

CURRICULUM VITAE

Zoltán POKORNI

Zoltán Pokorni was born on January 10, 1962 in Budapest, Hungary. In 1980, he graduated from the II. Rákóczi Ferenc Grammar School, and following that, he worked as an assistant librarian at the Faculty of Arts, Eötvös Lóránd University. He was drafted in 1981, served in Szombathely for a year. In 1987 he graduated from the Eötvös Lóránd University, Faculty of Arts, majoring in Hungarian literature and history. His first teaching job was Toldy Ferenc Grammar School, where he taught Hungarian language and history until 1994.

In 1988 he was the co-founder of the Democratic Union of Teachers. Until 1993 he was in charge of operation and he was the spokesperson of the Union. He participated in the Opposition Roundtable, representing the Democratic League of Independent Unions. He resigned public office and joined FIDESZ in October 1993, where he became the leader of the Education Cabinet. From 1994 he was the vice-president of FIDESZ and a member of the National Assembly. First, he became deputy leader of the FIDESZ Parliamentary Group, and then from 1997 to 1998 he was elected as the leader.

In 1998 he was appointed as Minister for Education in Viktor Orban's first government. During this period the first graduation from a higher education institution became free, the Hungarian higher education was integrated, the option for a student loan was created and government support for science increased significantly. He was elected as the president of FIDESZ – Hungarian Civic Party on July 15, 2001, so he resigned as a minister. After the elections of 2002, he became the leader of the FIDESZ Parliamentary Group, resigned from the presidency of the party and leadership of the Parliamentary Group in the summer of 2002.

In May 2003 he was elected as the vice-president of FIDESZ – Hungarian Civil Union. He became an MP for Hegyvidék (XII. district), Budapest for the third time in 2006 and the same year he became mayor of Hegyvidék district of Budapest and a representative in the municipality of Budapest. In May 2007 and then in 2009 he was elected again as vice-president of the party. In 2010 he was elected, for the fourth time, as an MP and, for the second time, mayor of Hegyvidék district of Budapest. Since 2010 he has been the Chairman of the Standing Committee for Education, Science and Research. In 2014 he chose to run for the mayor's position for the third time and he won another five year term. He remained as a member of the Budapest city council. In 2015 he resigned as vice-president of FIDESZ in order to devote more time and focus on the duties of a mayor.

He is married, his wife, Andrea Beck is psychologist. They have four sons: Benedek (1992), Ágoston (1996), Ábel (1999) and Barnabás (2001).