

Name: Dylan Giambatista

District: Chittenden 8-2

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

Yes.

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

As a VSEA member who has worked in Vermont state government for the last several years, I have frequently heard employees comment on whether or not security at certain state complexes is adequate. State employees perform complex work that sometimes brings them into contact with dangerous situations. I think it is reasonable to ask BGS to make a full assessment of state office security, state workforce exposure to threats, and a series of recommendations on how we can best provide security and peace of mind to state employees.

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

Adequate and reliable health care is fundamental to the success of Vermonters. We cannot afford to stand idle as health care costs rise. I support the exploration of Dr. Dynasaur 2.0, universal primary care, and other proposals as a first step to improve health outcomes for Vermonters.

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

I support collective bargaining and the right of workers to organize.

5. What do you see as the role of State employees and how

would you support them in their role?

State employees are on the front lines of providing the services Vermonters rely on. As a VSEA member and several year state employee, I know firsthand the service and value state employees provide. We should find ways to reward excellent performance and train managers to foster workplace cultures that inspire and incentivize hard work. If elected, I will work to bring state employees into the process so their voices are heard before and during the creation of policy.

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

Revenues are growing. Unfortunately, they are not growing at the rate projected by economists. I believe we should build a budget based on the prior fiscal year's actual revenues as opposed to the current practice of budgeting based on projected revenues. While there is no guarantee that this measure would serve to correct Vermont's budget challenges, it would provide a reasonable, non-political data point from which to form policy.

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

As a high school dropout who was educated at the Community College of Vermont and Johnson State College, I care deeply about higher education. It is important that we take steps to make college and training available to all Vermonters, regardless of their age or circumstance. Much like investments in our K-12 education system, the value of a public dollar is multiplied when we put it toward higher education and training. We need to develop a strategy to make sure all Vermonters have access to a lifetime of learning and skill development.

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

Vermont's investment in college and career training ranks near the bottom of the country. Many have called for additional appropriations. Before taking affirmative steps, I would advocate that we make a full assessment of VSC, its structure, and how dollars have been spent to improve educational outcomes.

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

Yes.

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

I believe I have the right blend of personal and professional experience to represent the residents of Essex Junction.