

Paula B. Davis, CGFM

Deputy Commissioner

Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development

Paula B. Davis serves as Deputy Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (ECD). As Deputy Commissioner, Davis is responsible for the management of the day-to-day operations of the department in fulfilling its mission of creating high-skilled, better paying jobs for Tennesseans by recruiting new industries and helping existing businesses grow. During her tenure of service and leadership, the department has played an integral role in leading Tennessee's business recruitment efforts resulting in 3 multi-billion dollar projects and 40 corporate headquarters locating in Tennessee—amounting to more than \$23 billion in new capital investment in the state and more than 150,000 new jobs to Tennesseans. As a result, ECD has received national recognition for its success including being named the most competitive state in the country for economic development by Site Selection magazine and receiving Area Development's Golden Shovel Award for the state achieving the most success in terms of job creation and economic impact.

Davis is a Certified Government Financial Manager who brings more than two decades of finance and administrative experience to the Department of Economic and Community Development and has served in a focused array of positions in government.

She serves in a dual capacity as the Assistant Commissioner of Administration and Policy Services Division, where she is responsible for overseeing the administration for the legal, policy, personnel, budget and fiscal, internal audit, information systems and research sectors of the department. In addition to her responsibilities within the department, Davis serves as a Governor's appointment to Southern Global Strategies Council of the Southern Growth Policies Board and the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations.

After graduating from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville with a bachelor's degree in business administration, the West Tennessee native started her career in state government with the Board of Probation and Paroles Administrative Services Division as an account clerk. She then progressed to the Department of Human Services where she served as an eligibility determination counselor.

Davis has also served as a budget administrative coordinator for the Department of Finance and Administration's Division of Budget, where her responsibilities ranged from supervising analysts in reviewing and monitoring departmental budgets to assisting in the development and enforcement of policies and procedures for the division. She also has served as the director of higher education information systems for the Tennessee Higher Education Commission's Fiscal Affairs sector.

Prior to joining the Department of Economic and Community Development, Davis was a legislative budget analysis specialist for the Tennessee Legislature Office of Legislative Budget Analysis for five years. During her tenure Davis advised legislators and designees on matters pertaining to agencies' budget requests and assisted in drafting and reviewing legislation.

Davis is extremely involved in a number of community organizations and affiliations. In May of 2009, she was appointed to the University of Tennessee Board of Governors, the governing/advisory body of the university's alumni association. Davis has served as a member of the University of Tennessee National Alumni Association Women's Council of which she served as chair in 2007-2008. She is a member of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Nashville, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and the Tennessee Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Development (DBE) Advisory Board.

She resides in Smyrna, Tennessee with her husband Attorney James G. Davis.

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