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for immediate release:

State Ethics Commission Executive Director Stepping Down

The Vermont Ethics Commission Executive Director, Larry Novins, is stepping down from his post. In his letter of resignation to the Commission, Novins said he was sad to leave but doing so for personal reasons while proud of the accomplishments of the Commission during his tenure. Novins joined the Commission in December 2018. He spearheaded the Ethics Commission's work helping it plan for the future.

Realizing that the Code of Ethics adopted by the Commission in 2018 was neither binding nor enforceable, Novins oversaw the drafting of a code of ethics that could become law, as almost every other state has done. Novins described a code of ethics as a "necessary first step toward governmental accountability." In February of 2020, all Vermont state-wide elected officers sent the Legislature their recommendation that Vermont establish a code of ethics for all three branches of government. The Ethics Commission submitted a draft code of ethics to the legislature last fall. It was introduced as a bill last winter. Novins added, "I am proud to have been on the ground floor of this effort. I told the Commissioners that I continue to support the Ethics Commission's efforts and am willing to assist if I can." The Ethics Commission members stated, "We have been very lucky to have Larry as our Executive Director. His legal and organizational skills were invaluable. On a personal level, Larry was a joy to work with. We will miss him greatly."

The Ethics Commission's search for Novins' successor has begun. Information about the position is available on the Ethics Commission website and the State of Vermont DHR website.

<https://ethicscommission.vermont.gov/>.

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