

1. Should the work of State government be performed by State employees?
2. As an elected official, how would you improve the overall safety of state employees?
3. What is your plan to make the health care system more fair and equitable for working Vermonters?
4. Will you support collective bargaining and vote against "Right to Work" legislation in any form?
5. What do you see as the role of State employees and how would you support them in their role?
6. What mechanisms would you put in place to avoid budget shortfalls?
7. What approach would you take to make higher education more affordable for Vermonters?
8. What would you do to ensure the viability of the state college system?
9. Do you support a livable wage for Vermonters? If so, what do you think that amount should be?
10. Briefly state why the VSEA should endorse you, and describe the type of assistance that you would be seeking from a VSEA endorsement.

1. Yes Absolutely

2. There has been much discussion regarding the safety of our State Employees, there is however a lack of consensus on how to this can be best accomplished. I will support surveillance of office areas and parking lots, more security or police presence. For 10 years I was employed by the Defender General as an Investigator and for 25 years after as a contracted employee in the same capacity. My experience is that in that line work comes occasional risk, fortunately my background and experience always worked to defuse those situations. I can understand there are many State Employees who do not have that benefit and are in need to be secure in the jobs they do. My conclusion is that we as Legislators need good input from our State Workers who may be in need of more safety measures, and what we can do to facilitate this.

3. Presently there are a number of options that are being discussed for the state to be able to provide affordable health care for all of our citizens. I am not invested to any one concept, I have been talking to a number of people who support various plans in

order to get a better view on the subject and whatever direction health care goes in that will accomplish affordable health care for all I will support.

4. Yes I will always have and always will support collective bargaining. My father was a union teacher in the 50s and 60s, he took part in the well known teachers strike in New York City it resulted in wage and benefit improvements which greatly enhanced his ability to be able to support his family and to retire in comfort. So I will always support collective bargaining over "Right to Work"

5. As a member of the House Human Services Committee we hear, not only from Administration Secretaries and Commissioners, but also front line state workers. I greatly appreciate what they do, for our communities and for the state of Vermont. I see their role and the work they do as a valuable asset to our work force and I will continue to support them.

6. For my first term I have supported the revenue and spending bills. I am a member of the Working Vermonters Caucus and I understand the importance of passing budgets that are balanced and provide the funds necessary for Vermont to continue on a path that will assure that our Senior citizens, working Vermonters and our most vulnerable are cared for. I have voluntarily met with members of some of the money committees over the summer to discuss allocation of budget surpluses and GF spending.

7. I would support free and affordable college for Vermonters, I supported the FY 16 budget which contained money for a new tech lab at Vermont Technical College. I supported spending for financial aid to low income students to attend college. I believe poverty is one of the major barriers to education and jobs, we need build a work force that will fill existing good paying jobs for young Vermonters.

8. Our state colleges have suffered in the wake of the states pre K through 12 school funding crisis. Tuition in our state colleges continue to rise and students are going into greater debt to earn a degree that have less value then they have in the past. I think the legislature is aware of this and is beginning to chip away at the problem the best we can in times of lean revenue and cries for budget controls. I think the consolidation of Johnson and Lyndon has merit providing we can provide better higher education with some cost savings. So I continue to support measures that will assure our state colleges will continue to play a major roll in quality higher education of Vermonters. I am an alum. of Lyndon State.

9. I have been doing some research on this subject, since I believe that we can close the so called "affordably gap" that some in Vermont are campaigning on, with a

livable wage for all Vermonters. Washington DC has just initiated a \$15 minimum wage, Parts of California have passed a \$15 livable wage, and possibly the entire state will follow. New York is considering a \$15 min wage state wide. The research I have seen from NY has concluded that the positive impacts of a \$15 wage out weigh the negatives. The research here in Vermont, however, is somewhat dated, and suggest a \$15 minimum wage will result in a loss in benefits like child care credits, reduction in Snap, (food stamps) and a few other benefits, which would result in a net loss in income. That would make some in state government happy, but could result in a disincentive for our citizens to hold full time jobs. I see this in my community, where some younger people work part time in order to maintain benefits. I have also heard of a number of cases where single parent households with a minimum wage worker, is unable to cover health care costs and be able to support their family. Research suggests a wage of just over \$23 an hour supports the loss of benefits here in Vermont. I believe there is no possibility the state of Vermont will be able to support a livable wage of that nature, so I continue to research looking for more information. I believe that the benefit of a livable wage does have positive impact on business by having content employees who do better in job performance, create less turnover and training of new employee. More \$ to be spent in out local economy all resulting in a stronger business climate and a benefit to all Vermonters.

10. I would welcome an endorsement from VSEA, I have already stated what my thinking is toward state employees, and all of Vermont's workers. My record stands in support of Vermont workers and that will continue in my next term. My opponent in this election has very different positions on all of the above issues and has campaigned on budget cuts that disregard the needs of many Vermonters. I will welcome a public endorsement from VSEA, there are a good number of State workers in my district because of its proximity to Montpelier. I would welcome any campaign contribution that will help with advertising and print materials to defeat an opponent who does not share the views I have expressed above. Thanks Chip Troiano
Caledonia 2 district, Hardwick, Stannard, Walden

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