

Florida House of Representatives

Representative Mel Ponder

District 4

Mel is the Founder and President of Business Empowered (BE) and was elected in November 2016 to serve in the Florida House of Representative, District 4. He also had the honor to previously serve as Mayor of the City of Destin. As a State Representative, he has the privilege to serve on the following Committee's:

Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee, Chair
Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee
Energy & Utilities Subcommittee
Health & Human Services Committee
Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee
Ways & Means Committee



His company, Business Empowered, is a marketplace ministry headquartered in Destin, whose mission is to equip, encourage, and empower individuals in their calling and in their community. He and his wife also run a local real estate company called Silver Real Estate. Previously, Mel was the Director of Regional Marketing Programs for the Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association and just prior, served as Executive Director of Coastal Vision 3000/THE Beach. A 3rd generation Floridian, Mel was born and raised in Ocala. He attended Florida State University and received a B.S. degree in Finance.

Mel married his wife Mona, of 27 years, in 1991 and they have three children; Preston – 24, Casey – 22, and Grace – 14. Above all, he sees his primary role as that of a husband and a father.