Jean-Claude Gaudin

Mayor of Marseille, France

Jean-Claude Gaudin (born October 8, 1939) is a French politician. He has been Mayor of Marseille since 1995 and Vice-President of the Senate since 1998; additionally, he has been Vice-President of the Union for a Popular Movement (UMP) since 2002.

National Assembly

In 1974, he took part in the presidential campaign of Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. In 1978, he won his first election for the French National Assembly as the candidate in the 2nd district of the Rhône delta. He beat the outgoing socialist deputy, Charles-Emile Loo, with 53.7% of the votes cast. In June 1981, he won reelection. He then became president of the Union for French Democracy (UDF) group to the French National Assembly.

In 1986, he was given the responsibility for the executive of Provence the Alps Rivieras. On April 25, 1986, he became president of the first regional council of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur elected by direct vote. In 1988, after the dissolution of the French National Assembly, he was again re-elected, for the 4th time, deputy of the Rhone delta for 2nd district of Marseilles, with 60.63% of the votes cast. His presidency of the UDF Group to the French National Assembly was also renewed.

Senate

In September 1989, he was a candidate for the senatorial elections and won the district. In 1992, the renewal of the regional council of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur enlisted much media interest. He then had to face the growing power of Jean-Marie Le Pen and the Front National. At the end of a violent and difficult campaign, he carried the vote again, beating Bernard Tapie and Jean-Marie Le Pen. He was also re-elected president of the regional council on March 27, 1992.

Mayor of Marseille

In 1983, Gaudin tried to unseat Gaston Defferre as Mayor of Marseilles, and lost for a handful of votes. In 1989, he was expected to win against Defferre's successor Robert Vigouroux, but lost again. In 1995, Gaudin stood for the post of Mayor along with maintaining his position as a senator. He won with an absolute majority of 55 City council men out of 101 and was installed as Mayor of Marseilles on June 25, 1995. On November 7, 1995, on a proposal from Alain Juppé, the President of the Republic Jacques Chirac named Jean-Claude Gaudin Minister for Integration and City and Regional Planning. On July 14, 1997, he was made Chevalier of the Légion d'honneur.

On October 6, 1998, he became Vice-President of the Senate. He was re-elected Mayor of Marseilles again on March 25, 2001 as well as March 16, 2008, and president of the Urban Community Marseilles Provence Métropole on April 11. On October 3, 2001, Jean-Claude Gaudin was re-elected as Vice-President of the Senate for a second time. In 2004, he was re-elected for a third time as Vice-President of the Senate.