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Top Leadership of State Board of Elections Retiring

ALBANY, N.Y. (December 15, 2022) – The State Board of Elections announced today at its December Board meeting the retirement of Co-Executive Director Todd D. Valentine and Co-Counsel Kimberly A. Galvin.

“Todd has been with the board for twenty-five years and he has made an invaluable contribution as Counsel and Co-Executive Director to the smooth running of elections in New York State. He has fostered a culture of professionalism and collaboration among the staff at the Board. The relationships he has built over the years with our county partners has enabled the State Board to successfully implement the massive changes that have occurred in elections administration over the past 15 years. He has earned the respect and eternal gratitude of the commissioners of the State Board of Elections and we wish him only the best as he enters a well-earned retirement,” stated Peter Kosinski, Co-Chair of the Board.

Mr. Valentine started with the agency as Counsel in 1997. He became Co-Executive Director in 2008 and is the second-longest serving person in that position. Before coming to the Board he served as Counsel to the New York State Senate Consumer Protection Committee and the Department of Economic Development.

“Todd’s tenure has spanned some tumultuous changes at the Board. When he started the agency was beginning to transition to an online financial disclosure system. As Counsel, he was instrumental in shepherding the Board through the changes brought about by the Help America Vote Act of 2002. As Co-Executive Director, he oversaw the election community’s responses to hurricanes Sandy, Irene and Lee. As the Board’s mission grew, it was relocated three separate times, including during the 2012 presidential election year and he was able to minimize the disruption of those moves. He gained a national reputation as President of the National Association of Election Directors and was at the center of the agency’s response to the COVID pandemic. He leaves the Board well-positioned to tackle its latest challenge in the creation and implementation of a new public financing program. He has been a tremendous public servant and I wish him health and happiness for a long retirement,” stated Commissioner Tony Casale.

“Todd has demonstrated national leadership with respect to election integrity issues, particularly when he was chosen to be President of the National Association of State Election Directors. He was instrumental in developing the strong bipartisan commitment to accuracy, transparency, and verifiability of the new election systems in New York State,” said Commissioner Douglas Kellner.

“I am grateful for the faith and confidence the commissioners have placed in me over the past twenty-five years,” said Mr. Valentine. “I am equally grateful to the team at the Board for their support and hard work. I leave knowing New York State’s elections remain in good hands. It has been my honor to serve the voters of the Empire State.”

Kimberly Galvin joined the State Board of Elections as Associate Enforcement Counsel in the Campaign Finance Unit in 2008. She moved to the Elections Operation Unit and performed a critical role in the certification of voting machines after New York adopted the Help America Vote Act. Shortly thereafter, she was promoted to Special Counsel and when the Board was reorganized in 2014, Ms. Galvin became Co-Counsel and Co-Director of the

Campaign Finance Compliance Unit. Given her extensive experience, she was appointed as an expert to the blue ribbon Public Campaign Finance Commission in 2019. Her work created the largest public campaign financing program in the country.

"I have known and worked with Kim Galvin for over twenty years. Kim is one of the finest people I know. Kim is smart, loyal, dedicated to her profession beyond measure. New York State is losing one of the good people who has worked on behalf of the taxpayers and citizens during her tenure in government. I wish her good health and happiness in her next chapter of life," stated Public Campaign Finance Board Vice Chair Brian Kolb.

"Kim's contribution to this Board over her career is difficult to overstate," said Co-Chair Peter Kosinski. "As our agency lawyer, she has tackled complex issues and resolved them with creative and elegant solutions. Her diligence in overseeing our ballot access cases has shown her skill as both a litigator and a manager. When the board was reorganized in 2014, she stepped in to take responsibility for the new Compliance Unit in addition to her duties in the Counsel's Office. She was critical in crafting the Board's constantly shifting responses to the challenges of the COVID pandemic. She will be a tremendous loss as a professional, but even more as a colleague. I wish her a long and healthy retirement."

"Coming from the Assembly, Kim and I have both seen the best in New York State government. Kim's work as a devoted and diligent professional has enhanced the operations of the legal team at the State Board and fostered an environment of excellent communications and collaboration among the staff," said Commissioner Tony Casale. "Her faith and advocacy of the Board's ability to host the new campaign finance program swayed the members of the commission that we could effectively create and oversee what will be the nation's largest such undertaking. She deserves our gratitude and respect and a well-earned rest."

"Kim made a big difference here, her contribution has been significant in shaping the legislative program of the State Board. Her biggest legacy is the Public Campaign Finance program and the program's success is to her credit," said Commissioner Douglas Kellner.

"It has been a pleasure working with Kim and Todd. In the national atmosphere of rampant partisanship they contributed to a truly bipartisan working relationship. Despite our differences of opinion they manifested a professional and congenial effort to work together with everybody to protect and improve our election process," said Commissioner Andrew Spano.

"I have dedicated the latter part of my career to the effective administration of free and fair elections in New York. I am grateful for the support and trust of our commissioners throughout some trying times. It has been a privilege to serve this board and the voters of New York State, and a pleasure and a privilege to work with the staff here on both sides of the aisle." said Kim Galvin.

Mr. Valentine's retirement is effective January 4th, 2023. Ms. Galvin's retirement is effective December 28th, 2022.

If you have any questions, please contact your local Board of Elections or John Conklin or Jennifer Wilson at the State Board of Elections at 518-474-1953 or by email at INFO@elections.ny.gov.

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