

Biography

Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz

First elected in 1998, and then re-elected in 2002 and 2006, Secretary Bysiewicz is the chief elections official and business registrar for the State of Connecticut. Secretary Bysiewicz is an ardent advocate for election integrity, job creation and saving taxpayer dollars. She has also fought to secure landmark campaign finance and ethics reform, as well as initiatives to protect consumers and safeguard personal privacy.

Throughout her tenure, Secretary Bysiewicz has transformed her office through the innovative use of technology. Among her accomplishments, she led the nation in implementing the CONCORD system to allow for searches about the more than 350,000 companies registered to do business in Connecticut. Secretary Bysiewicz also created the Connecticut Voter Registration System to streamline voter registration, protect voter rights, and prevent voter fraud.

Secretary Bysiewicz has also worked to ensure that confidential personal data within her agency is protected or altogether eliminated from the public domain. She won passage of a law to safeguard citizens' privacy by removing all social security numbers from voter registration rolls. In 2004, Secretary Bysiewicz also created the "Safe at Home/Address Confidentiality" program which protects victims of domestic violence and sexual assault by keeping their addresses confidential.

As the state's business registrar, Secretary Bysiewicz has worked to enhance and provide efficient customer service to the business community. In 2000, she also created the CTShowcase initiative which encourages the development of more small and minority-owned businesses through events, roundtable discussions, and seminars.

As chief elections official for Connecticut, Secretary Bysiewicz's top priority has been to ensure that our voting process is fully reliable, secure, and private for all voters. She helped write the Help America Vote Act with Senator Christopher Dodd to protect the integrity and improve the accessibility of our nation's elections. Most recently, she oversaw the implementation of both optical scan voting and vote-by-phone technology that allows residents with disabilities to vote privately and independently.

Deeply committed to promoting voter registration and participation in every election, Secretary Bysiewicz regularly works with civic and advocacy organizations, businesses, schools and others to implement voter registration drives and encourage civic engagement. She also encourages young people to become active citizens through several educational programs administered by her office.

From 1992 to 1998, Secretary Bysiewicz represented the 100th Assembly District in the State House of Representatives. In that capacity, she also served as House Chair of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. A graduate of Yale College and Duke University School of Law, she has practiced corporate, international, banking, health care, and pension law at several area firms.

While in law school, Secretary Bysiewicz authored the book Ella: A Biography of Governor Ella Grasso. A native of Middletown, she continues to reside there with her husband David Donaldson and their three children. Secretary Bysiewicz is also the granddaughter of Polish and Greek immigrants, and the first Polish-American and Greek-American to be elected to statewide constitutional office in Connecticut.

8/20/09