

VSEA Candidate Survey:

Name: John Fitzhugh

District: Washington Snate

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

Mostly yes, but there may be situations where outsourcing work makes financial and programmatic sense.

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

Hold management (executive branch) responsible for making sound decisions and following through on those policies. Enact legislation if necessary.

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

A. Work very hard to bring down the cost of health care in VT B. Improve wages in the state. C. Simplify the insurance purchase process.

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

Yes and no, respecitively.

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

To carry out the policies of the state, as provided in our constitution and laws and as directed by the executive branch.

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

Conservative accounting and not promising too much. I like the idea of a 2 year budget.

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

Not sure; I'd need more information. I think a problem is that the law of supply and demand does not seem to work in education and government programs to assist students only drives up the costs.

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

Try to make sure income and expenses are in balance.

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

This is a complicated issue. People work for various reasons so I'm not sure livable wage would apply to many people who work part time by choice. Also as a small state with a small business backbone mandating a minimum wage of say \$15 an hour might backfire and cause a lot of bankruptcies, consolidation, and ultimately be a negative to our business climate.

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 a lot of experience and am willing to listen to make the best decision. You can decide whether that would be helpful in the State House.