

Office of the Speaker of the House
Dylan Giambatista, Assistant to the Speaker of the House
November 10, 2015

Speaker Shap Smith is a Democrat representing the towns of Elmore, Morristown, Woodbury, and Worcester in the Vermont House of Representatives. Speaker Smith was born in Danbury, Connecticut on December 16, 1965. At age five, his family moved to Vermont. He graduated from Peoples Academy in Morrisville and won a Vermont Merit Scholarship to the University of Vermont, where he graduated with a Bachelor of the Arts degree in 1987. Speaker Smith then left Vermont to earn his Juris Doctor, cum laude, from Indiana University in 1991. After practicing law in New York City for two years, Speaker Smith returned to Vermont in 1993.

Speaker Smith first ran for the House in 2002, hoping to represent the community in which he grew up and was honored to win election. Speaker Smith considers himself fortunate to have grown up in such a vibrant community and state and his goal as a legislator has been to play a part in laying the groundwork for a similarly bright future for his children. The Speaker strives to help Vermont change with the times, while preserving the things that make it special. To that end, Speaker Smith has long been a strong advocate of legislation that supports a strong education system, economic development, equal rights, healthcare reform, renewable energy, public safety and government efficiency. Prior to becoming Speaker he served on the Ways and Means Committee and the Joint Fiscal Committee.

While the legislature is out of session, Speaker Smith is a partner at the Burlington law firm of Dinse, Knapp and McAndrew, where he practices primarily in the areas of civil litigation, intellectual property and insurance.

Speaker Smith is an avid runner and cross country skier. He and his wife Melissa are the proud parents of two children, Eli and Mia.