

VSEA Candidate Survey:

Name: Scott Campbell
District: Caledonia-3 (St. Johnsbury)

1. Should the work of State government be performed by State employees?
Yes. There may be cases where contracting out makes more sense, but for the most part, public services ought to be performed by public servants.
2. As an elected official, how would you improve the overall safety of state employees?
This is a complicated question to which there is no simple answer. Different types of employees require different safety measures. I work at Capstone Community Action in Barre, just blocks from where Lara Sobel was tragically gunned down. I'm very aware of the challenges and dangers faced daily by front-line folks both at Dept of Children & Families and Community Action.
3. What is your plan to make the health care system more fair and equitable for working Vermonters?
My wife is a physician. I hear about the dysfunction of the current medical and insurance system every day. Ultimately we must work toward a single-payer system. But getting there will not be easy. I support providing a public option in the health-care exchange and expanding the existing public option programs we have in Medicare and Dr. Dynasaur.
4. Will you support collective bargaining and vote against "Right to Work" legislation in any form?
Yes. The erosion of union representation has coincided with the decline of the middle class and the increased economic desperation felt by many.
5. What do you see as the role of State employees and how would you support them in their role?
State employees are the interface between the public and its government. They should represent public policy dispassionately and fairly. Most importantly state employees provide assistance and guidance to the public through often-complex regulations.
6. What mechanisms would you put in place to avoid budget shortfalls?
As a new candidate, this will be my first term in the Statehouse. Candidly, I don't know enough yet. But tax reform strikes me as a high priority. Rebalancing the shared responsibility for public spending is a continuous process. We need to look at it again. At the same time, we need to be sure our spending is achieving its purpose. There may be times when worthwhile programs must be delayed, but I would try to make that a last resort.
7. What approach would you take to make higher education more affordable for Vermonters?

Here is an area more public spending is in order. If we fail to educate the next generation, we place our future in peril. I support free tuition to the state college system in exchange for an internship or service afterwards.

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

As noted, I would support more public resources. I think the colleges need to explore additional revenue sources, like many private colleges are so successful doing, and constantly look for ways to streamline costs. I don't know the details of the proposed merger of Johnson and Lyndon, but perhaps that is one way.

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

Yes. I think \$15/hour is a good start.

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 closely with many state employees in my work managing energy efficiency and housing programs. I have found nearly all the people I've worked with to be honorable, dedicated public servants, who are committed to the mission of their office. I would be proud to be endorsed by such people.

As for assistance, canvassing volunteers would be great!