

For Immediate Release

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For more information:

Lauren Miller (475) 441-4094

KarenforSOSCT@gmail.com

KAREN TALAMELLI CUSICK, BUSINESS FINANCE EXECUTIVE AND WOODBIDGE CT DEMOCRATIC TOWN CHAIR, DECLARES CANDIDACY FOR CONNECTICUT SECRETARY OF THE STATE

CUSICK TO TAP DEEP EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE TO HELP RESTORE CONNECTICUT'S PROMISE

(Woodbridge, CT) – Citing decades of accomplishment as a leader in private industry, state and local government relations, and public service, Woodbridge Democratic Town Chair Karen Talamelli Cusick today is declaring her candidacy for Secretary of the State of Connecticut in 2018.

“Connecticut has always been a wonderful place to live, raise a family, and do business. I know this because I have personally lived it,” said Cusick. “Unfortunately, in recent years our state has seen many difficult challenges which have impacted us all. That is why I plan to do whatever needs to be done to restore Connecticut’s promise, so that each and every resident has the same opportunity to succeed that I’ve had. As Secretary of the State, I will take action to foster an environment for all of our businesses and entrepreneurs to advance and thrive, resulting in economic growth and job creation. I will work to make Connecticut the premier



location in the United States for talented and hard-working women and men to establish, operate and grow their businesses, and to pursue their goals. Connecticut is also long overdue to have its elections systems updated and streamlined, something that will be my focus on day one. And, at this critical point in time, I will ensure that we preserve access to the ballot which so many have fought hard for years to protect and expand. As a lifelong resident of Connecticut, I am eager to get out across the state and start a conversation with my neighbors about their concerns and aspirations. I am so committed to pursuing the office of the Secretary of the State of Connecticut, I thought it best to skip the exploratory stage and go full steam ahead as an officially declared candidate.”

Karen is currently the Director of Finance for Project Service LLC, owner and operator of the twenty-three Connecticut Service Plazas, located on I-95, the Merritt Parkway and I-395. Karen has been an integral part of Project Service since its inception in 2009, which has become a national model for P3 public-private partnership infrastructure projects in the United States. In

June 2016, the firm was purchased by its current owners, the John Laing Infrastructure Fund. Original investors in Project Service included Subway and Carlyle Infrastructure Partners.

Prior to this, Karen served as President of Cusick & Company LLC, a Connecticut based financial, administrative, and governmental advisory services firm. Karen also served for thirteen years as the Financial Administrator of a Connecticut engineering firm, specializing in state and municipal environmental and transportation projects and involving various state and local entities, including the CT DOT, MA Highway and environmental agencies . Karen has also served as the Chief of Staff/Operations Manager for a local municipality, having oversight over town departments and liaison responsibilities with the CEO, Boards and Commissions, and state and federal officials. In addition, Karen served as the Project Coordinator for a major Connecticut based HVAC contractor for sixteen years, and has acted as a project manager for a variety of major town renovation and improvement projects.

Karen is also currently the Chair of the Woodbridge Connecticut Democratic Town Committee and has served on the town's Board of Finance. She has an extensive record of local public service in Woodbridge and prior to that in the town of Seymour, where she lived. Karen was elected to the Seymour Board of Selectman; Board of Assessment Appeals; and Library Board of Directors. She also served as an appointee on the Seymour Board of Public Works, where she was chair for three years. Karen also chaired the Seymour Emergency Services Building Commission and served on the Civil Service and Arts and Culture Commissions.

Karen has been involved with numerous charitable and community organizations throughout the years including the Ronald McDonald House and a New Haven area women's shelter. She served as Treasurer of the Griffin Hospital Valley Breast Care Health Fund and was a recipient of the Women Making a Difference Award awarded by the Valley Women's Health Initiative. Currently, Karen serves as a Trustee of Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Woodbridge.

Karen will be participating in Connecticut's Citizens' Election Program, a voluntary program which provides public financing to qualified candidates. In order to qualify for a campaign grant from the Citizens' Election Fund, Karen must raise at least \$75,000 in qualifying contributions, 90% of which must come from Connecticut residents. Her campaign will only be accepting small dollar donations of \$100 or less.

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Paid for by KarenforSOSCT, Helen Riviere, Treasurer

Approved by Karen Talamelli Cusick