

# Re-elect Bob Kiss: The *Best* Choice for Mayor

www.kissformayor.com

Burlington is recognized around the world for being a great place to live, work, retire, play, and raise a family. Over the past three years I have worked hard to provide the leadership, financial stability, and vision that keep Burlington at the forefront. I am proud of our accomplishments.



Bob Kiss, Mayor



Some selected highlights from Bob's first term:

## Restored City Finances and Built Sound and Sustainable City Budgets

- Did not raise municipal taxes for the past two city budget years, while maintaining essential services for streets and sidewalks, snow removal, Fire and Police Services, and Parks & Recreation
- Restored the City's financial health and increased the City's financial reserves
- Implemented new risk management and employee wellness programs and competitively bid the City's Health and Workers Compensation and liability insurances, saving \$1 million
- Limited growth in operating expenses to less than the rate of inflation
- Proactively addressed the City's pension fund issues
- Maintained the City's high bond rating despite financial challenges
- Negotiated groundbreaking "fee for service" agreements with UVM and Champlain College, resulting in a fairer arrangement which reduces the burden on taxpayers

## Economic & Housing Development

- During Bob's tenure, Burlington's job and wage growth has exceeded the state as a whole
- City's Economic Development activities have exceeded goals in supporting creation and retention of jobs and commercial space
- Received overwhelming support from voters to move forward on the *Moran Redevelopment Project*, which will revitalize the north end of the Waterfront and invigorate the economy with jobs and other economic activity
- Completed Zoning Rewrite, with a balanced approach that encourages appropriate economic and housing development while maintaining essential character of neighborhoods
- Modified agreement on *Westlake Project* will bring new downtown hotel to Burlington and substantial contribution to affordable Housing Trust Fund
- Made a major City investment in Quadricentennial, which will be signature economic and cultural event in Burlington this summer
- Initiated development of Browns Court lot for affordable housing
- Continued support for creating affordable housing through housing development activities
- Restored funding for Lead Program to reduce lead paint hazards in apartments and homes

## Environmental Initiatives

- Initiated \$39.6 million bond issue for Burlington Electric to fund a dramatic reduction in emissions for the McNeil Woodchip plant and to acquire \$10 million in clean, renewable energy sources

(over)

- Supported and pursued Intervale land sale, which protects agriculture and passive recreation in the Intervale forever
- Worked closely with all stakeholders to help resolve the Intervale Compost facility issues
- Launched Low Carbon Diet-Kitchen Table Collaborative to encourage greenhouse gas reduction at the household level
- Initiated rewrite of Burlington's Climate Action Plan and set aggressive goals set for reduction of Burlington's greenhouse gas emissions
- Convened Mayor's Stormwater Task Force which has worked to develop comprehensive stormwater ordinance and enforcement program to help protect Lake Champlain
- Currently pursuing BED-based project to establish innovative method of financing energy efficiency improvements and alternative energy projects for homeowners

### Citizen Engagement and Community Development

- Established Citizen Budget Task Force, which has worked over the last three years to make recommendations on the City budget and finances
- Extensive public outreach and involvement in the Moran Redevelopment Project
- Initiated expansive and inclusive community selection process for Police Chief hiring
- Created numerous opportunities for citizen engagement: Environmental & Energy Coordinating Cmte, Climate Action Plan process, Retirement Task Force, Stormwater Task Force, and Afterschool Cmte
- Created "social equity" position for the Legacy Project
- Reopened Blanchard Beach at Oakledge Park, after years of closure for environmental reasons
- Increased fine for graffiti offenses and supported graffiti clean-up program
- Created Myrtle Street Pocket Park through the Conservation Legacy Fund
- With several community partners, completed work on the Gosse Court Armory, a multi-use recreation center in New North End (Robert Miller Community & Recreation Center)
- Provided unprecedented financial support of City's two senior centers and commitment to address their long-term sustainability
- Promoted bicycle and pedestrian safety initiatives with police department, DPW and Local Motion

### Addressed Burlington's Infrastructure Needs

- Created the first-ever City-wide process for prioritizing infrastructure projects
- Initiated and successfully passed street bond and tax to improve streets while saving taxpayer money in the long-term
- Initiated BED bond that will improve electric reliability, raise revenue for the benefit of ratepayers, invests in alternative energy, and produces cleaner electric power for Burlington

Burlington Accolades, 2006-Present (selected): Named U.S.'s "Healthiest" City by CDC; One of the "Top 10" Places in America by American Planning Association; One of America's Best Places to Raise Your Kids (*Business Week*); America's "Greenest" City (*Country Home Magazine*); One of Top "Walking Cities" in U.S. (*Prevention Magazine* and the American Podiatric Medical Association); Top 5 of "America's Healthiest Places for Women" by *Self Magazine*; Top 25 Cities for Art (*American Style Magazine*); "Tree City USA" (*National Arbor Day Foundation*); Named among the "Best of the Best" Places to live (*Men's Journal*); Ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> Nationally by Earth Day Network for environmental efforts; One of America's "Best Towns" (*Outside Magazine*); Named one of "America's Greenest Cities" (*Organic Gardening Magazine*); One of America's "Prettiest Towns" (Forbestraveler.com)