

VSEA Candidate Survey:

Name: Mary Howard
District: Rutland 5-3

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

Yes, I do not support the privatization of state services.

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

I am the first person the public sees in my office. Clients have threatened me, so this is an issue that I care about personally.

- 1. State Offices should have trained law enforcement officers**
- 2. Buildings need to be modified to maximize safety**
- 3. Communication and training needs to be improved**
- 4. Work sites with high workers comp claims need better preventative programs**

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

I support a "Medicare for all" single payer plan that uses the State Employees' plan, a plan that I rely on for my insurance, as the basis.

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

I will support collective bargaining and oppose "Right-to-work for less," legislation.

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

The role of state employees is to serve the people without regard to politics. We are the experts on the services of state government. We make a difference in the lives of ordinary Vermonters and they rely on our service. I would support them by working to adequately staff and compensate state workers. I would listen to them and their advice about improving the delivery of state services.

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

I would reward state employees who offer effective ideas to save taxpayers' money. I would support building a revenue system that is sustainable and allows Vermont to meet the needs of Vermonters. Middle class Vermonters are over taxed. It is time to ask the wealthiest Vermonters to invest more in public services.

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

I support eliminating tuition for Vermont students in our state college system and replacing those funds with public dollars. I support starting with the first 2

years at least at VTC and CCV.

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

I support increased public funding of the state colleges in order to eliminate or significantly reduce tuition for Vermont students. I also support expansion of programs that enable high school students to take college courses.

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

Yes, I do support livable wages and I believe we should be paying at least \$15 per hour. I think this will require subsidizing small businesses that could not sustain this level of compensation based on a "but for test" like that which we currently use for the VEGI program. If you can show that but for a subsidy you would reduce the number of employees then you receive funding. This would target assistance to Vermont's small businesses while not providing more corporate welfare to big corporate chains like Wal-Mart.

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 worked as a state employee for more than a decade. I bring the frontline workers' perspective to the State House. I know that state employees' are the experts and have so much to offer policy makers. I worked hard to try to organize my office to join the VSEA and I voted to support the union. When Governor Shumlin asked state employees to open their contract, I supported the Fight Back Campaign and attended the rally at the State House.

I would ask the VSEA to mail to and call their members in my district in order to persuade them to support and volunteer for my campaign. I would request a \$1000 contribution from your PAC.