



Life In Brief

Current Title: Chief of Staff

Political Party: Republican Party

Born: July 28, 1959

Birthplace: Verdun, FRANCE

Religion: Christian - Non-Denominational

Ethnicity: White/Caucasian

Marital Status: Married

Education:

- University of South Florida, BA, 1981

Family:

2 children ; 1 grandchild

Work History:

- Restaurateur, Aunt D's Restaurant
- Customer Relations Director, Energy Company
- Owner, Highlands Properties

Quick Summary

Unwavering conservative, known for his vocal support of the Trump administration and his ability to pull the Republican party to the right through his leadership of the Freedom Caucus

- Career entrepreneur focused on hard work; started and sold a successful business and then launched his real estate career
- Strong views on traditional marriage, small government, and states' rights put Meadows in the spotlight on many controversial positions and ultimately led to his leadership of the Freedom Caucus

- Loyalty to President Trump earned him a position in the Administration, saving Meadows from a tough reelection after North Carolina's court-ordered redistricting
- Made major changes immediately upon entering the position as Chief of Staff, most notable firing Press Sec. Stephanie Grisham

Approach and Motivations

Self-made businessman and politician who values faith and family above all else

- Values hard work greatly, has used his willpower to start a restaurant, put himself through real estate school, and beat obesity; carries this into policy, wanting to incentivize hard work by lowering taxes
- Having started and owned several small businesses, values limited regulation so that businesses can grow and prosper
- Draws on his faith often and strongly believes in a traditional definition of marriage, often making policy decisions solely on this belief
- Conservative views do not impede Meadows' ability to foster personal relationships across the aisle, as evidenced by his deep and longtime friendship with late Elijah Cummings

Policy Position and Areas of Focus

In favor of limited government, states' rights, and conservative social policy

Social Policy: *Believes in protecting traditional family values and the Second Amendment*

- Co-Sponsored the Marriage and Religious Freedom Act to protect those who oppose same-sex marriage from adverse action



- Holds pro-life views, voting in favor of banning federal funding for abortions and co-sponsored the Defund Planned Parenthood act of 2015

Health Care: *Opposed to government intervention in the health care system*

- Staunchly opposed to the ACA, calling for its removal through Congress and the courts
- Used leadership of the Freedom Caucus to negotiate the MacArthur Amendment of the 2017 American Health Care Act, which would have allowed states to waive protections on preexisting conditions

Fiscal Policy: *Believes in small government and strictly opposes new taxes*

- Actively opposes income tax increases; wants to eliminate the capital gains and estate taxes
- Advocates for tax code reform via a flat tax
- Advocates for spending cuts; supports a balanced budget amendment and pegging federal spending increases to inflation

Deregulation: *Leveraged Freedom Caucus leadership to ask Trump to remove a variety of restrictions to promote business growth*

- Called for the withdrawal from the Paris climate accords and the opening of federal land to oil exploration; proposed a series of EPA regulations to be removed on oil companies to expand domestic production
- Sought to remove the legal power of the CFPB
- Wanted to deauthorize international banking organizations like the Export-Import bank
- Wanted to remove tobacco regulation from the FDA's regulatory purview
- Requested all of the FEC's net neutrality regulations be revoked

Core Communities

A former leader of the Freedom Caucus, is closest to passionate supporters of President Trump

Conservative Leadership: *Deep ties to the Republican party through his leadership in the Freedom Caucus*

- Meadows was often referred to as one of Donald Trump's closest allies in congress, vocally defending Trump during impeachment and calling for a financial audit of the Mueller probe
- Jim Jordan (R-OH4), former chair of the House Freedom Caucus served on the caucus with Meadows and was a close legislative ally
- Meadows had close relations with other Trump-loyal members of the Freedom Caucus, including Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL01) and Gov. Ron DeSantis (R-FL)
- Works with the Heritage Foundation; its president, Kay C. James has supported many of Meadows' statements in her writings
- Collaborated with Tea Party calling for the 2015 removal of John Boehner
- Tied to traditional marriage-focused conservative donors, like Dick Uihlein
- Supports and works with religious leaders Billy Graham and Ken Ham

Western North Carolina: *More than three decades of residency has given Meadows strong connections*

- Spent more than half his life living in Western North Carolina after vacationing there as a child
- Jane Bilello, head of the Asheville Tea Party endorsed Meadows and organized on his behalf
- Ben Williamson, another western North Carolinian, worked on the Meadows campaign, served as Meadows' press secretary, and was



brought on to White House staff shortly after Meadows took up the Chief of Staff role

Political History

- Chairman, Macon County (FL) Republican Party, 2002-2002
- Member, NC Board for Economic Development in Western North Carolina
- Vice Chair, U.S. House Subcommittee on Government Operations, 2013-2015
- Chairman, U.S. House Subcommittee on Government Operations, 2015-CURR
- Chairman, U.S. House Subcommittee on Government Operations, 2018
- Member (NC11 R), U.S. House of Representatives, 2012-2020

Relevant Financial Information

Has financial support of large Republican donors and a history of donations from transit companies due to his committee assignments

Biggest Industry Donors (Career)

- Real Estate: \$97,000
- Insurance: \$86,000
- Railroads: \$76,000
- Lawyers/Lobbyists: \$75,000
- Health Professionals: \$75,000

Biggest Corporate Donors (Career)

- American Bankers Association: \$32,000
- National Association of Realtors: \$32,000
- American Society of Anesthesiologists: \$27,000
- National Automobile Dealers Assn.: \$28,000
- National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors: \$27,000

Biggest Individual Donors (Career)

- Mark Meadows: \$26,000
- Dick Uihlein, President of Uline (Pleasant Prairie, WI): \$14,000
- Cary Katz, former CEO of the College Loan Corporation and professional poker player (Las Vegas, NV): \$11,000
- William Cheney: \$10,000
- Eleanor Cheney: \$10,000

Political Donations

- Donates extensively to North Carolina Republicans running for state and national office, with particular frequency to Charles Taylor (R-NC11), who served through 2007

Publications, Media and Speaking

A national leader of the farthest right faction of the Republican party, often takes to the airwaves to advocate for President Trump

Media: *Was one of the primary pro-Trump voices during the impeachment hearings, taking to conservative outlets to denounce the proceedings*

- Preferred Outlets: National conservative outlets for both television and radio, as well as local news like the Smoky Mountain News and the Asheville Citizen times
- Favorite Subjects: Republican leadership, impeachment
- Social Media Habits: Abandoned most social media when transitioning to White House Chief of Staff role; runs his own Facebook

Speaking: *Speaks often as the leader of the Freedom Caucus and a loyalist to Donald Trump*

- Favorite Subjects: Impeachment, traditional marriage
- Preferred Audience: Conservative conferences



Professional Affiliations

- Elder and Adult Sunday School Teacher, Community Bible Church

Family and Personal Background

Raised in Florida in a poor family, Meadows is a self-made businessman who relies on his faith and family greatly

- Born in Verdun, France while his father was serving in the Army and his mother was working as a nurse
- Says he was a “nerd” in high school who was fascinated by the weather; now owns several local weather websites for Western North Carolina
- Has lived in his district for nearly thirty years after moving there with his wife
- Campaigned with his wife, children, and mother in 2012
- Dedicates Sundays as a day of rest, going to church and spending time with his family
- Hunted with his father in Western North Carolina, and began taking his son when he turned four
- Meadows and his daughter were featured in the creationist documentary “Raising the Allosaur: The True Story of a Rare Dinosaur and the Home Schoolers Who Found It,” set on a piece of land Meadows later owned and sold to Ken Ham
- Often reminisces on his childhood, stating that he grew up as a poor, awkward child who began aggressive self-improvement after being rejected by a girl in high school, and carried that into his businesses later in life

Criticisms and Controversies

Has had multiple controversies, but worked quickly to address disputes once public

Ethics complaint against Meadows for continuing to pay a former employee

- Chief of Staff Kenny West was investigated and removed for inappropriate behavior and resigned, but continued to be paid
- The House ethics committee fined Meadows \$40,000 for paying the salary of a resigned employee
- Feminist groups criticized the limited investigation headed by Trey Gowdy (R-SC4)’s chief of staff, and others claimed the complaints against Kenny West had gone unaddressed by Meadows for months

Financial disclosure gaps and tax nonpayment

- Bertie County, North Carolina did not receive property tax payments for land owned by Meadows from 2013 to 2019; when they made the information public, Meadows agreed to pay the taxes and claimed he was unaware of the nonpayment
- This brought to light that the land in northeastern North Carolina had not been reported on Meadows’ financial disclosures
- Meadows also failed to disclose the sale of a parcel of land in Dinosaur, Colorado

Discrepancy over

college degree

- Meadows’ congressional biography reflected that he had obtained a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Southern Florida studying business management; Meadows obtained an associate’s degree in another field



Mark Meadows

White House Chief Of Staff

Vignette
by National Journal

- Ben Williamson, spokesman for Meadows, claimed the discrepancy did not come from the congressional office; the congressional historian verified the office approved the biography