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District: Addison - 3

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

Yes, as a general rule. There are appropriate times to contract out for particular expertise or short term projects, but the standard and default is that the work of the State should be done by State employees.

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

There are different needs for different types of employees. Generally speaking, state employees should have the same protections as any employees. Those in dangerous or potentially high conflict positions need to be assured that the State is looking out for them.

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

The details are difficult and I am still learning about the current situation, but as a cancer survivor who received outstanding care here in Vermont, it is a high priority of mine that no Vermonter has to go without adequate health care. I am open to any thoughts, suggestions, and plans that lead to the ultimate goal of universal health care.

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

Yes.

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

The role of the State employee is to serve Vermonters. This is a two way street. State employees have to understand their role and obligations. In my experience, the vast majority do. Vermonters should also understand the demands placed on State employees. The role of the legislature is to provide adequate funding, training and support so that the State employees can do their jobs.

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

I do not have a good answer for this, except to state that it would be important to me to work to avoid shortfalls. The government cannot serve the populace otherwise.

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

One way to address the cost of education is to offer programs that provide loan forgiveness for public service work following college. I would work for programs that provide services to rural and low income residents of Vermont.

I would like to see improved recruiting of low to medium income students, and more diverse students to our schools.

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

Funding is important. Focus on real world applications and education is also important. My answer to 7 above also applies to this.

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

Yes, and I don't know. The national trend seems to be towards \$15 per hour, which provides a starting point to look towards.

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

As an attorney I have worked with all sorts of state employees in all sorts of settings: The Courts, States Attorney's offices and the Attorney General's office, AOT, DCF, DMV and many other agencies. I think I have a pretty good understanding of the challenges for State employees. I know the irreplaceable value that state employees (and municipal employees) provide.