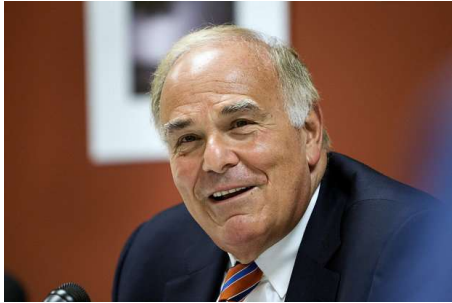


2019 Lenora Berson Community Service Award Honoree Edward G. Rendell



After 34 years of public service, 24 of them in elective office, CCRA's 2019 Lenora Berson Community Service Award Honoree Ed Rendell remains active with many of the same causes he was passionate about during his political career. Economic Development, Education, Environment, Equity, Fiscal Responsibility, Health Care and Infrastructure—these are the issues that define Governor Rendell's career.

During his two terms as Governor of Pennsylvania (2003-2011), Rendell's legislative agenda focused on commonsense political reform and putting progress ahead of partisanship.

Prior to that, during his two terms as Mayor of Philadelphia (1992-2000), Rendell eliminated a crippling deficit, balanced the City's budget, and generated five consecutive budget surpluses. Philadelphia's renaissance, which the *New York Times* called "the most stunning turnaround in recent urban history," is largely attributed to his determination, inspiration, and energy.

Before serving as Mayor, Rendell was elected District Attorney of Philadelphia for two terms from 1978 through 1985.

Governor Rendell penned his first book, *A Nation of Wusses: How America's Leaders Lost the Guts to Make Us Great* in 2012. With his trademark candor, Rendell chronicles his storied political career, while making a strong statement about the state of American leadership.

Perhaps no other issue is as important to Governor Rendell as America's dire need to rebuild its infrastructure. He helped create Building America's Future, an organization focused on the need for significant investment in infrastructure to ensure America's ongoing role as a global economic power. Rendell currently serves as Co-Chair of the organization, along with Michael Bloomberg and Ray LaHood.

Rendell also served as Chairman of the Democratic National Committee during the 2000 Presidential election. He currently sits on several boards, supports multiple nonprofit organizations, and teaches political science at his alma mater, the University of Pennsylvania. An Army veteran, he holds a B.A. from Penn and a J.D. from Villanova Law School.

Lenora Berson Community Service Award

Lenora Berson (1928-2011) loved our Center City neighborhood, and worked tirelessly to improve it right up until her death at the age of 83. As President of CCRA from 1999 until 2001, she strategized about and led numerous CCRA activities, including opposition to the Crosstown Expressway, which had been proposed to run along South Street. Berson, who lived most of her life in this neighborhood, was "an impassioned advocate who could teach a class, do social work, organize testimony and demonstrations, write speeches, lobby elected officials, initiate candidacies for public office, mastermind election campaigns, write articles and books, take photographs worthy of being shown in art galleries, promote Philadelphia's hidden gems, and organize events to promote the city that no one else thought of," noted then-Representative Mark Cohen.

There are few who can match Lenora's energy and tenacity. The Award given in her name is intended to pay tribute to Lenora and to recognize others who have had a substantial positive impact on our neighborhood.