

John J. McNichol

President & CEO

Pennsylvania Convention Center Authority (PCCA)



John J. McNichol is President and CEO of the Pennsylvania Convention Center Authority (PCCA). With more than 1 million-square feet of meeting space in the heart of Center City Philadelphia, the Center is the economic driver of the region's hospitality industry. The Center hosts approximately 250 events annually that attract more than 1.2 million planners, attendees, and exhibitors annually, resulting in a regional economic impact of more than \$750 million each year and growing.

As President and CEO of the PCCA, McNichol is responsible for the administrative oversight of the authority's staff and SMG, the world-class facility operator responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the Center. McNichol also interacts and coordinates the Center's activities with a wide-range of stakeholders, including the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Greater Philadelphia Hotel Association, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, customers, labor unions, and contractors. McNichol is focused on making certain that the Center exceeds customer expectations, increasing business and bookings at the Center, and ensuring the expanded Center fulfills its promise as a driver of the regional economy.

John has played a leadership role at the Center since 2007, when he was appointed by the Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to serve as a member of the Pennsylvania Convention Center Authority Board of Directors. His work ethic, experience and commitment to the success of the Center earned him the respect of his colleagues on the Board, who elected him to serve as the Board's vice chairman. In that capacity, he helped implement a range of Board initiatives designed to make the Center more attractive and friendly to customers, including the elimination of an 8 percent labor management fee on customers, changes to the labor supply model, and the hiring of private management firm SMG provide greater depth and breadth of experience in the operations of the Center.

As part of the transition to SMG, the Board of Directors called upon McNichol -- given his experience and familiarity with the Center -- to serve in an expanded role as President and CEO of the PCCA, a position he has held since 2013. McNichol immediately worked to implement important administrative and operational changes, including the successful negotiation of a new Customer Satisfaction Agreement with four show labor unions. That agreement included the adoption of progressive new work rules and expanded exhibitor rights that have made the Pennsylvania Convention Center more competitive resulting in record-setting growth in new business for the Center.

Prior to becoming President and CEO of the PCCA, McNichol served as a partner in the government relations firm of Greenlee Partners for 14 years. He also served in the capacity of managing partner for its affiliate political consulting company Keystone Strategies. Prior to joining Greenlee, McNichol served for six years as a Senior Vice President and Director of Government Affairs for Tierney Communications in Philadelphia and Washington, DC.

His background includes public service as legislative aide to a Member of Congress, former Congressman Curt Weldon. In 1989, McNichol established and served as the first executive director of the Congressional Fire Services Institute, which is credited with increasing federal funding for first responders and legislation that has improved national standards related to fire safety. Under McNichol's leadership, the membership of the caucus grew to more than 450 members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate – making it the largest legislative service organization in Congress. John is also a former member of the U.S. Marshals Service.

John is proud to serve as a member of the PHLCVB Board of Directors, Philadelphia Sports Congress Board Executive Committee, Pennsylvania Tourism Partnership Steering Committee, Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and the Reading Terminal Market Board of Directors. He is also Chairman of the Board of Rugby Pennsylvania – the state-wide league responsible for administering all youth and high school aged rugby across the state -- and a member of the Eastern Pennsylvania Rugby Union Board of Directors.

John is a graduate of Monsignor Bonner High School, located in Delaware County, Pennsylvania. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Villanova University in 1985 with a focus on political science and criminal justice. In time away from work, John enjoys coaching high school rugby, golfing, fishing and of course his family. Mr. McNichol currently resides in Glen Mills, Pennsylvania with his wife Danielle and his three children: John, Matthew and Samantha.