



Gallatin Public Affairs

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Respected, Long-Time Idaho Secretary of State Joins Gallatin *Ben Yursa Will Serve as 'Of Counsel' to Regional Firm*

Boise, Idaho –One of the most widely respected public officials in recent Idaho political history, retiring Secretary of State Ben Yursa, has joined Gallatin Public Affairs. Gallatin is celebrating 25 years as a leading Northwest Public Affairs firm.

Yursa, a Republican, served as Deputy Secretary of State under the legendary Pete Cenarrusa for 28 years before becoming Secretary of State in 2002 following Cenarussa's retirement. Yursa was subsequently re-elected in 2006 and 2010. He retired from elective office on January 4, 2015.

In all, Yursa worked for over 40 years in the office of Secretary of State and acquired a sterling reputation for his fair, non-partisan administration of elections, campaign finance disclosure, and lobbying and corporation registration. Yursa has also been involved for decades in land management and investment issues related to both staffing and serving on the State Land Board, the state board comprised of the Governor, Attorney General, State Controller, Superintendent of Public Instruction and Secretary of State that manages Idaho's 2.4 million acres of trust land and oversees the regulatory functions of the Idaho Department of Lands. Yursa was recently awarded the Edward and Dottie Stimpson Award for Civic Engagement from the City Club of Boise for his life-long commitment to openness and transparency in government. The 4th District Bar Association awarded Yursa the Liberty Bell award in 2014. Yursa has also been honored by the Association of Idaho Cities and the Idaho Republican Party.

"Ben Yursa continues the Gallatin tradition of outstanding former elected officials serving our firm and clients," said Dan Lavey, company President. "Ben will work on issues of interest to him and we know his deep knowledge of politics, Idaho and our region will be an invaluable source of insight for the entire Gallatin team."

Yursa said he looks forward to the association with the regional firm. "I know and respect many members of the Gallatin team and appreciate their commitment to bi-partisanship and common sense problem solving."

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Gallatin Public Affairs

Over the nearly 25 years of Gallatin's history in the Pacific Northwest, the firm and its clients have benefited from the talent, political knowledge and insight of an impressive group of former political officials, including Idaho Governor and Secretary of the Interior Cecil D. Andrus; Jim Goller, the former chief of staff of Idaho Sen. James A. McClure and a one-time member of the Northwest Power Council; and former Portland Mayor and Oregon House Speaker Vera Katz.

Ysursa said his new responsibilities will compliment his on-going involvement in a variety of civic and community organizations and if fans of Bishop Kelly High School athletics are wondering, Ysursa will continue to provide color analysis for radio broadcasts of Knights athletics.

About Gallatin Public Affairs

Gallatin is celebrating its 25th year representing clients at the often complex intersection of government, business, politics and the media. We help clients seize opportunities, overcome challenges and grow. We are strategists, lobbyists, communicators, policy experts, researchers and organizers - experienced bipartisan professionals who can help you succeed. Learn more at Gallatinpa.com.

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