

# Mayors of White Plains

## #1 Ffarington M. Thompson (1865-1927)

### Mayor 1916 – 1919 - Democrat

- Born in Cold Spring, NY. Came to White Plains at age 2.
- Attorney specializing in probate and real estate.
- Served as Assistant Postmaster, White Plains Village Clerk, School Commissioner, Police Justice, and Supervisor.
- Elected first mayor to a two-year term in November 1915 and a second two-year term in 1917.



1916 -- Population when White Plains became a city – ~16,000 residents  
1916 – One room school houses opened in Ridgeway and Rosedale areas  
1917 – Ferris Avenue School opened  
1919 – The Rotary Club held its first meeting

## #2 Frederick E. Weeks (1870-1946)

### Mayor 1920 – 1925 - Republican

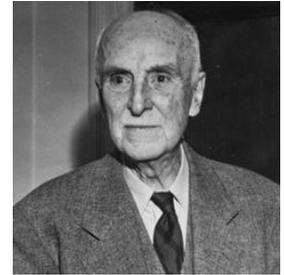
- Born in Sleepy Hollow, NY. Attorney in White Plains.
- Fought in Spanish American War and WWI.
- Member of the Sons of the American Revolution.
- Assistant and then District Attorney for Westchester County. Later, became a County Legislator.
- Elected to two-year terms in 1919, 1921 and 1923.
- Oversaw planning and construction of new Municipal Building in 1924 and 1925.



1920 - White Plains Population – 20,031 (up 40% in ten years).  
1921 – Loews State Theater opens on Main Street.  
1921 – Mamaroneck Avenue School opened.  
1922 – Academy of Our Lady of Good Counsel opened.  
1925 – Post Road School (originally built in 1914) expanded.  
1925 – Westchester Title & Trust Building  
Swampy land on Lake Street acquired for \$18,000 & turned into Recreation (now Delfino) Park.

### #3 Frederick C. McLaughlin (1871-1959)

**Mayor 1926 – 1931 - Republican**



- Attorney with offices in New York City.
- Elected trustee of Chatterton Hill Church in 1905.
- Member of first Common Council and served 10 years on the Council, including 8 as President of Council, before being elected mayor for two-year terms in 1925, 1927 and 1929.
- Was mayor when the new Municipal Building opened and when first group of memorial tablets were unveiled.

1926 – City Hall dedicated.  
1926 – 10-story Bar Building, at the time the tallest building in Westchester, opened at corner of Main and Court St.  
1926 – Windward School opened / George Washington School opened.  
1927 – New Fire Department Headquarters opened at the SE corner of Mamaroneck and Maple Avenues.  
1927 – RKO Keith's Theater opened at junction of Mamaroneck Avenue and Main Street.  
1928 -- People's National Bank and Trust Co. (now Westchester Arts Council Building) opened.  
1928 – George Washington School opened / YMCA on Mamaroneck Avenue opened.  
1928 – Belmont Hotel opened on East Post Road – later the Roger Smith and Coachman Hotels  
1929 -- New White Plains High School in the Highlands opened with 1020 students  
1930 -- B. Altman's came to White Plains (corner NW corner Mamaroneck & East Post Road)  
1930 -- White Plains Population – 35,830 (Up 70% in ten years).  
1930 – Eastview School (built in 1898) rebuilt and expanded / St. Johns Evangelist Parish School opened.  
1930 – Westchester County Center opened.  
1931 – 80,000 sq. ft. Northcourt Building opened across from County Court House.  
1931 – New Post Office on Grand Street / Rochambeau School opened.  
1931 – Broadway Park renamed in honor of Charles H. Tibbits, organizer of Village Park Association dedicated to beautifying White Plains. ‘

### #4 Chauncey B. Griffin (1886-1973)

**Mayor 1932 – 1933 - Republican**



- Born at 1131 North Street (house still there). WPHS graduate, Class of 1903.
- Insurance and real estate agent in White Plains.
- Last Village tax collector in 1915, first Commissioner of Public Safety in 1917.
- Member of Union Hook & Ladder Fire Company for 50 years. Older brother, H. Abbot Griffen was White Plains' first paid Fire Chief.
- Elected to a two-year term in 1931. Did not seek a second term

1932 -- County Office Building opened.  
1932 -- White Plains Post Office moved into Colonial Revival Building on Grand Street which was designed by James Wetmore.  
1933 – Battle Hill School (built in 1915) expanded.  
1933 -- White Plains celebrated of the 250th Anniversary of the Purchase from the Indians with a large parade and a visit from President Franklin Roosevelt.

## #5 Robert P. Smith (1890-1980)

### Mayor 1934 – 1935 - Republican

- Born on Chatterton Hill. WPHS graduate, Class of 1908. Attorney in White Plains
- Elected to a two-year term in 1933. Did not seek a second term.
- Became White Plains representative on the Westchester County Board of Supervisors and Clerk to Surrogate's Court.

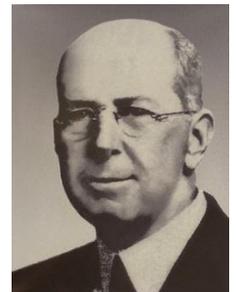


1935 – Pix Theater opened on Mamaroneck Avenue. First theater in Westchester County designed for sound.

## #6 Walter Rogers (1871-1960)

### Mayor 1936 – 1937 - Republican

- Born in Chelsea, MA. Came to White Plains in 1918.
- Accountant. Deputy Treasurer of U.S. Shipping Board.
- Elected to a two-year term in 1935. Lost to Chauncey Fish in 1935 Republican primary for mayor.
- Moderator of Greater New York City Congregational Conference in 1938.



1937 – Westchester voters approved a new County Charter creating the Office of County Executive.

## #7 Chauncey Tompkins Secor Fish (1889-1980)

### Mayor 1938 – 1945 - Republican

- Born at Fish home on Westchester Avenue and Hale Street, where C.F. Chang's is in The Westchester mall today.
- Attorney in White Plains with office on Main Street.
- WWI veteran. Charter member of White Plains American Legion Post.
- Was elected to two-year terms in 1937, 1939, 1941 and 1943.
- Was the first board chairman of Westchester Community College when it was established in the early 1950s and was instrumental in securing the college's permanent campus in Hartsdale.



1938 – First parking meters installed along downtown streets.

1940 – White Plains population – 40,327 (up 13% in last ten years)

1941 – 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday of City of White Plains celebrated at a dinner at the Contemporary Club.

## #8 Silas Skidmore Clark (1894-1975)

**Mayor 1946 – 1949 - Republican**

- Born in White Plains.
- Attorney in White Plains
- Veteran of Mexican Border Campaign and WWI
- Chairman of White Plains Draft Board during WWII.
- Elected to two-year terms in 1945 and 1947.



1946 – White Plains was the first municipality to install meters in parking lots.

1948 – The Contemporary Club changed its name to The Women’s Club of White Plains.

1948 – Archbishop Stepinac High School opened.

## #9 Edwin G. Michaelian (1906-1983)

**Mayor 1950 -- 1957 - Republican**

- Early resident of Cottage Place. WPHS graduate, Class of 1924.
- Managed his family’s rug business. Served in Navy in WWII.
- Served 6 years on City Council with Navy service in between before elected mayor in November 1949. Elected to two-year terms in 1951, 1953 and 1955.
- Went on to serve 16 years as Westchester County Executive.
- Headed the Institute of Suburban Governance at Pace University.



1950 – White Plains population – 43,366 (up 8% in last ten years)

1952 – First international business (Nestle) established executive offices in White Plains.

1953 – Ridgeway School opened.

1954 – General Foods headquarters established in city.

1957 – North Street School opened. Now the German School.

1957 – Our Lady of Sorrows Elementary School opened.

## #10 Richard S. Hendey (1907-1980)

**Mayor 1958 -- 1973 - Republican**

- Born in Pittsburgh. President of his family's pharmaceutical firm.
- Chairman of White Plains Renewal Agency.
- Served 12 years on City Council before elected mayor in November 1957. Won a total of 8 elections as mayor, winning two-year terms in 1959, 1961, 1963, 1965, 1967, 1969 and 1971. Did not seek re-election in 1973.
- Son, Richard S. Hendey Jr., served 12 years on the City Council (1982-1993).



1958 – Urban Renewal began in White Plains

1958 – New gymnasium added to Post Road School (originally built in 1914).

1959 – The Methodist Church just east of City Hall on Main Street was demolished to make way for new Sears & Roebuck store. Church built new quarters on Bryant Avenue.

1960 – White Plains population – 50,845 (up 16% in last ten years)

1960 – New White Plains High School opened on North Street on land once owned by J.C. Penney.

1961 – Rosedale School opened. Now Leffell School.

1963 – First parking garage opened by Parking Authority.

1965 – White Plains Beautification Foundation was incorporated.

1970 – White Plains population – 50,346 (down 1% in last ten years)

## #11 Carl J. Delfino (1907-1974)

**Mayor 1974 (6 months) - Republican**

- Born in White Plains.
- President of Border Sales. Chair of White Plains Renewal Agency.
- Served 12 years on City Council. Elected mayor in November 1973.
- Suffered an incapacitating stroke days after taking office in January 1974. He never returned to his office and died in July 1974.
- His brother, Joseph, served 7 years the Common Council and 12 years as Mayor.



## #12 Harry Gordon (1916 - 1988) - Republican

**Acting Mayor 1974 (4 months)**

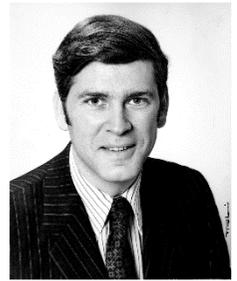
- Born in York, PA. WPHS graduate, Class of 1933.
- Owner of Olson & Gordon furniture and stationary company
- Served two years on Common Council before becoming President of Council in January 1974. By Charter, served as Acting Mayor. Resigned on May 3, 1974.
- Served as head of the White Plains Library board, chairman of the White Plains Parking Authority and as a member of the Urban Renewal Agency.



### #13 Michael Keating (1939 - 2014)

#### Acting Mayor 1974 (3 months) - Democrat

- Born in Philadelphia. Attorney
- Served on Common Council four years before being appointed by a State Supreme Court justice that as the senior councilman, he should become Acting Mayor in May 1974.
- Council finally voted on an Interim Mayor, Richard Maass, in August. Keating remained on Common Council throughout the year.



### #14 Richard Maass (1929 - 1998)

#### Interim Mayor 1974 (5 months) - Democrat

- Investment and real estate broker. Never in or ran for public office.
- Elected Interim Mayor by the Common Council in August 1974 and served until end of year.
- Westchester County Historian, 1974-1981.
- Went on to serve as president of the Purchase College Council, president of the Urban League of Westchester and president of the American Jewish Congress.



1974 – City purchased Baldwin Farm.  
1974 – Gardella Park completed and dedicated  
1974 – Budget Advisory Committee established  
1974 – El Centro Hispano established.

### #15 Michael Keating (1939 - 2014)

#### Mayor 1975 - Democrat

- Born in Philadelphia. Attorney.
- Served on Common Council four years before being appointed by a State Supreme Court justice that, as the senior councilman, he should become Acting Mayor in May 1974.
- Council finally voted on an Interim Mayor, Richard Maass, in August. Keating remained on Common Council throughout the year.
- Won special city-wide election in November 1974 to fill second and last year of Carl Delfino's term.



1975 – Common Council successful in getting the Urban Renewal Agency to eliminate the proposed elevated arterial feeder route into downtown White Plains.  
1975 – Westchester One, 900,000 sq. ft. office building opened at 30 South Broadway

## #16 Alfred Del Vecchio (1923 – 2018)

**Mayor 1976 -- 1993 – Democrat/Republican**



- Professor of mechanical engineering at Manhattan College.
- Elected to Common Council in 1972 as a Democrat. Elected to a two-year term as mayor in November 1975 running on the Republican line against incumbent Democrat Mayor Keating. After passage of a law that changed the mayoral term to four years, he was elected to four-year terms in 1979, 1983 and 1987 on Republican party line. Lost the Republican primary in 1993 and ran and lost as third-party candidate.
- Shepherded Urban Renewal in the Central Business District.
- Initiated recycling programs, experimented with electric vehicles, and computerized the city's traffic light network to improve efficiency.

1976 – “Mapleton” on the Good Counsel campus is first White Plains location to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

1977 – The 1915 Courthouse on Main Street demolished to make room for the Galleria.

1980 -- White Plains population – 46,999 (down 7% in last ten years)

1980 – The Galleria Mall opens.

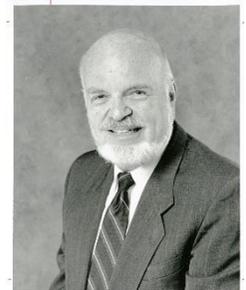
1980 – The Armory on South Broadway added to the National Registry of Historic Places.

1984 – Gazebo in Tibbits Park dedicated to former Mayor Edwin Michaelian.

1990 – White Plains population – 48,718 (up 4% in last ten years)

## #17 Sy Schulman (1926 – 2012)

**Mayor 1994 -- 1997 - Democrat**



- Westchester County Planning Commissioner, 1955-1968.
- New York State Park Commissioner, 1968-1973
- Westchester Urban Development Corporation
- Elected to Common Council in November, 1991. Elected to a four-year term as Mayor in November 1993.

Comprehensive Plan Review Committee Established

Ebersole Ice Rink roofed.

1995 – The Westchester Mall opens.

## #18 Joseph M. Delfino (1932 – 2024)

**Mayor 1998 -- 2009 - Republican**

- Born in White Plains. WPHS graduate – Class of 1950.
- Served in the Air Force in Korean War.
- Sales executive for General Foods and Richardson Vicks.
- Elected to Common Council in November, 1991. Elected mayor for four-year terms in 1997, 2001 and 2005.



2000 – White Plains population – 53,307 (Up 9% in the past 10 years)

2003 – City Center Opened.

2004 – The Source at White Plains opened.

2007 – Renaissance Square opened.

2009 – New Post Road School opened, largely replacing original 1914 structure.

## #19 Adam Bradley (1962- )

**Mayor 2010 -- 2011 - Democrat**

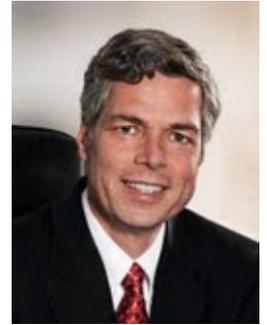
- Born and raised in Westchester County.
- Attorney in private practice. Served as an assistant County Attorney in Westchester County and counsel to Assemblyman Richard Brodsky.
- Elected to New York State Assembly in 2002 representing 89<sup>th</sup> Assembly District serving through 2009.
- Elected Mayor for a four-year term in November 2009. Resigned in February 2011 after being convicted of domestic violence (conviction was overturned on appeal and he was acquitted in a retrial)



2010 – White Plains population – 56,853 (Up 7% in past ten years)

## #20 Thomas Roach (1961 – )

### Mayor 2011 -- 2025 - Democrat



- Born in White Plains.
- Attorney with Legal Aid Society in Bronx and in private practice in White Plains.
- Elected to Common Council in November 2001.
- Was serving as President of the Council when Mayor Bradley resigned in February 2011 and became Acting Mayor for rest of year. Won a special election for remainder of Bradley's term in November 2011 and elected to four-year terms in 2013, 2017 and 2021.
- Implemented solar installations throughout city, revitalized the transit district near railroad with new housing, supported small business and hospitality growth along Mamaroneck Ave. corridor.
- Elected Westchester County Clerk in November 2025.

2020 – White Plains population – 59,443 (Up 5% in past ten years)

2021 -- \$95 million improvement project on White Plains Metro North Station completed

2025 – White Plains population – Estimated at 63,000 (up 6% in past five years)

## #21 Justin Brasch (1960 – )

### Mayor 2026



- Raised in New York City. Moved to White Plains in 2003.
- Lawyer specializing in Landlord-Tenant, Leasing and Criminal Law.
- Active on government and non-profit boards, including the County's Citizens Budget Advisory Committee, the White Plains Planning Board and the White Plains School Budget Advisory Committee.
- Served 8 years on Common Council, two as President, before elected to a four-year term as mayor in November 2025.

Prepared by Larry Geiger  
Based on material prepared by Ann McPherson,  
former White Plains City Clerk, and  
Additional research by Elaine Massena, White Plains City Archivist  
As part of the White Plains City Hall Centennial Celebration  
February 22, 2026