

1. The work of State government should be performed by State employees
2. I was going to say making sure we have vigorous enforcement of VOSHA rules, but I don't think that is what you are asking. I think we need to assess the safety risks in every state building and make the improvements necessary to keep them safe. Outside the buildings we need to make sure that employees are trained to identify possible dangers and how to avoid them. When an employee must go into a dangerous situation there should be a backup team there to assist.
3. I've worked on trying to provide affordable, high quality health care to all Vermonters for years. I supported the efforts for single payer which didn't work this time. I think we have to keep trying to reach single payer. Perhaps starting with primary care and then moving forward. I also support our efforts to move away from a fee for service model. Finally, we have to do more to control the costs of medications.
4. I have always supported collective bargaining and voted against "Right to Work" legislation
5. State employees are the heart and soul of State government. They do the work that keeps the State alive and functioning. We make the laws, but we go home and depend on state employees to carry them out. Ideally, we should work as a team for the benefit of the people of Vermont. We depend on state employees to carry out our programs. In return we owe them fair wages, a safe working environment, and respect for the work that they do.
6. If I had the answer to this one, I'd be running for Governor. Budget shortfalls happen because our income, mostly personal income tax revenue has not kept pace with the needs. I have supported a tax sur-charge to get us through the hard times, but that would have been a temporary fix. The bottom line is that we have to grow our economy so that everyone has the opportunity to earn a living wage. We could also use some changes in federal tax policy to help close the income inequality in this country. Very short answer to a very complex question
7. Higher Education needs more funding. My committee passed a bill this year with several proposals. Most of them didn't survive the budget process. I'll keep trying. One think we could do is make sure that students who graduate from high school in Vermont are ready for college. The number of students needing remedial classes is criminal. They have to pay for skills they should have received in high school. Many of them never make it through.
8. Other than money the state colleges need students. We have one of the highest graduation rates in the country and one of the lowest continuation rates. We have to do a better job helping students and their parents understand that today's jobs require more than a high school education. We need to do a better job at getting every student to start thinking about their future before high school and make sure they get the appropriate courses.
9. I so support a livable wage for all Vermonters. Putting a number on it is more difficult because costs and benefits can vary widely. In general, a living wage should allow a family to pay for their basic necessities with some cushion for unexpected expenses.

10. Why should you support me. I suppose because we are all trying to achieve the same goals, A Vermont where every worker receives a living wage, a safe working environment and respect for the work that they do. I have always tried to support the VSEA in whatever way I can. I may not have a 100% voting record, but I think it's pretty close.

What do I need from you. I can always use money, but mostly I need votes in the primary election. This is a strange year in Washington County. There is only one Republican running for the Senate so the Democratic primary is very important. Anything you can do to remind your members to vote on August 9 would be most appreciated.

Ann Cummings