

cell 272-1101

Name: MARK A. McDONALD
District: Orange County Senator

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

Yes.

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

I don't know. The more barriers you place between customers and employees to "less together", the less involved, the less committed people feel. I affect the atmosphere. I am open to suggestion.

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

~~Build~~ European nations (most industrial) have health care systems that cost less and see healthier citizens and longer life spans. Copy them!

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

Always have; always will.

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

State employees perform the essential tasks of state government. If the task is necessary, it should be paid for. Private employers, and corporate employers exploit workers for profit. The state should not.

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

The appropriations committees don't seem to be able to predict the future, or they rely on "experts" who can't. Replace most of them.

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

Raise the funds to lower tuition for Vermont residents. My generation attended college without crushing debt. We should pony up for the current generation.

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

Collect as much as the traffic will bear from out of state students. We can't support all our colleges on Vermont taxes alone.

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

If minimum wage were adjusted for inflation ~~it was~~ since 1968 it would be \$21.71 today. "Trickle down" has failed. Time to ask employers to pay workers, not just stockholders.

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 supported VSEA employees throughout my legislative service. My record is unblemished. I have never "compromised" or succumbed to excuses to make state employees pay for state government, instead of taxpayers.