

1. Should the work of State government be performed by State employees?

Yes! Privatizing the work of state government does not result in better service at a lower cost for Vermonters. An example might be the privatizing of incarceration for our Vermont prisoners.

2. As an elected official, how would you improve the overall safety of state employees?

First, I would listen to the suggestions of the various units of state employees. In the case of the DCF workers I would consider sending teams of two into potentially dangerous situations.

3. What is your plan to make the health care system more fair and equitable for working Vermonters?

The only viable answer I have been able to understand is universal health care. This has proved to be a very difficult road to pursue so perhaps the expansion of Dr. Dinosaur or following the Canadian model of first creating universal hospital care are possible more incremental approaches.

4. Will you support collective bargaining and vote against "Right to Work" legislation in any form?

Yes, absolutely!

5. What do you see as the role of State employees and how would you support them in their role?

The roles of state employees are to deliver to Vermonters the benefits, services, regulation, enforcement, incarceration, public safety, public health, mental health, education, environmental oversight, economic opportunity and other jobs required by state law and the common good. It is important that the members of the VSEA bring innovation to the functions of government, otherwise bureaucratic stagnation takes place.

6. What mechanisms would you put in place to avoid budget shortfalls?

The single biggest issue with regard to our inability to spend what is needed in state programs is the explosion of costs in health care. We need to find a way to reduce the costs in health care so that we are able to fund other important state initiatives. We can and should improve the tax system by reducing the amount of tax exemptions and special credits which drain tax receipts without contributing to the welfare of the state.

7. What approach would you take to make higher education more affordable for Vermonters?

We need to find better transitions beyond high school for our students which deliver education at a more affordable cost and we need to increase the amount the state contributes to its institutions of higher ed.

8. What would you do to ensure the viability of the state college system?

The current leadership seems to making good progress toward making improvements within the system, the legislature can help by increasing the funding for our state college system.

9. Do you support a livable wage for Vermonters? If so, what do you think that amount should be?

I have voted for an increase to \$10.50 and at that time advocated for a \$12.00 minimum wage. Now, \$15.00 seems like a viable number. Bottom line, I think we should use the livable wage study started by the Peace and Justice center as a guide for our decisions around the minimum wage.

10. Briefly state why the VSEA should endorse you and describe the type of assistance that you would be seeking from a VSEA endorsement.

The VSEA should endorse me because I have been one of the strongest supporters of working people and unions in the legislature over my 14 years of service. I worked hard to retain as many benefits as possible during the negotiations regarding unemployment insurance during the Douglas administration and worked to put the system on sound financial footing so that when the next recession comes along we will be able to maintain some of the best benefits in the country. Furthermore, as a union member I recognize that it is the union movement that has brought the middle class and the American Dream to reality in the 50s and 60s. It is our challenge to now not only preserve the lifestyle unions brought to this country but also to expand the opportunity for others to experience the value of joining a union and gaining the dignity and value they deserve as members of this great state and nation.