

## PASQUAL MARAGALL I MIRA

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Pasqual Maragall i Mira (Barcelona, 1941) is one of the latest, most relevant politicians in Catalunya and Spain. As mayor of the city of Barcelona, he promoted the city's candidacy for the Olympic Games and became the President of the Olympic Committee, in charge for the organization of the Olympic Games in Barcelona 1992. Deputy of the Parliament of Catalunya from 1988 to 1995, he held the presidency of the Catalan Regional Government from 2003 to 2006. In the present, he runs his own foundation against Alzheimer's disease, from which he was diagnosed shortly after he abandoned the political scene.

He studied Law and Economics at the University of Barcelona between 1957 and 1964. Highly engaged with democracy since his early youth, he was an active member of the Frente Obrero de Catalunya (Workers' Front of Catalonia) and enrolled the Frente de Liberación Popular (Popular Liberation Front), a left-wing political movement against Franco's dictatorship.

In 1965, he entered the **Specialist Office of Barcelona City Council as an economist.**

Between 1971 and 1973, he gained his **Master of Arts in Economics from the New School University in New York.** He then returned to Barcelona's City Council and to the Autonomous University of Barcelona as temporary assistant lecturer on urban economics and international economics.

In 1974, he supported one of the founding groups of the Socialist Party of Catalonia (PSC-PSOE), Convergència Socialista de Catalunya. In 1997, together with Narcís Serra, he ran the PSC campaign in Barcelona for the first democratic legislative elections.

In 1978, he was a **researcher and guest professor at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, which would later appoint him Doctor Honoris Causa.** On his return in 1979, he joined the PSC electoral list in the first municipal elections for Barcelona City Council in the new democratic era. As deputy mayor, he led the modernisation of the local public administration and financing system.

He succeeded Narcís Serra as **mayor of the city of Barcelona in 1982.** In 1986, the Catalan capital was chosen to host the 1992 Olympic Games and, right from the start, Pasqual Maragall **presided over the organising committee (COOB'92).**

In 1997, Pasqual Maragall returned to university lecturing in Rome and New York. However, in 1998 he came back to active politics and in 1999, he ran for the **presidency of Catalonia's Regional Government** for the PSC-Citizens for Change party. He finally held this presidency **from 2003 to 2006.**

**In October 2007 he announced to have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.** Since then, he has dedicated most of his efforts to promote scientific research in this illness. In April 2008 was born the Pasqual Maragall Foundation, which he presides to date.