



Vassilis Papageorgopoulos, Mayor of Thessaloniki

A native of Thessaloniki, Vassilis Papageorgopoulos attended the city's 5th Gymnasium (Junior High School) and 1st Lyceum (Senior High School). He then went on to study dentistry at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, graduating with a degree of Dental Surgeon.

He practiced dentistry until 1981, when he was elected to the Greek Parliament as a member for Thessaloniki.

His national military duty was served as a reserve officer in the Sanitary Corps. An athlete with "AETOS" Educational Sports Club in Thessaloniki, Vassilis Papageorgopoulos took part in international track meets for a number of years, equaling the European record for 100 meters and winning, *inter alia*, three medals at the European Games. He took part in the Munich and Montreal Olympics, where he was the standard-bearer for the Greek team.

In 1980 he was elected President of the Association of Greek Sporting and Athletic Organisations of Thessaloniki. His public affairs career began in 1978, when his name headed the list of Municipal Councillors of Thessaloniki elected that year. First elected to Parliament in 1981, he has been returned as a representative from Thessaloniki at every election since then.

Vassilis Papageorgopoulos was a member of the Parliamentary Cultural Affairs Committee, the Parliamentary Anti-Drugs Committee and the Parliamentary Helleno-Scandinavian Friendship Committee. His term as Deputy Minister of Culture in charge of Sports was marked by extensive activity in the construction of new athletic facilities.

In October 18, 1998 Vassilis Papageorgopoulos was elected Mayor of Thessaloniki. He assumed office in January 1, 1999.

He has been nominated honorary PhD of TEFAA (Sports Faculty of Thessaloniki University), of the University of Sheffield (U.K.) and the Kingston University (U.K.).

In October 13, 2002 Vassilis Papageorgopoulos was re-elected Mayor of Thessaloniki.