

Parris N. Glendening

Parris N. Glendening is President of Smart Growth Leadership Institute, a project of Smart Growth America, a nation-wide coalition of nearly 100 organizations promoting a better way to grow; one that protects open space and farmland, revitalizes neighborhoods, keeps housing affordable, and makes communities more livable. As president, Mr. Glendening travels the country advising about the dangers of urban sprawl and its effect on our communities as well as recommending a range of solutions.

Prior to that, Mr. Glendening spent eight years as Governor of the state of Maryland, where he made the environment, especially, smart growth-- education and inclusiveness the heart of his legislative, administrative and personal agenda. In addition, Governor Glendening had the honor of being elected chairman of the National Governor's Association by his colleagues, where he made quality of life issues his top agenda item. He also served as President of the Council of State Governments. He was elected to statewide office after serving three terms as county executive of Prince George's County, a jurisdiction of 800,000 outside of Washington, D.C.

Mr. Glendening arrived in Maryland from the state of Florida, where he received a bachelor's degree in 1964 from Florida State University, a master's degree in 1965 and his doctorate in 1967, all in the area of Political Science. Following his graduation, he taught Political Science for 27 years at the University of Maryland before being elected Governor in 1994. His textbooks on government and politics were used in over 400 colleges and universities across the nation.

For his dedication to preserving open space, ending sprawl, and revitalizing Maryland's communities, Governor Glendening received the American Society of Landscape Architects' Olmsted Award and the Harvard Innovations in American Government Award. He was also named a "Public Official of the Year" by Governing Magazine, based on the impact of his nationally recognized Smart Growth program. He received this award twice – once at the local level and once at the state level. He is the only person to have that honor as both a state and local official. He also received the National Civic Leagues' All American City Award, which was presented to him by President Reagan.

Mr. Glendening lives in Annapolis with his wife Jennifer and his daughter Bri. His son Raymond, a graduate of West Virginia University, is a political action representative for AFSCME.