

Barbara K. Cegavske, Nevada secretary of state



Nevada Secretary of State Barbara K. Cegavske was leaves the secretary's office after two terms, after first being elected in 2014. With more than three decades of combined public service and small business experience, Cegavske brought a unique blend of business acumen and legislative expertise to the secretary of state's office.

Cegavske entered public service in 1996 when she was elected to serve in the Nevada Assembly representing Clark County District 5 for three consecutive terms. In 2002, Cegavske ran for and successfully won a state Senate seat for Clark County District 8. She served three full terms before assuming the role of secretary of state.

During her time in the Nevada Legislature, Cegavske assumed leadership roles as Co-Assembly Assistant Minority Floor Leader, Assistant Assembly Minority Whip, Senate Minority Whip, and Senate Assistant Minority Leader. She also chaired the Senate Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections for three legislative sessions and was vice-chair of the Senate Committees on Human Resources and Education; Human Resources and Facilities; and Legislative Affairs and Operations. In all, Cegavske served in nine regular sessions and 13 special sessions of the Nevada Legislature.

What will you miss most about being secretary of state?

I will miss my staff and the Executive team. Working with this talented and dedicated team has been an experience I will never forget. I will also miss the interaction with friends and relations developed through my involvement with State and national organizations and through the boards and commissions on which I have served.

What do you feel was your greatest accomplishment as secretary and why?

Electionwise, the way we handled the many different election issues starting with the ongoing threat of foreign influence that came to light during 2016, the massive amount of mis and disinformation and unsupported election fraud allegations starting in 2020 and continuing through the 2022 election cycle. As we have done throughout my term in office, we followed the law, remained neutral, dispelled rumors with facts and conducted an enormous amount of outreach. As well, the way we handled the COVID-19 pandemic in all our Divisions, maintaining staff and continuing to offer our services throughout the State of Emergency was a great accomplishment. I was touched by a recent comment when I was thanked by a colleague for my years of service and that I had served not only the State of Nevada but also the nation with grace and integrity. I cannot think of a better way to say it as that is how I approached all my duties as Secretary of State.

What was the most difficult time/issue you faced (electionwise of course) as secretary?

The most difficult issue I faced was the election misinformation of 2020 and 2020 and the public not understanding the laws or the processes that put them in to place. We were following the laws set forth by our legislature. Knowing that the election staff took calls and emails that were so negative and threatening was heartbreaking. Also conducting elections during a pandemic was very difficult but we were successful due to our dedicated staff and election officials throughout the state.

As an expert in the field of elections, what do you feel is the most pressing issue facing elections officials?

Continuing mis and disinformation.

What's next for you, besides being able to sleep in on election days?

I look forward to spending more time with my husband, sons, grandchildren, and our dog.

Any parting words of advice for your successor?

Remain non-partisan and follow the law.