

BEMIS SMITH
CANDIDATE
BRADENTON CITY COUNCIL, WARD 4

Bemis Smith graduated with a BA in Economics from The University of the South, Sewanee. After graduation he lived and worked in NYC and then Washington DC where he worked on political campaigns throughout the southeastern US as a fundraising and political consultant.

In 1988, he was appointed to the Department of Housing and Urban Development under Secretary Jack Kemp as liaison with members of the US House of Representatives, promoted Administration priorities and prepared the Secretary for testimony before relevant committees. Bemis then became a Special Assistant for Multifamily Housing handling policy and public relations issues relating to HUD multifamily housing programs. In 1992, Bemis was appointed by Secretary Kemp to represent the Department on the Presidential Task Force for Hurricane Andrew.

Bemis moved to Bradenton and began working in real estate investment and construction and founded the construction company he still runs. After buying an historic home in East Bradenton, he worked with his neighbors to revive the Old Manatee Neighborhood Association and became President. He was appointed to the Downtown Development Authority prior to running for his current City Council seat. He has held various positions including Vice Mayor, Fire Commissioner, as well as representing the City on, and chairing the 12th Circuit Juvenile Justice Board, and as a member of the Tampa Bay Regional Transit Authority. He has served on the Habitat for Humanity Advisory Board and currently sits on the Manatee Children's Services Board.