

Patricia A. Foley Biography

Patricia A. Foley was born in South Boston, graduated from Milton High School in 1971, and received her B.S. cum laude in 1977 from the University of Massachusetts/ Boston in Sociology. She currently is President of Save the Harbor/Save the Bay, the region's largest public interest harbor advocacy organization with more than 4,000 members, a staff of six and a budget of nearly \$1 million.

Patty began her career of public service as a juvenile probation officer in the Quincy District Court, where she helped pioneer alternative sentencing programs for youthful offenders. In 1979 she joined Boston Mayor Kevin White's re-election campaign, and in 1980 served as a congressional district field organizer for United States Senator Edward M. Kennedy's presidential campaign in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Ohio. Foley then returned to Massachusetts, and in January of 1981 signed on as legislative assistant to State Senator George Bachrach.

In 1983 Patty joined then Lieutenant Governor John Kerry's staff, serving first as a policy analyst, then Finance Director for his senatorial campaign in 1984. Following his victory, she served as Deputy Chief of Staff in his Washington Office, then home to serve as Massachusetts Chief of Staff. In 1990, Foley served as Kerry's Campaign Manager for his first reelection campaign, the first woman to successfully run a statewide campaign here in Massachusetts.

In 1991 Foley moved to New York City, where she served as Senior Vice President for External Affairs at LISC, the Local Initiatives Support Corp., the nation's largest non-profit organization dedicated to assisting community development corporations (CDCs) in rebuilding their neighborhoods. At LISC, Foley developed and implemented a national communications strategy on behalf of the community development movement, ran a \$200 million fundraising campaign, and worked directly with the Congress to advance policies that strengthened America's cities, including the Federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit.

In 1999 Foley joined Save the Harbor/Save the Bay as a strategic planner and consultant. In 2000, she was appointed President, a position she has held since that time.

On the strength of Patty's extensive experience in local, state and federal government affairs, non profit management, and in innovative public-private approaches to community building, *Save the Harbor/Save the Bay* has emerged as a leader on critical issues affecting the health of our harbor and the future of our waterfront and our city.

As President, Patricia Foley has:

- Grown the organization from a \$175,000 annual operating budget to just under \$1,000,000
- Built a first rate board of directors that includes a unique mix of civic, corporate cultural and community leaders who all share a commitment to the Harbor and the City
- Built strong partnerships with government and elected officials, increasing the impact of the organization's advocacy efforts directed towards City Hall, the Massachusetts Legislature, and the Patrick Administration

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Under her leadership, Save the Harbor/Save the Bay:

- Continues to be the region's leading advocate for clean water, winning precedent setting environmental policy victories which will make the beaches of South Boston and North Dorchester among the cleanest in the nation by 2010, and improve water quality in the Charles River and in the Fort Point Channel
- Leads and manages the Metropolitan Beaches Commission, a legislative commission whose recommendations have been embraced by the Patrick Administration as a "blueprint for reform" of our beaches and parks system statewide. In 2007 the Commission secured \$2 million for new equipment and staff for our region's public beaches from Nahant to Nantasket. In 2008, it secured an additional \$1 million to further improvements on these important regional assets
- Pioneers programs, events and initiatives that reconnect Boston's citizens and neighborhoods with the waterfront and the Harbor:
 - Leads the effort to build the South Bay Harbor Trail, a 3.5 mile-long pedestrian friendly bikeway which will link Ruggles Station in Roxbury to the Fan Pier in South Boston
 - Developed innovative free summer youth environmental education programs that have connected 28,000 young people to Boston Harbor and the Harbor Islands since 2000
 - Chaired the City of Boston's public planning initiative that created the award winning "Fort Point Channel Watersheet Activation Plan" and four seasons of free programs on the Channel
 - Helps to create and strengthen non-profit organizations and community groups on the Fort Point Channel and in beachfront neighborhoods and communities from Nahant to Nantasket.