

Michael W. Thompson

Michael Thompson founded and currently serves as Chairman and President of the Thomas Jefferson Institute for Public Policy, the state's leading Virginia-focused independent public policy foundation. It is a non-partisan organization offering creative alternatives to current government programs and policies on the state and local level here in Virginia. Leading Republicans and Democrats serve on its Board of Directors. The Jefferson Institute has gained the endorsement of Governor Bob McDonnell and three former Governors: George Allen, Jim Gilmore and Mark Warner. Recognition of the impact that the Thomas Jefferson Institute has is seen in the appointment of Mr. Thompson as the Governor's Special Advisor to the Commission on Government Reform and Restructuring.

Thompson was named by the national *Campaigns and Elections* magazine in June 2011 as one of the 30 top non-elected leaders who have influence within the Republican Party. Although he makes the point that the Jefferson Institute is non-partisan and has Democrats on its Board, he did co-chair the McDonnell campaign's issues committee on government reform and is well-known within the state's GOP.

Mr. Thompson founded a successful direct marketing agency in Springfield and served as its president for 24 years before selling it to his employees. He was also president of a chain of furniture stores in Georgia during this same time period. Mr. Thompson has been an active member of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) for 34 years. He served as President of the Virginia NFIB's Leadership Council (Board of Directors representing 6,000 independently owned businesses) for two years and continues to serve on its Leadership Council (state board of directors).

Mr. Thompson serves as Vice Chairman of the Fund for American Studies, an award winning foundation that sponsors nine different summer institutes, and a fall and spring semester program in DC, for college leaders here in the United States and overseas. These institutes are affiliated with Georgetown University, one of our nation's premier universities. For 36 years, he has been a well-known conservative leader in the state and local Republican Party in Virginia.

Mr. Thompson and his wife, Kit, have lived in Fairfax County, Virginia for forty-one years. He has been active in the community serving as a PTA President for two terms, on several boards and commissions in Fairfax County, President of the Springfield District Council for four terms (representing over 200 homeowner associations), on the Board of the Fairfax Federation of Citizens Associations for nine years, founding member and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Occoquan Watershed Coalition, currently President of his homeowners association, and he has been a leader in various political campaigns on the local, state and national levels. He served for four years on the Board of Directors of the Kidney Foundation for the National Capital Area and helped organize the African American Adoptions, Inc. His two children graduated from the public schools in Fairfax County and his son continues to live in Fairfax County with his wife and two daughters. Mr. Thompson's daughter lives in Nashville with her husband and three children.