

Craig S. Gerhart



Craig S. Gerhart served as County Executive of Prince William County, Virginia from March 2000 through July 2009. He began his career with Prince William County in 1983 as Assistant to the County Executive and during his tenure served as a Budget Officer, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and an Assistant County Executive before becoming a Deputy County Executive in July 1997.

Among his public safety-related accomplishments as County Executive, Gerhart assisted the Board of County Supervisors and the community in enhancing public safety by constructing three new Fire and Rescue Stations and one Police Station and by establishing a public safety staffing plan. He also managed the addition of 337 new police officers and fire fighters to those departments and successfully implemented a controversial illegal immigration enforcement program that garnered nationwide attention.

While county executive Gerhart also created a Neighborhood Services function to respond effectively to property code complaints and neighborhood issues, reducing the average complaint resolution time from 100 days to 41 days over a three year period. He led the county's nationally acclaimed Home Help Program, which creatively and at no cost to taxpayers attacked the dual problems of home foreclosures and the need for affordable public employee housing.

He was involved in several regional initiatives including participating as a member of the Council of Governments Chief Administrative Officers group and chairing the Northern Virginia Chief Administrative Officers, which included regional leadership efforts for homeland security planning, coordination and response, and identifying regional service delivery opportunities. Also on his watch as county executive, he led a team of 24 Northern Virginia regional staff dispatched to New Orleans on the heels of Hurricane Katrina to operate that City's emergency operations center and coordinate response and recovery efforts for 14 days.

Gerhart worked with County staff to establish a vision-driven, values-based organization, which resulted in both high levels of customer satisfaction (90 percent of citizens said they were satisfied with County Services) and a workplace environment with 92 percent of County employees being proud to work for Prince William County. Before coming to Prince William County, he was an Administrative Assistant to the Chief Administrative Officer for Montgomery County government and Prince George's County government in Maryland.

In July 2009, Gerhart opened a consulting firm, Gerhart Enterprises. In that capacity, for Amtrak he served as organizational strategist, which entailed supporting corporate efforts in leadership development, strategic thinking and planning, organizational analysis, strategy, and development. For the City of Falls Church, he conducted an analysis of the City's financial planning, management and reporting system, offering major recommendations for long range financial planning and policy making. Another Gerhart Enterprises consultancy was for the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, for which he offered classes in Leadership, Ethics, Organizational Decision Making, and Management during a Crisis. As an adjunct professor at the University of Virginia's Senior Executive Institute, Gerhart offers instruction in Leadership Development and High Performance Organizations.

He received a B.A. in Public Administration from Juniata College, PA, graduating magna cum laude, and a Master's degree in Public Administration from George Mason University, honored at graduation as the George Mason University Outstanding MPA Graduate.

