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## Roger Dixon

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*Representative who resides in eastern Nebraska and is employed by a business that derives a majority of its revenue from out-of-state visitors*

Term expires June 30, 2020

### **Roger Dixon, President**

MECA

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During the past 35 years, Roger Dixon has helped recruit national sports championships, the nation's governors and even a papal visit to his sports, entertainment and convention facilities. As president/CEO of the Metropolitan Entertainment and Convention Authority (MECA), he is responsible for managing the operations of CenturyLink Center Omaha, TD Ameritrade Park Omaha, the Omaha Civic Auditorium and the Red Sky Music Festival.

Joining MECA in 2000, Roger supervised the design and construction of Qwest Center Omaha and helped ensure that the \$291 million arena and convention center was completed on time and on budget. The building opened in September 2003 and became CenturyLink Center Omaha in 2011. During this period, Roger has also overseen the expansion of MECA, which began with the single task of building and managing Omaha's premier arena and convention center. In 2004, MECA assumed management of the Omaha Civic Auditorium and the Omaha Music Hall. In 2009, MECA broke ground on a \$131 million stadium, to become the home of the NCAA Division I Men's College World Series. Under Roger's leadership, TD Ameritrade Park Omaha opened on time and on budget in April 19, 2011.

Before coming to Omaha, Roger served as the senior vice president and general manager of the Savvis Center in St. Louis, Missouri. He was a part of the management team that supervised the construction of the \$140 million sports and entertainment facility and was involved in scheduling and coordinating hundreds of sports and entertainment events. He was part of the presentation team that secured the selection of the Savvis Center as a regional site for the NCAA men's basketball tournament, as well as the host of the NCAA Women's Final Four. In addition, he was a key member of the planning and coordinating team for the 1999 visit of Pope John Paul II to St. Louis.

His industry experience includes serving as senior vice president and general manager of The Spectrum in Philadelphia, the home of the NBA's Philadelphia 76ers and NHL's Philadelphia Flyers. He also helped recruit a number of other sporting events including a NCAA men's basketball regional tournament.

Roger also spent five years working at the Kentucky International Convention Center in Louisville, Kentucky, where he helped recruit a number of large conventions to the community, including the national convention for the NAACP and the annual meeting of the National Governors Association. He has also served in management positions at the St. Louis Arena and James L. Knight Center in Miami, and he was an executive with SMG, which manages several major facilities around the country.

Roger is currently a member of the Nebraska Tourism Commission, the Omaha Convention and Visitors Advisory Board, the Metropolitan Hospitality Association, the Omaha Sports Commission Executive Committee and the Downtown Improvement District Board. He has also served on the Millard Public Schools Foundation Board and with Special Olympics Nebraska and the Special Olympics USA National Games. Roger enjoys hunting and golfing. He is a 1976 graduate of Southern Illinois University.



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