

Michael Steele

Former Chairman of the Republican National Committee & Former Lieutenant Governor of Maryland

When he was elected Lieutenant Governor of Maryland in 2003, Michael Steele made history as the first African American elected to statewide office; and again with his subsequent chairmanship of the Republican National Committee (RNC) in 2009.

As chairman of the RNC, Michael Steele was charged with revitalizing the Republican Party. A self-described "Lincoln Republican," under Steele's leadership the RNC broke fundraising records (over \$198 million raised during the 2010 Congressional cycle) and Republicans won 63 House seats, the biggest pickup since 1938. His commitment to grassroots organization and party building at the state and local levels produced 12 governorships and the greatest share of state legislative seats since 1928 (over 760 seats).

As Lt. Governor of Maryland, Mr. Steele's priorities included reforming the state's Minority Business Enterprise program, improving the quality of Maryland's public education system (he championed the State's historic Charter School law), expanding economic development in the state, and fostering cooperation between government and faith-based organizations to help those in need.

Mr. Steele's ability as a communicator and commentator has been showcased through his current role as a political analyst for MSNBC. He has appeared on *Meet the Press*, *Face the Nation*, HBO's *Real Time with Bill Maher*, and Comedy Central's *The Daily Show*. In addition to his work in television, Mr. Steele co-hosted the daily radio program, *Steele & Ungar*, on the POTUS Channel on SiriusXM and is the host of the podcast, *The Michael Steele Podcast*.

Mr. Steele's writings on law, business, and politics have appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Hill.com*, *The Grio.com*, *Politico.com*, *The Root.com*, *BET.com*, *Townhall.com*, *The Journal of International Security Affairs*, and *Catholic University Law Review*, among others.

He is the author of the book, *Right Now: A 12-Step Program for Defeating the Obama Agenda*, which is a call to arms for grassroots America where he argues for a return to core conservative principles, and he is the co-author of the book, *The Recovering Politician's Twelve Step Program to Survive Crisis*.

Born at Andrews Air Force Base in Prince George's County, Maryland, Mr. Steele was raised in Washington, DC. Upon graduating Johns Hopkins University ('81'), he entered the Order of St. Augustine where studied for the priesthood. He is a graduate of Georgetown Law Center ('91), an Aspen Institute Rodel Fellow in Public Leadership, a University of Chicago Institute of Politics Fellow, and currently a Senior Fellow at Brown University's Institute for International and Public Affairs.