

## Jim Condos, Vermont secretary of state



Jim Condos was elected as Vermont's 38<sup>th</sup> secretary of state in 2010. While secretary of state he served a term as the president of the National Association of Secretaries of State and has testified before Congress on multiple occasions including [most recently](#) in August 2022 about misinformation.

Prior to running for secretary of state, Condos served in the Vermont Senate from 2001 to 2009. Before his tenure in public service, Condos worked the business world and for a public utility.

### ***What will you miss most about being secretary of state?***

The people! As a former municipal City Councilor, and State Senator before being elected as Secretary of State (SoS), I will miss the interactions with state/local officials as well as the media and public. My private sector experience was in sales and marketing; and that customer service approach has

always been front and center for me.

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

It is hard to choose just one...

First, when I took office in 2011, the SoS office was almost completely following paper processes. Literally, almost 0% on-line activity. Today we are in total digital environment with approximately 98% on-line activity with our processes available to the public 24/7.

Second, in the election world, the MIT Elections Performance Index had Vermont at 38th in 2012. Today, for the last two Presidential General Elections, Vermont is ranked #1 for each.

Third, helping Vermonters in a highly contested presidential election in the middle of a pandemic. We were able to implement emergency procedures and mail every voter a ballot so no one would have to choose between their health and their right to vote.

Fourth, "Defending our Democracy" and our belief that the more people who participate in it the better we are. To that end, we have worked diligently with tri-partisan legislative support to remove barriers/obstructions from the voting process while improving the integrity of our elections.

- Same Day Voter Registration
- Automatic Voter Registration
- On-Line Voter Registration
- Fully ADA accessible voting platform
- Ballot Drop Boxes
- Ballot Curing
- Universal Ballot Mailing
- New Tabulators

### ***What was the most difficult time/issue you faced (elections wise of course) as secretary?***

The last 5-6 years have all been difficult: first with cyberattacks by foreign entities, then

mis/disinformation promoted falsely without evidence by the former President, and of course, dealing with elections during a worldwide pandemic.

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

Again, the greatest fear I have is the level of discourse because of the unfounded claims of voter fraud mis/disinformation. It has created the very real possibilities of violence against election workers who are just doing their jobs – completely uncalled for. Even in Vermont, we received death threats.

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

I will take a few months to catch my breath before deciding my next path. I will probably volunteer and perhaps join a few boards. I also would like to travel with my spouse as there are many places we would like to see.

***Any parting words of advice for your successor?***

I always tell people involved in politics to stay true to their values AND don't try to agree with everyone. It will only get you in trouble. Stay focused on the important things including details of the work, care for your staff, and being responsive to the public (emails, phone, etc.).