



**WHEN MAYOR
DOUG WILDER
RULED RICHMOND**

STRONG-ARM POLITICS IN VIRGINIA'S CAPITAL CITY

LINWOOD NORMAN
FOREWORD BY JON BALILES

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Our nation's first elected Black governor, L. Douglas Wilder, returned to public service in 2005 as the first popularly elected mayor of Richmond, Virginia, in sixty years. Despite his landslide election, voters may have had little idea what they were getting themselves into, as many were ill-prepared for Wilder's strong style of leadership. He had remarkable success in reducing crime, cutting government spending, and boosting economic vitality, but Wilder's relationship with City Council and the School Board—and the disagreements that ensued from both sides—tarnished his record as mayor. Author and former press secretary to the mayor, Linwood Norman, skillfully recounts the turmoil of Richmond's transition to the "strong mayor" model of local government during what was a memorable chapter in Richmond's rich political history that is still deliberated today, more than fifteen years after Wilder's charismatic tenure concluded.

About the Author



A Richmond native with a master's degree in journalism from Virginia Commonwealth University, **Linwood Norman** served as the city's director of communications during Wilder's "Strong Mayor" administration. As Mayor Wilder's press secretary, Norman obtained an insider's view on what compelled Wilder to take actions that were deemed courageous by some and abominable by others. Linwood Norman's career has spanned the public, corporate, and nonprofit sectors and includes posts as senior communications advisor for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; communications manager for Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield; and communications director for ZERO—The End of Prostate Cancer. Earlier in his career, Norman was a reporter for the *Newport News Daily Press*; the *Petersburg Progress-Index*, where he received a Virginia Press Association First-Place Award for Investigative Journalism; and a contributing writer for *Richmond Magazine* and *Virginia Town & City Magazine*.

Now retired, Norman divides his time between Washington, DC, and Fort Lauderdale, Florida, as he ponders the topic of his next book.

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