



# JAMIE COLLINS

*for Deschutes County Commissioner*

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Oregon Secretary of State Tobias Read endorses U.S. Coast Guard veteran Jamie Collins for Deschutes County Commissioner**

*Emphasizing shared values and Collins' 22-year record in public service, Read becomes first sitting statewide elected official to endorse in a Deschutes County Commission race in recent memory*

BEND, Oregon — Oregon Secretary of State Tobias Read today formally endorsed Jamie Collins in his campaign for Deschutes County Commissioner, Position 1. The endorsement marks the first time a sitting statewide elected official has endorsed a candidate in a Deschutes County Commission race in recent memory — and Collins is the only candidate running in any county race this cycle to receive such a distinction.

The endorsement comes 63 days ahead of the May 19, 2026 election.

Collins, a 22-year U.S. Coast Guard veteran, climate scientist, and nationally certified disaster response chief, is running to unseat 15-year incumbent Tony DeBone on the Deschutes County Commission.

“Jamie Collins is exactly the kind of leader we need right now — at every level of government. His 22 years of Coast Guard service, his work as a disaster responder and climate scientist, and his deep commitment to servant leadership set him apart,” Secretary Read said. “Jamie is fighting for working people and those who do not have a seat at the table — and he understands something too few people in public life do: that local decisions don’t exist in a vacuum. Our affordability crisis, the water we protect, the housing we build, the communities we prepare for wildfire and climate change — these are local issues with roots that reach to Salem and to Washington. At a time of unprecedented challenge, both locally and nationally, we need leaders at every level with the knowledge, judgment, compassion, and resolve to see these problems through. Jamie is that leader, and I’m proud to stand with him.”

Collins said, “I’m honored to have the endorsement of Secretary Read — a public servant who has dedicated his career to strengthening our democracy, defending the institutions that hold it together, and fighting for working families. This endorsement reflects something bigger than one race. It reflects our shared belief that government works best when leaders bring experience, integrity, and a commitment to practical problem-solving instead of partisan politics and favors to wealthy corporate interests. That’s what I’ve done for 22 years in the Coast Guard, across more than 300 disaster responses, and it’s what I’ll bring to the Deschutes County Commission. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity on May 19 to move Deschutes County forward — and I’m grateful to have Tobias standing with us.”

Secretary Read joins a growing list of officials and organizations who have endorsed Collins.

*Read and Collins will be available to the media today in Bend; interested parties are asked to contact Collins’ campaign at 541-205-9300 or [forward@collins4deschutes.com](mailto:forward@collins4deschutes.com).*

### **About Jamie Collins**

Jamie Collins is a 22-year U.S. Coast Guard veteran, MIT-trained climate scientist, former U.S. diplomat, and nationally certified Type 1 Incident Commander who has led responses to more than 300 environmental disasters across central and eastern Oregon. He is a small business owner, father, and longtime Bend resident running to bring crisis-tested leadership to the Deschutes County Commission. He has received endorsements from elected officials including County Commissioner Phil Chang, State Sen. Anthony Broadman, State Rep. Emerson Levy, Bend Mayor Melanie Kebler, Bend City Councilors Steve Platt and Ariel Méndez, Redmond City Councilors John Nielsen and Clifford Evelyn, local public safety leaders like Retired Bend Police Chief Jim Porter and Retired Bend Fire & Rescue Operations Chief Bob Madden, organizations like VoteVets, the Central Oregon Building and Construction Trades Council, Sierra Club, Ironworkers Local 29, and SEIU, and community leaders across Deschutes County.

*Supporters can learn more about Collins and join his campaign at <https://www.collins4deschutes.com> or follow Jamie on Instagram [@collins4deschutes](https://www.instagram.com/collins4deschutes).*

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