

The Honorable James S. Gilmore, III

James S. Gilmore, III is a former Governor of Virginia (1998-2002) and current President & CEO of the Free Congress Foundation in Alexandria, Virginia.

Jim Gilmore was born October 6, 1949 and raised in Richmond, Virginia. He received an undergraduate degree in Foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia in 1971. After a three-year tour as a U.S. Army counterintelligence agent in West Germany, he entered the University of Virginia Law School, graduating in 1977. After working for a decade in community service and as a lawyer in private practice, he was elected Commonwealth's Attorney in his home county of Henrico in 1987 and 1991. He was elected Virginia Attorney General in 1993 and Governor in 1997.

Governor Gilmore also served as Chairman of the Congressional Advisory Panel to Assess Domestic Response Capabilities for Terrorism Involving Weapons of Mass Destruction, also known as the "Gilmore Commission," from 1999 until 2003. This national panel was established by Congress to assess federal, state, and local governments' capability to respond to the consequences of a terrorist attack. The panel submitted numerous findings to the President and Congress from December 1999 until December 2003.

In 2003, President George W. Bush appointed Governor Gilmore to the Air Force Academy Board of Visitors and he was elected Chairman of the Air Force Board in the Fall of 2003.

Governor Gilmore also served as Chairman of the Republican National Committee from 2001 - 2002.