



Bernie Navarro is the Founder and President of Benworth Capital Partners, a South Florida-based private equity, licensed mortgage lender focused on asset-based financing. Mr. Navarro has more than 20 years of experience across real estate finance, investment, development and construction.

An entrepreneur with a unique blend of high-impact real estate, mortgage finance, educational innovation and civic leadership expertise, Mr. Navarro has founded several other multi-million-dollar real estate companies headquartered in South Florida. With an innovative, strategic approach to the highly regulated mortgage lending industry, he created HomeMortgage, a full-service mortgage financing company, which was sold to the leading U.S. home lending company after six years of progressive revenue growth.

He also built BEN Development, a real estate development company that focuses on residential construction and revitalization. Mr. Navarro's real estate finance career includes sales management, operations and consumer compliance responsibilities at Fortune 500 companies including Citibank Mortgage, GMAC Mortgage and JP Morgan Chase.

With a passion for education, Mr. Navarro founded the LBA Construction and Business Management Academy (LBA Academy), the first business-focused charter high school in the U.S. created by a professional association. Classified as a State of Florida Title I school, the majority of students were from underserved communities. LBA Academy is now part of the Mater Academy public education system.

He served as a Governor-appointed member and Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Miami Dade College, the largest and most diverse institution of higher learning in the United States. He was named Chairman of the Presidential Search Committee to assemble and lead a 17-member committee to identify candidates and recommend top finalists for the College's next president. He also served as a founding board member for the College's Idea Center. In 2021, Miami Dade College awarded him an Honorary Bachelor of Arts and Letters. Additionally, in his former role as an advisory board member to the University of Miami's School of Business Administration, he contributed to the creation of the Center for Real Estate Studies and Research.

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**Founder and President of Benworth Capital Partners**

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Mr. Navarro is a recognized thought leader in the real estate industry. He was named President of the Latin Builders Association (LBA) in 2011, the largest Latino construction and real estate professional association in the U.S. He was also the Second Vice President and held other leadership roles for the Builders Association of South Florida.

Active in strengthening the local economy, Mr. Navarro seamlessly builds consensus with business, financial, political, and community leaders to achieve strategic business objectives and financial goals. He has led trade missions to South America to drive business in Miami, collaborating with the U.S. Department of Commerce and economic development boards. In an elected position with the Miami Dade County Community Council Area 10, he handled matters related to planning, public safety and land use. He was an appointed member of the City of Miami Beach Board of Adjustments, which handles zoning matters in the City.

Mr. Navarro has been a delegate at the Republican National Convention and served as the Florida Finance Chairman for Marco Rubio's presidential campaign and the National Finance Chair for his senatorial campaign. Most recently, he was appointed by Senator Rubio to serve as a member of his Judicial Advisory Commission for the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress. Recognized for preparing young talent to become future leaders, he served as a panelist to select candidates for the President's Commission of White House Fellows, a program providing first-hand experience in Federal government.

A published author on national real estate trends and local community issues, Mr. Navarro is the recipient of numerous prestigious awards recognizing his contributions to and impact on South Florida's business, real estate, education and civic communities. Moreover, Benworth Capital Partners is continually recognized by trade associations, economic development boards and local media for industry vision and leadership, as well as local philanthropy.

A Licensed Mortgage Loan Originator through the National Mortgage Licensing System (NMLS) and a Licensed Real Estate Sales Associate through the State of Florida, Mr. Navarro holds an ALM in Government from Harvard University and a BBA in International Finance and Marketing from the University of Miami.