

Mayor Paul Dyster



Mayor Paul Dyster was born and raised in Niagara Falls. He has a PhD in International Relations and Law from John Hopkins University, and spent the first half of his career as a college professor. He directed the Catholic University of America's International Affairs Program, and worked on arms control negotiations for the State Department in Geneva, Switzerland.

Since 1992, he has been co-owner with his wife Becky of Niagara Tradition, a distributor of supplies for beer and winemaking. You may know them as sponsors of A Prairie Home Companion on WNED public radio. From 2000 to 2003, Mayor Dyster served on the Niagara Falls City Council. After an unsuccessful 2003 mayoral bid, he served as president of the board of the Niagara Arts and Cultural Center, president and chairman of the Niagara Experience Center, and on the executive board of the Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper. In 2005, he became chairman of the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Niagara River Greenway Commission, and in 2006 he was named Citizen of the Year by the Niagara Gazette and Conservationist of the Year by the Niagara Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club.

Mayor Dyster ran again for mayor in 2007, and was elected in a landslide with almost 80% of the vote, winning in every electoral ward in the City. He ran again in 2011, becoming the first mayor in 25 years to win decidedly a second term.