

VSEA Candidate Survey:

Name: Mike McCarthy

District: House Franklin 3-1 (Saint Albans City/Town)

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

Yes. I have a long record of opposition to outsourcing the business of the state to private entities. I'm appalled by the use of private prisons, for example and will work to end their use.

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

State employees often have challenging jobs but they shouldn't be worried about whether or not they'll make it home to their families. I'd look to implement safety recommendations to prevent future tragedies at state office buildings, invest in more resources for mental health so we can appropriately respond to patients in crisis, and listen to the concerns of state employees in other fields as to what we can do to make sure they feel safe at work.

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

I was hugely disappointed in the Shumlin administration's abandonment of a Single Payer system in Vermont. We can still make progress by expanding access to primary health care and I like the idea of expanding Dr. Dynasaur to cover family members up to age 26. We should make sure every Vermonter has access to affordable, quality health services.

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

Yes. I support organized labor. "Right to Work" legislation and other anti-labor legislation from the likes of ALEC have no place in Vermont.

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

Vermont has over 5,000 state employees in a variety of roles. All of them serve the people of Vermont. I'd seek to make sure that we have the data we need to make smart investments in our state programs, getting the real stories of state employees doing the work on the front lines when we're making decisions in the legislature that impact your work. I have a record of supporting fair pay increases for state employees and supporting working Vermonters in general.

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

While we seek to invest in Vermont's economy for the future, we need tax reforms that make sure we can meet our obligations to serve the people of Vermont. I'd look to the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Tax commission to begin to finally overhaul Vermont's antiquated tax system. I think we also need to look beyond the next fiscal

year and have a longer budget calendar. Regardless, if the administration gets the budget projections wrong, we shouldn't balance it on the backs of working Vermonters or break our contract obligations to state employees. I reject austerity measures as a viable way to help our state grow and thrive.

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

It's embarrassing that Vermont has fallen so far behind in its support for higher education. I'd continue to advance programs that have been working, like dual enrollment, but we need to help students even more. I'd support proposals to use revenue from fees on financial services to help make college more affordable.

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

We need local businesses to be champions of our state colleges. I would work with our RDCs to make sure that Vermont businesses are using our state colleges for continuing education as well as development of the next generation of workers. I think we also should reward Vermonters who stay in the state after getting a state college degree with some help buying down the cost of their student debt.

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

I think we need to phase in a \$15/hr minimum wage in no more than 5 years.

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 proven record of commitment to supporting working Vermonters and especially the state employees. I will continue to be a champion of fair labor practices and smart investments in our health and education systems. I need help from VSEA to tell your members to vote for me in November. I'd be honored to have help knocking on members' doors, mailing members information about me and my campaign and calling members. If VSEA is willing to provide financial support to help get my message out, I'd appreciate that as well. My opponents are no friends of organized labor, and I would love to be there to represent the state employees in my district next year.