

Al Jaeger, North Dakota secretary of state



North Dakota Secretary of State Al Jaeger decided not to see re-election this year. He was first elected to the role of secretary of state in 1992. He retires as the longest secretary of state currently serving.

Since becoming Secretary of State on January 1, 1993, Jaeger has been an active participant in the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS). He has served ten terms on its Executive Committee and in July 2021, he was appointed to his 25th consecutive term as Chairman of the NASS Standing Committee on Awards.

He serves on the North Dakota Emergency Commission, the Board of the North Dakota State Historical Society, and the North Dakota Board of University and School Lands.

Prior to becoming secretary of state, Jaeger was, among other things, a teacher, a marketing analyst and worked in real estate.

What will you miss most about being secretary of state?

Knowing that I was blessed each day for the past 30 years serving as the North Dakota Secretary of State.

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

Earning the trust of North Dakota citizens, four Governors and the legislature because it allowed this office to initiate policy and legislation for their review that improved the lives of people and businesses in North Dakota.

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

Conducting the June and November statewide elections in 2020.

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

For North Dakota, it is to maintain its long standing history of having well run, accurate, and secure elections with full transparency

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

I have personal "archives" in my home that need attention.

Any parting words of advice for your successor?

We have always attempted to make decisions based on the best information available and what would be the right thing to do for the citizens of North Dakota and which were not based on political or media pressure.