



## KANSAS LEGEND BIOGRAPHY

### Carol Marinovich

Without the vision, dedication and expertise of former Mayor Carol Marinovich, Kansas City, Kan., would not be the city it is today. Marinovich was truly a legendary civic leader, serving as a local politician for 16 years and making an enormous impact on every aspect of the area during that time.

A native of Kansas City, Kan., Carol Marinovich has certainly given back to her hometown in innumerable ways. After receiving a bachelor's degree from St. Mary's University and a master's degree from the School of Education at the University of Kansas in 1981, Marinovich began impacting the lives of other Kansans through teaching. She spent nine years in the classroom before becoming the special education coordinator for the Kansas City, Kan., school district.

While contributing to Kansas City through education, Marinovich simultaneously became involved in the local government. In 1989, she was elected to the KCK City Council and served six years in this position. In 1995, Marinovich defeated the incumbent mayor and numerous other candidates to become the first woman mayor of Kansas City, Kan.

As mayor, Marinovich's positive effects on the community were unmatched. She helped consolidate the city and county governments into what is now the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City. The Unified Government (UG) became dedicated to the economic development of the area as a whole and to help oversee a new era of growth and prosperity in KCK.

Marinovich focused her efforts on everything from blighted areas of the city, to residential and commercial development, to reducing crime. Under her leadership, Kansas City, Kan., saw the creation of the largest tourist attraction in the state: Village West. The creation of the shopping, dining and entertainment mecca began with bringing the Kansas NASCAR Speedway, Nebraska Furniture Mart and Cabela's to the area.

In order to finance such phenomenal growth, Marinovich approved the use of Sales Tax and Revenue bonds, a unique financing alternative that has also brought additional attractions to the Kansas City, Kan., area. She decreased the county's tax rate by 18 percent and increased the area's property tax base.

Revitalizing the urban core was another priority of Marinovich's. Numerous new projects began, including the renovation of old buildings and the creation of new ones downtown and elsewhere. The unemployment rate dropped significantly and violent crime declined an unprecedented 50 percent during the mayor's 10-year term. For her amazing contributions as mayor and CEO of the UG, Marinovich was awarded the Alumni Distinguished Service Award from her college alma mater in 2005. She received numerous other awards and was named one of the nation's top 11 public officials by Governing magazine in 2002.

Marinovich now serves as senior vice president of Fleishman-Hillard and is a popular public speaker. She also serves on a number of boards as part of her continuing service.

