



Susan S. Gaston, Founder and President of the Gaston Group, LLC and co-founder of Fetlock, LLC, an equine policy-focused consulting firm, is a native of Henderson, Kentucky and is a government relations and public affairs consultant. Susan has been involved in the political and legislative fields for most of her life, having watched her father lobby for the oil and gas industries at the state and federal levels. With over 20 years of governmental affairs and lobbying experience in the United States Congress, the General Assembly of Virginia, federal and state regulatory agencies, and local government bodies throughout the Commonwealth – and concentrated in Hampton Roads - Susan has created strong relationships and contacts with elected and appointed officials on both sides of the political aisle.

Susan works with her clients to develop successful legislative strategies that include direct lobbying, public policy advocacy and message development, public testimony, media relations and coalition building. She is experienced in running effective, successful grassroots and grasstops advocacy campaigns that focus on community influence and earned media. Her clients include multiple professional trade associations; Fortune 50, 200 and 500 companies; and other business interests that span the fields of housing, real estate and development, critical minerals and rare earths, flooding and natural disasters, land use and zoning, landlord-tenant, water supply and water resources, water technologies, consumer finance, casino gaming, tobacco production and processing, industrial hemp and cannabis production, robotics and technology engineering, ports operations, renewable and alternative energy, telecommunications and technology, the arts, agriculture, agricultural technologies, large animal and equine, seafood production and processing, commercial fishing, higher education, economic development and veterans and military affairs.

Susan is an Honors graduate of the College of William and Mary with a degree in American Government and English. She also holds a Master of Arts degree in Human Resources Development from George Washington University. A former intern and staffer in the Washington, D. C. office of United States Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY), Susan is an avid workout enthusiast as well as an accomplished and dedicated equestrienne. She also gardens extensively and is known for her creative yet traditional floral design arrangements.

Susan serves as the Secretary and is on the Board of Advisors for the Sorensen Institute for Public Policy at the University of Virginia, a high honor for a government relations

professional in the Commonwealth. She serves on the Board of Virginia FREE (Virginia Foundation for Research and Economic Education) and is a member of the Insurance Committee at the National Association of REALTORS®. To share her love of horses and the equine industry, Susan serves on the Regulatory Committee of the American Horse Council.

An active member of her community, Susan is a member of the Peninsula Board of Directors of Towne Bank and serves on the Board of Directors for the William & Mary Libraries system. She also serves on the William & Mary Military Advisory Group that is chaired by former U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates. Always wanting to give back to her alma mater, Susan is the Class Ambassador for her graduation year and a Greek Ambassador for the William and Mary Alumnae Association. A lifelong Episcopalian, Susan is a member of Bruton Parish Episcopal Church where her activity focuses on the altar and floral guilds. She is active in the Williamsburg Garden Club as well as the National Society of Colonial Dames, including serving as Chair of the Susan Constant Committee. Her previous community activities include serving as President of the Junior League of Hampton Roads, President of the St. Andrew's Episcopal School Parents' Council and a member of the Board of Directors for the Virginia Symphony, as well as numerous volunteer activities at the Virginia Living Museum and the Peninsula Fine Arts Center, among others.

Susan is married to Dr. David W. Gaston, Ed.D., President and CEO of Gaston Educational Consulting, a partner in Gaston-Shaeffer Ed, and the former Superintendent of Schools for Charles City County. They have two sons, John, a Captain in the United States Marine Corps serving as the Division Adjutant and Legal Officer to the New River Marine Air Station and recently earned his M.B.A. from William & Mary; and Henry, a graduate of The University of Virginia, who is the Director of Business Development for the Hampton Roads Alliance. The Gaston's reside in Williamsburg with their Labrador Retrievers, Anne Morgan and Mary Turner, and their Dutch Warmblood dressage horses, Fallston and Bon.