

THE MORNING CALL

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Pawlowski prison sentencing LOCAL NEWS



MORNING CALL FILE PHOTO

Democrat Ed Pawlowski and his wife, Lisa, celebrate his victory in the Allentown mayoral race during a party Nov. 8, 2005, at Main Gate in West Allentown. Pawlowski would go on to be re-elected three times to the position.



MORNING CALL FILE PHOTO

Then Allentown Mayor Roy Afferbach (left) listens to Ed Pawlowski, then director of community and economic development, in 2002.



HARRY FISHER/MORNING CALL FILE PHOTO

Pawlowski formally announces his candidacy for governor in September 2013. He dropped out of the race four months later.

# The rise and fall of Allentown's mayor

Here's a look at Allentown Mayor Ed Pawlowski's political career.

**1994:** Comes to Allentown to lead what's now the nonprofit Alliance for Building Communities, which develops and manages low- and moderate-income housing.

**2002:** Takes job as Allentown's director of community and economic development under Democratic Mayor Roy Afferbach.

**2004:** Quits in protest of Afferbach's promise to lay off up to 53 city employees to balance the budget.

**2005:** Launches mayoral campaign, defeating Republican William Heydt in November.

**2006:** Sues the Fraternal Order of Police to overturn the pensions of 53 city police officers who retired in 2005 under a deal made by Afferbach.

**2009:** Beats Councilman Tony Phillips for a second term as mayor; salary increases to \$95,000 annually.

**2010:** Introduces plan for an experimental waste-to-energy plant on Allentown's Kline Island; two years later, the

contract goes to a company connected to a political ally, but the plant is never built.

**2011:** Gets council's support for earned income tax to go from 1 percent to 1.35 percent to help pay for pension costs.

**2013:** Gets council's approval of plan to lease the city's water and sewer systems for 50 years in exchange for money to bail out underfunded pensions. The lease will secure \$21.3 million for the city.

**September:** Announces candidacy for governor.

**November:** Wins a third bid

for Allentown mayor with 62 percent of the vote.

**2014:** Drops out of the gubernatorial race, citing difficulties raising money.

**September:** Celebrates opening of PPL Center, the jewel of the city's state-created Neighborhood Improvement Zone.

**2015:** Announces candidacy for U.S. Senate.

**July:** Is questioned by the FBI about the city's contracting practices after agents raid City

Hall, seizing computers, cell-phones and thousands of documents; suspends Senate campaign.

**2016:** Stays in power after City Council unanimously votes no confidence in him and calls for his resignation.

**July:** Asks the government to release two frozen campaign accounts; motion is denied.

**2017:** Announces candidacy for a fourth term in office.

**May:** Wins Democratic pri-

mary for mayor.

**July:** Charged in federal court with 54 counts, including extortion, bribery and fraud.

**November:** Wins fourth term as Allentown mayor.

**2018:** Goes on trial in federal court in Allentown.

**March 1:** Jury finds him guilty on 47 of the 54 charges.

**March 9:** Resigns as mayor.

**Oct. 23:** Sentenced to 15 years in prison. U.S. District Judge Juan R. Sanchez denies bail, and Pawlowski is led away in handcuffs.

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