gap. In 2017, Mayor Berke established an Office of Workforce Development in City Hall to help build paths to the middle class for more Chattanoogaans. Mayor Berke was named 2015's Municipal Leader of the Year by American City and County magazine for these innovative initiatives and for his leadership during a domestic terror attack on July 16, 2015, that took the lives of four Marines and a Naval Officer.