



March 16, 2022

For Immediate Release

Contact: Chris Winters  
Email: [wintersvermont@gmail.com](mailto:wintersvermont@gmail.com)  
Phone: 802-261-0387  
Web: [www.wintersforvermont.com](http://www.wintersforvermont.com)

**Secretary of State Candidate Chris Winters Announces Endorsements:  
Former Secretary of State Deb Markowitz and Other Vermont Leaders**

Berlin, VT — March 16, 2022 — Chris Winters, Democratic candidate for Secretary of State, has received the endorsement of former Secretary of State Deb Markowitz and of other prominent leaders within the legislature, municipal clerks, professional regulation, and other areas served by the Secretary of State's Office.

“As a first-time candidate for statewide office, I am humbled and honored by how much support I am getting from the people who know me from my career in public service,” said Chris Winters. “I have worked hard for Vermont behind the scenes for many years, but I had no idea what to expect when I stepped out as a candidate for office for the first time. It’s gratifying to see that I’ve made a positive impact and a lasting impression. It also makes me all the more determined to carry on the great work we’ve been doing in the Secretary of State’s Office if I am elected.”

Winters, the current Deputy Secretary of State of seven years and 25 year veteran of the office, announced his candidacy on February 18 after Jim Condos said he would not seek another term.

A sampling of the endorsements are below, with more to follow in the coming weeks:

**Deb Markowitz, Montpelier - former Secretary of State 1998-2010**

Chris is not a typical politician. Our democracy does best when the people who oversee our elections and open government laws are committed to doing so in a professional and nonpartisan way. Chris has demonstrated his nonpartisanship and commitment to transparency and good government for decades. Chris will be ready on day one to serve as our Secretary of State.

**Karen Richard, Colchester - former Municipal Clerk & Treasurer**

As the past Colchester Town Clerk/Treasurer and member of the Vermont Municipal Clerks and Treasurers Association, I had the opportunity to work often with Deputy Secretary of State Chris Winters. I appreciated his sincerity in solving problems and collaborating with the clerks through the years. As municipal clerks, we need to know we have a Secretary of State with an open mind, one who we can trust to listen and engage on difficult issues. Chris has the qualities we need in our next Secretary of State. His existing skills, relationships, years of experience, and exemplary dedication to serving Vermont make him uniquely qualified for the job.

**Jeanette White - Windham County Senator, Chair of Senate Government Operations**

Vermont has led the way in safe and accessible elections, and in professional regulation, setting an example for the rest of the country to follow. Both of these issues are critical - elections as the very foundation of our democracy, and professional regulation is important to public protection, our Vermont workforce, and the economy. For many years, Chris Winters has led the Secretary of State's legislative agenda with professionalism, integrity, kindness, and even a little bit of humor. He does the hard work behind the scenes to get results for Vermont. He's the kind of leader - the kind of person - I want to see in the Secretary of State's Office.

**Claire Ayer, Addison - former State Senator from Addison County**

Chris Winters is undoubtedly the best candidate for Secretary of State. I worked with him for 16 years and found him unfailingly honest, direct, knowledgeable, and hardworking. While working in the Secretary of State's Office, he made it much easier for businesses and licensed professionals to operate in our state. He was instrumental in ensuring that Vermont elections are accountable and guaranteeing that registered Vermonters are free to exercise their rights and responsibilities to vote. I support Chris Winters for Secretary of State without reservation. Please vote.

**Donna Sweaney - Windsor, former Representative and Chair of House Government Operations**

I chaired the House Government Operations Committee in the Legislature. We had oversight responsibility for the Secretary of State's Office where I got to see Chris Winters go about his work as the Director of Professional Regulation. I saw an honest and determined leader taking an innovative approach to regulation and public protection. Chris is smart, hard working, and obviously cares deeply about Vermont. He's a great listener who reaches out to others when making decisions. Chris' strong administrative competence and leadership skills are exactly what we need in the Secretary of State's Office.

**Alison Clarkson - Windsor County Senator, Senate Majority Leader**

When voting rights are being challenged across the country, I am proud of the progress Vermont has made to protect and expand the right to vote. Too much is at stake to trust this Office to just anyone. We need an experienced leader, someone who has helped oversee Vermont's elections from the inside. Chris has been part of the leadership team in the Secretary of State's Office for decades. His dedication, skill and work ethic were on full display in 2020 as he worked closely with the Legislature, town clerks, health officials and other stakeholders to lead Vermont through successful elections in the middle of a pandemic.

I've worked closely with Chris Winters, I trust Chris Winters. It is essential that Vermonters trust this Office and its leader. And, this is why I am voting for Chris Winters to be Vermont's next Secretary of State.

**Anne Mook, Bennington - Former Representative**

I will support Chris Winters for Vermont's next Secretary of State this fall, and ask that you do, too. Chris demonstrates good listening and communication skills, and brings continued integrity to the office of Vermont's Secretary of State. He has a vast knowledge of the responsibilities of the office, and, most importantly, displays a non-partisanship that is needed in the position of Secretary of State. Chris's experience makes him READY ON DAY ONE. Please, cast your vote for Chris Winters.

**Bob Walsh, South Burlington - Former Representative and Real Estate Commission Member**

Elections are the bedrock of our democracy. In Vermont, the Secretary of State is the individual charged with the responsibility for our elections. In today's toxic political environment, we need a steady hand at the wheel. Chris Winters is that person. When asked what are the most important aspects of the job Chris responded " voter access, safety and security in elections, and building transparency and trust in government."

**Susan Farrell, Ira - 9 year Chair of the Vermont State Board of Nursing, Former Director of the Castleton Nursing Program**

Chris was consistently professional, wise, and knowledgeable as Nursing Board Counsel, making sure the Board followed the law to the letter. He was fair and just in his interactions with other attorneys and their clients, and gave the accused licensees their due and ensured that they understood their rights. He not only had my respect, but the respect of the other board members, the executive director, and staff. Chris is the epitome of trustworthiness and transparency. No matter the political party of a candidate, I always vote asking myself which person I would want for my team. The answer in this case is clear—Chris Winters!

**Bill Atkinson P.E., Essex Jct - Vermont Professional Engineering Board Past Chair and National Society of Professional Engineers Vice President**

I worked directly with and under the supervision of Chris Winters as a volunteer board member for over 10 years when he was a staff attorney and later director for the Office of Professional Regulation. His consistent leadership and guidance in those roles helped so many people, myself included, to understand the importance of putting the public first in everything we do. Chris's integrity was instrumental in helping us navigate our sensitive public policy work. He led the organization he was responsible for in ways that always instilled confidence in those that it served. He inspired the Board and his staff in such a way that I have continued myself to try to be of service to the public whenever possible.

**Michael Palmer, Esq., Middlebury - Small Business Owner, Ethics Expert**

I've known and admired Chris for several years in his capacity as Deputy Secretary of State. I had the pleasure of working with him when he helped stand up an Ethics Commission for Vermont. He is highly competent and morally responsible. Having worked in the Secretary's office for 25 years, he knows the work from top to bottom. Vermont will be fortunate to have him in this leadership role.

**Amy Messina, Ascutney - Member of the Vermont Council on Domestic Violence and Real Estate Licensee**

I have known Chris Winters for more than a decade in two roles: as a regulated licensee and, as an advocate for victims of domestic violence. Chris is a compassionate advocate for public protection and consistently doing what is right for Vermonters. I know, without hesitation, that the Safe at Home Address Confidentiality Program has saved many lives and Chris fully understands the importance of this Program. He is down to earth, an attentive listener, responsive to calls and questions. Chris connects with the people he meets on a real, and substantive level. That's why I am doing everything I can to see that Chris Winters is our next Secretary of State.