

Biography for Bill Cork – Executive Director of the Mississippi Development Authority

Bill Cork is the Executive Director and Chief Economic Development Officer of the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA), where he leads a 190-person agency responsible for driving economic growth across the state. Appointed by Governor Tate Reeves, Cork manages a \$400 million budget and oversees strategic functions including business recruitment, international trade, energy, tourism, and disaster recovery. Since 2020, he has led the recruitment of over \$31 billion in private capital investment and created more than 21,000 jobs, securing historic projects with Amazon, Aluminum Dynamics, and Amplify Cell Technologies.

Cork brings more than 25 years of public and private sector leadership to the role, with deep experience in infrastructure, site development, utility management, and foreign investment. His previous roles include CEO of the Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission, where he managed port, rail, and aerospace assets and led multimillion-dollar expansions for global clients like Lockheed Martin, Sabic, and SNF. He also served as President and CEO of the Texarkana Chamber of Commerce and Executive Director of TexAmericas Center, where he negotiated a \$60 million federal property transfer and oversaw industrial redevelopment.

A former U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant and community planner with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Cork has advised on redevelopment policy, led consulting projects for ICF Consulting and Sempra Energy, and implemented complex infrastructure solutions across defense, energy, and transportation sectors.

Cork holds a Master of Urban Planning from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, with a concentration in economic development, and a bachelor's degree in philosophy from the same institution. He is active in both the International and Southern Economic Development Councils, the Mississippi Economic Development Council, and the Knights of Columbus. In 2024, he was named one of Mississippi's Top 50 leaders by *Magnolia Tribune*.

Known for his results-driven leadership, Cork continues to shape Mississippi's future through bold strategies and effective public service.

Bill is married to his wife of over forty years, Nina Cork, who is a commercial artist. They have four adult children and six grandchildren.

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