

Mayor Svante L. Myrick Bio



Svante L. Myrick was sworn into office in January 2012 and became, at 24, the City of Ithaca's youngest Mayor and first Mayor of color. Svante was first elected to the Common Council at the age of 20 while still a junior at Cornell University.

His active advocacy in Albany and in Washington D.C. has resulted in over \$20 million of grants and awards from the State and Federal government. After years without them Myrick brought fireworks back to the City on the 4th of July and he's moved Ithaca into the 21st century by embracing social media and overhauling the City's web presence.

His accomplishments in his first term include sorely needed revisions to the City of Ithaca's sidewalk policy, an overhaul of storm water utility legislation, and successful completion of the total rehabilitation of the Commons, Ithaca's downtown pedestrian mall.

After being elected to a second four-year term, in 2016 Myrick released *The Ithaca Plan: A Public Health and Safety Approach to Drugs and Drug Policy*, which garnered international attention for its forward thinking. From turning his dedicated mayoral parking space into a small public park to strengthening Ithaca's status as a sanctuary city for refugees, he has demonstrated a progressive approach to governing.

Myrick has provided both local and national leadership in critical areas such as public health, housing, poverty and access to education. In 2017, he was awarded an Aspen Institute-Rodel Fellowship in Public Leadership, a program that identifies and brings together the nation's most promising young political leaders to explore the underlying values and principles of democracy, the relationship between individuals and their community, and the responsibilities of public leadership.

His other honors include a [John F. Kennedy New Frontier Award](#), which recognizes Americans under the age of 40 who are changing their communities and the country with their commitment to public service, and being named to the Forbes magazine "[30 under 30](#)" list in the area of law and policy.

Myrick is currently serving a third term as Mayor of the City of Ithaca and of late has done a lot of work in collaboration with community stakeholders to develop recommendations to reform the Ithaca Police Department in an effort to improve police and community relations.