

VSEA Candidate Survey:

Name: Joseph Parsons

District: Orange - Caledonia

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

"the work of State government" is an extremely vague term. For example, I would consider an elected official one who is doing "the work of State government" but not a State employee. Day to day operations of government functions is a place where State employees are necessary. "and appreciated"

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

That's an easy one. Conversations with the people on the frontlines, not bosses, not department heads and not union officials. One on one conversation with people is always the best way to affect change. There is a reason why people use the caveat 2nd and 3rd hand information.

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

I think Vermonters are starting to realize that our previous healthcare system wasn't the bad apple they were told it was by our State and Federal governments but yet a well oiled machine that was in need of a little work and oversight. I am not in support of single payer and throwing good money after bad is a bad idea for our failed exchange.

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

No.

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

The Governor is a Thermostat, setting goals and a direction he wants to take the State. The

legislature is a thermometer expressing the views and feelings of the people in there area and the State employees are the glue that combine vision with implementation.

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

A much more realistic approach to understanding costs and finding ware money is needed and ware money is wasted. Before budgets are increased we should look for efficiencies and prioritize the money at hand.

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

Incentivize colleges to come up with affordable programs for Vermonters.

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

I think the lagging enrollment is in direct connection with Vermonts aging population and the loss of working age Vermonters to states with more job oppertunity. Vermont has been ranking near the bottom of every "business friendly state" list for years and the amount of problems this State faces because of that is imeasurable.

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

The problem that accurs when wages are artificialy raised is that for example, A 15\$ minimum wage means that the person making 15\$ now gets 20\$, the person getting 20\$ now gets 25\$..... and now your 15\$ has the same buying power it had when it was 10\$. This is one more example of a situation that can be improved by a strong vibrant economy.

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

First, thank you for reading this and taking the time to find out ware I stand. As you may have already figured out from question #4 Im not running for office to pander to anyone. The problems we face are not insurmountable. Diagnosing the problem is not the hard part, coming up with a solution that works for all Vermonters is ware our leaders have been struggling.

There is always so much talk about the "next" generation, and how we leave the state for them. The education system, the economy, the environment, well... I'm part of that next generation and I'm here trying to do my part in preserving what makes Vermont great while also moving us into the future. Your support could play a part in that, let's get Vermont back on the right path together.