



City of Irvine Vice Mayor

James Mai

James Mai was elected as the inaugural Councilmember for District 3 and was subsequently selected by his City Council colleagues to serve as Vice Mayor. His election marks a historic milestone, reflecting Irvine's rich diversity, as he became the first Vietnamese American to hold elected office in the City.

With over two decades of business leadership, James brings extensive expertise in strategy, innovation, and growth. His career spans a broad range of industries and international markets, earning him a reputation as a dynamic and results-driven entrepreneur. He has successfully launched and managed organizations with a global presence, demonstrating resilience and adaptability in navigating complex and emerging markets.

As Managing Partner of Bristol & Bates, a management consulting firm specializing in business development and technology strategies, James has delivered transformative solutions to organizations worldwide. His proficiency in strategic operations, brand development, marketing, and technology has enabled businesses to scale efficiently and expand their impact. His professional portfolio includes operations across North America, Europe, and Asia, as well as founding an Irvine-based executive search firm in 2004.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, James has advanced his education throughout nearly three decades of international experience in business, nonprofit leadership, and public service. He holds a Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership from the University of Maine, as well as an MBA and a Master's degree in Communications, reflecting a career rooted in strategy, governance, and effective leadership.

Beyond his professional endeavors, James is deeply committed to community service. He is a steadfast advocate for children's rights, free speech, anti-discrimination initiatives, and food security programs. Over the years, he has held leadership positions on numerous nonprofit boards and served as chairman of community-focused organizations throughout Orange County and Irvine.

James's philanthropic efforts are equally noteworthy. As the founder of several 501(c)(3) organizations, he has dedicated significant resources to underserved communities, particularly children and individuals with special needs. His initiatives have alleviated poverty, addressed hunger, and provided critical support to hundreds of families each month, raising millions of dollars to enhance the quality of life in Irvine and Orange County.

James serves as Vice Chairman of the Orange County Power Authority and is a board member for several key organizations, including the Great Park, the Irvine Barclay Theatre, and the Irvine Community Land Trust. He also works closely with Mayor Larry Agran on Irvine's Legislative Affairs Subcommittee.

A proud resident of Irvine for 26 years, James has lived in District 3 for over 15 years. He values time with his wife and their two sons, ages 5 and 14, who attend schools in the Irvine Unified School District. Together, they embrace Irvine's cultural richness and enjoy its renowned parks and open spaces.



City of Irvine

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