

Name: Jeremy Hansen
District: Washington-1

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

Yes! And those State employees should be Vermont residents whenever possible.

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

As a security expert, the first thing that comes to my mind is doing an audit of the security of facilities where State employees work. Providing keycard or similar access control is an easy first step that can go a long way towards protecting employees while they are working and has the added benefit of reducing thefts.

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

Healthcare is a human right—I am still in full support of universal healthcare. The Governor and the Legislature dropped the ball back in 2014, but I would like to see Vermont pick it back up and get to a publicly-financed system that reduces costs and provides sufficient healthcare to those who do not currently have access to what they need.

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?

State employees provide a variety of essential services to residents of Vermont. I would support them by reiterating their right to collective bargaining, by ensuring that their retirement accounts are fully funded, and ensuring they have decent, safe workplaces.

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

In years when there's a revenue surplus, the state should put money aside in a "rainy day fund" or the like to help make future revenue shortfalls less impactful. Items added to the budget should have reasonably clear funding sources.

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

I support providing at least the first two years of college and community college free to all Vermonters. As it stands, we're in a vicious cycle of increasing inequality where families that can afford to send their kids to college end up with better educated kids who can in turn send their kids to college, while families and kids who can't afford college get trapped in a cycle of low-wage jobs.

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

Increase its funding while reducing salaries of upper management and reducing numbers in middle management. I would also ask the state colleges to consider operating as "work colleges" where all students work for their college in some capacity.

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

Yes, at the moment it should be \$15 per hour, but by 2020 it will inevitably be higher, depending on inflation and the cost of living.

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 have been endorsed by VSEA in my last run, and will work hard for working Vermonters throughout my time in the Legislature. I hold sitting legislators like Susan Hatch Davis in the greatest esteem, as she's the epitome of a working woman who raised a family as a state worker, then went on to serve in the Legislature and defends workers throughout Vermont. I hope that I can be like Susan! I would appreciate having a mailing sent out to VSEA members in my district and help identifying any volunteers who are willing to come out with me to knock on doors!