



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

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Collins Announces Campaign Team

New team includes former investigative journalist and taxpayer watchdog Stefan Mychajliw, who will serve as the "Collins For Our Future" Spokesman

Buffalo, New York – Erie County Executive Chris Collins today announced the addition of seasoned professionals with strong political and public relations experience who have joined the "Collins For Our Future" campaign team. Collins also announced his 2011 Finance Chairman.

"Erie County is better off financially under the leadership of my administration. The Control Board is gone. We built a healthy and responsible level of multi-million dollar surpluses. We are holding the line on taxes and spending. Erie County is in the best fiscal shape of any large county in New York State. Now we have a strong team in place to share this positive message with people," said Erie County Executive Chris Collins.

Western New York native Scott Zylka will serve as the "Collins For Our Future" Campaign Coordinator. The Orchard Park High School and Canisius College graduate has strong experience in both the public and private sector for over 20 years. He was government affairs manager for Steuben Foods and Associated Builders and Contractors.

Zylka will manage the new campaign team's grassroots effort to share Chris Collins' message of running government like a business, and holding the line on taxes and spending. He will also be responsible for all aspects of day-to-day campaign operations, coordinating volunteers and voter outreach for the "Collins For Our Future" campaign.

He is a member of the Leadership Buffalo Class of 2005 and has close ties to the Western New York Community through volunteer work with the YMCA and "First Tee" program. Scott has developed strong professional relationships with local leaders at the city, county, state, and federal levels through his collaborative work between government and the business community.

Stefan Mychajliw, former investigative journalist and taxpayer watchdog, will serve as campaign spokesman. Known for his dogged determination to fight for taxpayers, Mychajliw is now co-founder of the public relations firm "Profit Media Group."

The son of a Ukrainian immigrant who came to the United States in 1965, Mychajliw attended Buffalo Public School #33 and the Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from Syracuse University and spent 14 years as a news reporter and investigative journalist, including locally with WKBW-TV and WGRZ-TV.

Mychajliw recently served as Spokesman and Community Relations Coordinator for the Buffalo Public School District, the second largest District in New York State, and the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District, one of the largest Districts in Western New York.

Paul Harder, currently Chief Executive Officer of CSS Health, will serve as the 2011 Collins For Our Future Finance Chairman. Paul has over 40 years of international business experience, and has managed both domestic and international businesses from Western New York. A member of

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the UB Foundation Board, Paul and his wife Barbara served as the inaugural Chairs of the UB Gala, which provides scholarships to local students looking to study at the University at Buffalo. Under Paul's leadership, Collins For Our Future has already amassed over \$1.6 million for this re-election campaign.

Michael J. Hook, a Lancaster, New York native and former Chief of Staff to former Congressman Bill Paxon, has joined the "Collins For Our Future" team through his communications consulting firm Greener and Hook.

The Greener and Hook team has more than 100 years of combined experience in senior positions in the private sector, politics, and government. Through their work on local, state, and national political campaigns across the country, Greener and Hook has established a highly respected reputation as one of the nation's leading communication consultants. The Lancaster native's work on the "Collins For Our Future" campaign in 2007 led to an impressive 30-percentage point victory for Chris Collins.

"I am proud of the team we have assembled for this year's campaign. Scott, Stefan, Paul and Michael will help us deliver our message to the taxpayers of this County. We share the same passion for responsible government that is responsive to people, not politicians or special interests," added Collins.

"We will not take one vote for granted. Together, we will share our message of running government like a business to all corners of Erie County," added the Erie County Executive.

The campaign will be headquartered at 5759 Main Street, in Williamsville, New York.

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Running government like a business

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