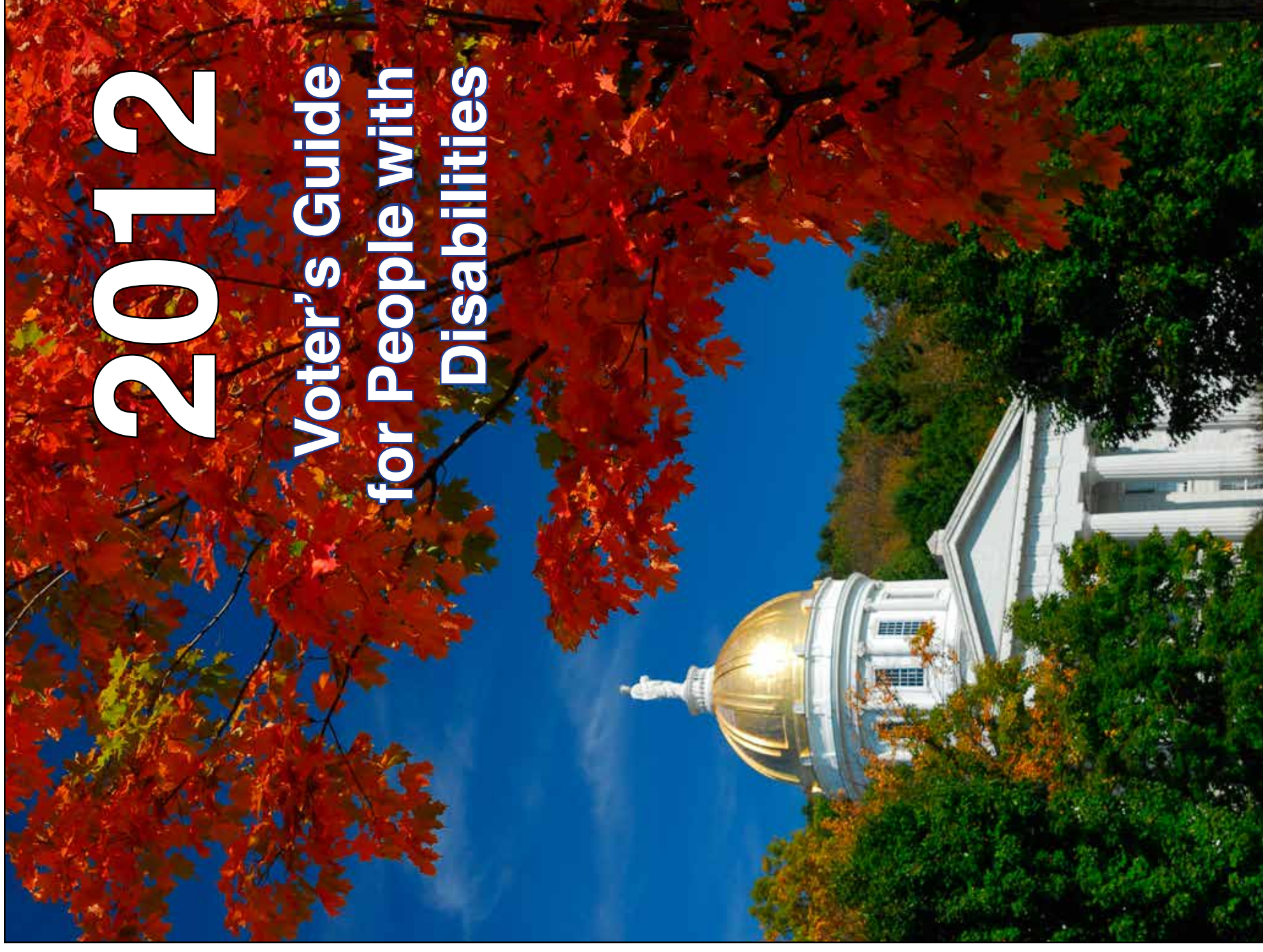


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2012

Voter's Guide for People with Disabilities



Are you Registered to Vote?

Call and Verify with your Town Clerk!

Addison	759-2020	Elmore	888-2637	Moretown	496-3645	Starksboro	453-2639
Albany	755-6100	Enosburgh	933-4421	Morgan	895-2927	Stockbridge	746-8400
Alburgh	796-3468	Essex	879-0413	Morristown	888-6370	Stowe	253-6133
Andover	875-2765	Fair Haven	265-3610	Mt. Holly	259-2391	Strafford	765-4411
Arlington	375-2332	Fairfax	849-6111	Mt. Tabor	293-5282	Stratton	896-6184
Athens	869-3370	Fairfield	827-3261	New Haven	453-3516	Sudbury	623-7296
Bakersfield	827-4495	Fairlee	333-4363	Newark	467-3336	Sunderland	375-6106
Baltimore	263-5274	Fayston	496-2454	Newbury	866-5521	Sutton	467-3377
Barnard	234-9211	Ferrisburgh	877-3429	Newfane	365-7772	Swanton	868-4421
Barnet	633-2256	Fletcher	849-6616	Newport City	334-2112	Thetford	785-2922
Barre City	476-0242	Franklin	285-2101	Newport Town	334-6442	Tinmouth	446-2498
Barre Town	479-9391	Georgia	524-3524	North Hero	372-6926	Topsham	439-5505
Barton	525-6222	Glover	525-6227	Northfield	485-5421	Townshend	365-7300
Belvidere	644-6621	Goshen	247-6455	Norton	822-9935	Troy	988-2663
Bennington	442-1043	Grafton	843-2419	Norwich	649-1419	Tunbridge	889-5521
Benson	537-2611	Granby	328-3611	Orange	479-2673	Underhill	899-4434
Berkshire	933-2335	Grand Isle	372-8830	Orwell	948-2032	Vergennes	877-2841
Berlin	229-9298	Granville	767-4403	Panton	475-2333	Vernon	257-0292
Bethel	234-9722	Greensboro	533-2911	Pawlet	325-3309	Vershire	685-2227
Bloomfield	962-5191	Groton	584-3276	Peacham	592-3218	Victory	328-2400
Bolton	434-5075	Guildhall	676-3797	Peru	824-3065	Waitsfield	496-2218
Bradford	222-4727	Guilford	254-6857	Pittsfield	746-8170	Walden	563-2220
Braintree	728-9787	Halifax	368-7390	Pittsford	483-6500	Wallingford	446-2336
Brandon	247-5721	Hancock	767-3660	Plainfield	454-8461	Waltham	877-3641
Brattleboro	251-8157	Hardwick	472-5971	Plymouth	672-3655	Wardsboro	896-6055
Bridgewater	672-3334	Hartford	295-2785	Pomfret	457-3861	Warren	496-2709
Bridport	758-2483	Hartland	436-2444	Poultney	287-5761	Washington	883-2218
Brighton	723-4405	Highgate	868-4697	Pownal	823-7757	Waterbury	244-8447
Bristol	453-2486	Hinesburg	482-2281	Proctor	459-3333	Waterford	748-2122
Brookfield	276-3352	Holland	895-4440	Putney	387-5862	Waterville	644-8865
Brookline	365-4648	Hubbardton	273-2951	Randolph	728-5433	Weathersfield	674-9500
Brownington	754-8401	Huntington	434-2032	Reading	484-7250	Wells	645-0486
Brunswick	962-5514	Hyde Park	888-2300	Readsboro	423-5405	West Fairlee	333-9696
Burke	467-3717	Ira	235-2745	Richford	848-7751	West Haven	265-4880
Burlington	865-7000	Irasburg	754-2242	Richmond	434-2221	West Rutland	438-2204
Cabot	563-2279	Isle La Motte	928-3434	Ripton	388-2266	West Windsor	484-7212
Calais	456-8720	Jamaica	874-4681	Rochester	767-3631	Westfield	744-2484
Cambridge	644-2251	Jay	988-2996	Rockingham	463-4336	Westford	878-4587
Canaan	266-3370	Jericho	899-4936	Roxbury	485-7840	Westminster	722-4091
Castleton	468-2212	Johnson	635-2611	Royalton	763-7207	Westmore	525-3007
Cavendish	226-7292	Killington	422-3243	Rupert	394-7728	Weston	824-6645
Charleston	895-2814	Kirby	626-9386	Rutland City	773-1800	Weybridge	545-2450
Charlotte	425-3071	Landgrove	824-3716	Rutland Town	773-2528	Wheelock	626-9094
Chelsea	685-4460	Leicester	247-5961	Ryegate	584-3880	Whiting	623-7813
Chester	875-2173	Lemington	277-4814	St. Albans Cty	524-1500	Whitingham	368-7887
Chittenden	483-6647	Lincoln	453-2980	St. Albans Tn.	524-2415	Williamstown	433-5455
Clarendon	775-4274	Londonderry	824-3356	St. George	482-5272	Williston	878-5121
Colchester	264-5520	Lowell	744-6559	St. Johnsbury	748-4331	Wilmington	464-5836
Concord	695-2220	Ludlow	228-3232	Salisbury	352-4228	Windham	874-4211
Corinth	439-5850	Lunenburg	892-5959	Sandgate	375-9075	Windsor	674-5610
Cornwall	462-2775	Lyndon	626-5785	Searsburg	464-8081	Winhall	297-2122
Coventry	754-2288	Maidstone	676-3210	Shaftsbury	442-4038	Winooski	655-6419
Craftsbury	586-2823	Manchester	362-1315	Sharon	763-8268	Wolcott	888-2746
Danby	293-5136	Marlboro	254-2181	Sheffield	626-8862	Woodbury	456-7051
Danville	684-3352	Marshfield	426-3305	Shelburne	985-5116	Woodford	442-4895
Derby	766-4906	Mendon	775-1662	Sheldon	933-2524	Woodstock	457-3611
Dorset	362-1178	Middlebury	388-8100	Shoreham	897-5841	Worcester	223-6942
Dover	464-5100	Middlesex	223-5915	Shrewsbury	492-3511		
Dummerston	257-1496	Middletown S.	235-2220	S. Burlington	846-4105		
Duxbury	244-6660	Milton	893-7344	South Hero	372-5552		
East Haven	467-3772	Monkton	453-3800	Springfield	885-2104		
E. Montpelier	223-3313	Montgomery	326-4719	Stamford	694-1361		
Eden	635-2528	Montpelier	223-9500	Stannard	533-2577		

Voter's Guide for People with Disabilities

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 says that people with disabilities have a right to vote and to have certain accommodations to make voting easier.

Disability Rights Vermont, Inc. (DRVT) is an agency that received money from the U. S. Congress under HAVA to help make sure people with disabilities get the information they need to vote and are not discriminated against when casting their ballots. This guide is one project DRVT is doing to provide that help. In it you will find information about your rights as a voter. You also will find information for each of the offices to which we elect people, for example, the Governor. There is information about the people running for national and statewide offices this year. The candidates were each asked to provide a statement for this guide. We gave the candidates some ideas about the issues facing people with disabilities to help them focus their statements. Some pages provide general information about voting and participating in our democracy. Finally, a voting worksheet is provided for you to fill in and take with you to the polls to help you remember for whom you want to vote.

We at DRVT hope you find this voter guide helpful. We want to know what you like and don't like about it. Please let us know! You may send an email to us or write to us or call us with your comments. Our goals are to make nonpartisan, impartial information available to all Vermonters with disabilities and to encourage you to vote. We would like to know why you do or don't vote. Please let us know that information, too!

Thank you for your interest in learning about voting in Vermont. Please remember to vote.

Important Election Dates:

- **September 24, 2012: Early voting begins**
- **October 31, 2012: Last Day to register to vote**
- **November 5, 2012: Absentee ballot request deadline due by 5 p.m.**
- **November 6, 2012: General Election and Absentee ballots are due by close of polls at 7 p.m.**

This publication was made possible by a grant from the Department of Health & Human Services under the Help America Vote Act. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the authors and do not represent the official views of the grantors.

Disability Rights Vermont would like to thank the State of Vermont for allowing it to use information from various web pages, and especially acknowledges the Vermont Secretary of State's office for their help in putting together this voter guide and allowing it to take material from their website and other publications. DRVT would also like to thank VCIL for their help with this publication.

Disability Rights Vermont is the Protection and Advocacy system for the state of Vermont.

Cover Photo: Stefan Hard

To Contact Us:

**Call: 1-800-834-7890 or
1-802-229-1355**

On the web:

www.DisabilityRightsVt.org

Email: jocelyn@DisabilityRightsVt.org

**Disability Rights Vermont
141 Main Street, Suite 7
Montpelier, VT 05602**

Your Voting Rights as a Person with a Disability

What does disability mean? There are many different meanings of the word disability under different laws. When we're talking about voting rights, a person has a disability if the person has a medical, cognitive or mental health condition that makes it very hard or impossible for the person to do important life activities, such as walking, talking, seeing, hearing, lifting, concentrating or communicating.

If you have a disability, you have:

- **The right to vote (if you are otherwise qualified)**
- **The right to access your polling place**
- **The right to receive reasonable accommodations for your disability**



When we talk about reasonable accommodations to vote we mean actions the government can take to help a person with a disability fully participate in the voting process, such as installing ramps into a polling place so that someone using a wheelchair can get into the polling place, or hiring an American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter to help a person who is deaf or hard of hearing who communicates using ASL to register to vote. A reasonable accommodation cannot cost so much that it makes it impossible for the government to do its other necessary work and must be directly related to overcoming the barrier to full participation due to a disability.

If you need accommodations to assist you with voting, you may:

- **Contact your Town Clerk to request accommodations**
- **Bring a person of your choice into the voting booth with you for assistance (not your employer or union representative)**
- **Ask an election official for assistance with marking your ballot**
- **Ask an election official to bring a ballot to your car**
- **Bring a magnifying glass or other devices to help you use the ballot**
- **Bring a list of candidates into the voting booth to help you**
- **Ask for another ballot (maximum of three) if you make a mistake**

Your Voting Rights as a Person with a Disability

If You Experience Problems with Voting:

Disability Rights Vermont

1-800-834-7890

Vermont Secretary of State's Office

1-800-439-8683

Vermont Center for Independent Living

1-800-639-1522

Green Mountain Self Advocates

1-800-564-9990

Registering to Vote

If you want to vote, you must be registered. The registration deadline for the November 6, 2012 election is Wednesday, October 31, 2012 at 5 p.m. To register to vote, you must:

1. Be a US Citizen;
2. Be a resident of the Vermont town where you plan to vote.
3. Take, or have previously taken, the Voter's Oath (formerly called the "Freeman's Oath");
4. Be 18 years of age or older (or will be eighteen on or before the day of election).

Registering to Vote

To register, you need to complete the “Application for Addition to the Checklist” (voter registration form) and make sure it is returned to the town/city clerk’s office in the town or city you live. There are several places you can do this.

- At your town/city clerk’s office
- At the DMV (when you register your car or when you get or renew your driver’s license)
- At voter registration drives

Call Disability Rights Vermont, your town/city clerk or the Vermont Secretary of State’s office if you have any questions.

VOTER’S OATH

You solemnly swear or affirm that whenever you give your vote or suffrage, touching any matter that concerns the state of Vermont, you will do it so as in your conscience you shall judge will most conduce to the best good of the same, as established by the Constitution, without fear or favor of any person.

What the Voter’s Oath means, in plain English:

When you vote, you will make the best choice within the bounds of the Constitution without influence from another. You promise that whenever you vote on anything to do with Vermont, you will choose what you honestly believe is best for the state, guided by our Constitution. You won’t let anyone tell you how to vote and you won’t vote for something just to benefit one person.

DID YOU KNOW?

Vermont is one of only two states where people retain the right to vote, even if they have been convicted of a crime and/or are incarcerated.

28 VSA § 807 Voting Rights

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person who is convicted of a crime shall retain the right to vote by early voter absentee ballot in a primary or general election at the person’s last voluntary residence during the term of the person’s commitment under a sentence of confinement provided the person otherwise fulfills all voting requirements.

To vote while you are incarcerated, you will need to request an early voter absentee ballot from the town clerk of the town in which you are registered. An absentee ballot will allow you to vote by mail. If you are not registered, you can put in a request to the Volunteer Coordinator at your facility and he or she should be able to assist you with the registration/voting process. If you are a person with a disability, you can also request assistance from Disability Rights Vermont. There are specific deadlines with regard to registering to vote and requesting absentee ballots, so make sure you follow those and submit your requests well in advance of the November 6th Election Day.

When, Where and How to Vote

When...

You must vote by November 6, 2012. You may vote from September 24, 2012 through November 6, 2012. You may vote early at your town/city clerk's office before the general election day (November 6); you may pick up an early voting ballot at your town/city clerk's office, vote and return your ballot to the clerk's office; you may ask for an early/absentee ballot to be sent to you so you may vote in your home and mail back your voted ballots in time to be received by Nov. 6, or you may vote on election day at the polling place, either from your car or inside the polling place. To vote from your car, someone will need to go into the polling place and tell the person in charge that you wish to vote from your car. On election day, the polls may open between 5 a.m. and 10 a.m.-each town/city makes its own decision. All polls must close at the same time-7p.m.



Where...

To find out where your town's/city's polling place is, call your town/city clerk or visit the Secretary of State's website <http://www.sec.state.vt.us> or call **1-800-439-VOTE**. All the clerks' numbers are listed in this guide and on the Secretary of State's website. That website also has a list of the polling places in all of Vermont's towns and cities.

How...

To vote in person at the polls (voting area), using a standard ballot:

1. Go into the polling place.
2. At the check-in table, give your name, and if asked, your residence.
3. You will be given a ballot.
4. Take your ballot to a voting booth.
5. Mark your ballot according to the instructions (for example, make an "X" in the box next to the name of the candidate you have chosen, or fill in the specified area). If you have questions, a poll worker can explain more. If you make a mistake, ask for another ballot (limit of three).
6. After you have finished marking your ballot, you will leave the voting booth with your ballot and proceed to the place you "cast" (put) it. Look for signs or ask a worker if it is not obvious where to go.
7. At the place you cast it, place the ballot as instructed by the worker. You may be told to put it in a ballot box or in an optical scanner, for example.
8. Go to the check-out table if your voting place has one.
9. Give your name at the check-out table and you are finished.
10. Leave the voting area.



When, Where and How to Vote

Provisional ballots: There should NOT be any need to use a provisional ballot in Vermont. Vermont law provides that if a voter will sign a sworn affidavit that he or she submitted a voter registration form (Application to be added to the checklist) in Vermont prior to the deadline for registration, then that person will be added to the checklist on Election Day and will vote by a regular ballot.

Identification: Identification is not required in Vermont.

To vote in person at the polls using the vote by phone method:

This option has been developed to allow those with disabilities who want privacy to cast their ballot without the assistance of another person. It is best to practice voting from your home phone to become familiar with the process. Local ballot questions cannot be voted on by phone.

To vote by phone on election day, you must use the phone at the polls. You cannot vote by phone from home.

1. Go to your polling place.
2. Go to the check-in table, give your name and say that you wish to use the vote-by-phone system.
3. A poll worker uses a designated telephone to call the system, enters the identification codes to bring up the appropriate ballot, then gives the phone to the voter and leaves the voting booth.
4. The system reads the ballot to the voter and, after the voter makes ballot selections using the telephone key pad, the system prints out a paper ballot at the office of the Secretary of State. The paper ballot is automatically scanned and can be played back to the voter for verification upon request by the voter. The voter may decide to cast it or discard it and revote.

Your vote will be tallied into the totals submitted by your town to the secretary of state's office. The ballot stays at the secretary of state's office.

To try out the vote by phone system and practice voting your ballot:

1. Call no more than 15 days before the election.
2. Call your town clerk to get the ballot access three digit number for your voting district.
3. Call (866) 486-3838 to listen to and practice voting on the same ballot that you will hear and vote on Election Day. Enter the three digit number when prompted.
4. You may call in and practice as many times as you want. Most people find that after using the system two or three times they can move quickly through all of the candidates and races.
5. Remember, you must vote by phone AT THE POLLS on election day, not from your home phone.

To vote by Early Voter Absentee Ballot:

Any registered voter may vote by Early Voter Absentee Ballot. It must be requested. A voter, family member or health care provider may apply for an Early Voter Absentee Ballot by asking for it by telephone, in person at their town clerk's office, or in writing. A non-family member authorized by the voter may only request a ballot in person or in writing.

When, Where and How to Vote

There are four ways to cast an Early Voter Absentee Ballot:

NOTE: You must fill out and sign the certificate on the ballot envelope for your vote to be counted. Do not forget to do this.

Early Voter Absentee Ballots must be returned to the Town Clerk's office before the close of the office on the day before the election OR to the polling place before 7:00 p.m. on the day of the election in order to be counted in the election.

1. Vote in person at the town clerk's office. You may go to your town clerk's office, ask for an Early Voter Absentee Ballot, fill it out right there and then hand it in. You may bring a person of your choice to help you vote (as long as the person is not your employer or union representative). If you need assistance and haven't brought someone to help, two election officials of the town have to provide the assistance.
2. Pick up a ballot at the town clerk's office. You may pick up a ballot and vote in your car or take it home to vote. Your voted ballot must be returned by November 6, 2012.
3. Get a ballot mailed to you and vote at home. Your ballot must be returned by November 6, 2012.
4. Have a ballot hand delivered to you. If you are sick or disabled a ballot can be delivered to your home on Election Day. You may request an absentee ballot up until 5 p.m. on the day before the election. Two justices of the peace (of different parties) will deliver a ballot to you, and then will bring the ballot back to the polling place so that it can be placed in the ballot box and counted (on Election Day or the 8 days preceding the election).

Things to remember:

- You may bring a reminder sheet of who you want to vote for
- You may bring a magnifying glass to help you read the ballot
- If you have a disability or need help with the ballot, you may bring someone to assist you as long as it is not your employer or a union representative
- Don't leave anything in the voting booth when you are done voting
- You may not discuss or promote candidates inside the polling place

If you experience problems:

- Ask an election official to help you
- Call the Secretary of State's office toll free at 1-800-439-VOTE (8683)
- Call Disability Rights Vermont toll free at 1-800-834-7890

It is illegal to...

- Knowingly vote more than once either in the same town or in different towns;
- Try to tell another person how to vote once you're inside the building where voting is taking place;
- Mislead the Board of Civil Authority about your own or another person's eligibility to vote;
- Show your marked ballot to others in order to let them know how you voted;
- Make a mark on your ballot that would identify it as yours.



Structure of our Government



Our government is made up of three branches -- the legislative, the executive, and the judicial.

The Legislative Branch

The national, or federal, legislative branch is made up of U.S. Senators and Representatives from each state. The legislative branch makes laws, with the executive branch's approval; the executive branch carries out the laws, with legislative oversight. The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives are two different groups discussing the same problems and coming up with possible solutions. The form that the solution takes is called a bill. Each group comes up with its own bill. The two sides then get together to decide on one solution (the final bill). This process allows for many opinions to be considered, even though it is time consuming and difficult. Once the two groups (Senate and House of Representatives) come up

with the final bill, the President may either sign it, veto it, or take no action on it. If the President signs it, the bill becomes law. If the President vetoes it (says, in writing, that he or she does not agree with the bill) the Representatives and Senators can try to override the veto in order to make the bill into a law. To do that they must each come up with 2/3 of their members to say they want the bill to become a law. In some cases, bills can become laws if the President takes no action at all.

The Executive Branch

The Executive Branch is the branch of federal and state government that is responsible for implementing, supporting, and enforcing the laws made by the legislative branch. At the state level, the executive includes governors and their staffs. At the federal level, the executive includes the president, the vice president, staffs of appointed advisers (including the cabinet), and a variety of departments and agencies, such as the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Postal Service. The executive branch also proposes a great deal of legislation to Congress and appoints federal judges, including justices of the Supreme Court. Although the executive branch guides the nation's domestic and foreign policies, the system of checks and balances works to limit its power.

The Judicial Branch

The Judicial Branch consists of our nation's courts. Courts have a responsibility to interpret the laws made by the legislative branch, and enforced by the executive branch. The judicial branch says whether or not a law is constitutional (is allowed) under our highest law, the U.S. Constitution, and interprets laws when there is a disagreement as to how they should be understood. The national, or federal judicial branch is made up of the Supreme Court and all the other federal courts across the country. States also have a judicial branch, consisting of all State Courts, including Small Claims Court, Superior Court, and the State Supreme Court.

Elected Offices and the Candidates

Following are descriptions of the positions to which we elect people. Under each national and state level description are listed the people running for the office this year.



U.S. President and Vice President



The President serves as the head of the country and works with his or her Cabinet, which is made up of the Vice President and the people who are in charge of the 15 departments that make up our executive branch of government. The President may include other top leaders in the Cabinet. He or she appoints people to lead the departments that make decisions that affect our lives. For example, the Department of Defense has a lot of say about wars; the Department of Veteran's Affairs has a lot to do with how veterans are treated; the Department of Education makes policies about how schools should be run; the Department of Health and Human Services directs many of the programs important to people with disabilities, such as Medicaid and Medicare; and the Department of Justice oversees all the laws of the country, including the Americans with Disability Act.

The Vice President is elected with the President. We vote for both together. The Vice President stands ready to take over for the President, should the President become unable to continue in office. Often, the Vice President serves as an advisor to the President. He or she also stands in for the President at the President's request. The Vice President also serves as the President of the U.S. Senate and casts the deciding vote if there is an equal number of Senators voting for and against an issue. Elections for President and Vice President are held every four years.



2012 U.S. Presidential Candidates



**Gary Johnson for President of United States,
Libertarian Party**

Jim Gray for Vice President of United States,
Libertarian Party

All Candidates were invited to submit a candidate statement and picture for this publication. Those without statements associated with their candidacy chose not to respond.



2012 U.S. Presidential Candidates



**Peta Lindsay for President of United States
(Right Side in Photo),
Socialism and Liberation Party**

**Yari Osorio for Vice President of United States,
Socialism and Liberation Party**

VotePSL.org / info@VotePSL.org

202-234-2828

PO Box 26451, Washington, D.C. 20001

“Peta Lindsay and Yari Osorio are the Party for Socialism and Liberation’s (PSL) candidates for President and Vice President of the United States. They will be on the ballot in Vermont and several other states across the country.

Ms. Lindsay and Mr. Osorio have been activists in the anti-war, immigrant rights and other movements for many years. They are running on a 10-Point Program that speaks to the needs of all working people. It calls for seizing the banks and putting an end to war machine—both of which would free more than an enough funds to make jobs, healthcare, housing and education rights for all.

People with disabilities often confront great obstacles in access to housing, health care, education and work because—under capitalism—these ere commodities, not rights. The Lindsay/Osorio campaign salutes those in the disabled community who have fought and continue to fight to overcome these obstacles. Through mass protests, civil disobedience and other tactics, the disabled community and its allies have made great advances in the struggle. The Americans with Disabilities Act, signed into law in 1990, is one important result of that struggle. But much more needs to be done to achieve equality for all, regardless of nationality, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression, age, religion/non-religion or ability.

Our campaign stands with people with disabilities in the struggle to make education, housing, health care and work accessible and affordable regardless of income. The barriers that discriminate against people with disabilities must be broken down as part of a larger struggle for equal and civil rights for all.

We believe a movement is needed that can make full equality a reality—and that voting is not enough. The Lindsay/Osorio campaign is committed to building a movement that can make socialism possible.”

.....



**Barack Obama for President of United States,
Democratic Party**

**Joe Biden for Vice President of United States,
Democratic Party**

“We need more Americans to have a say in their government, not just the special interests. That’s why we should be taking down roadblocks to voting, not putting up new ones.



2012 U.S. Presidential Candidates



We believe in an America where everybody can make their voices heard, regardless of who they are or what party they're likely to vote for. Voting should be easy and accessible.

We've never solved anything in America with less democracy, and we won't now."



**Mitt Romney for President of United States,
Republican Party**

Paul Ryan for Vice President of United States,
Republican Party

All Candidates were invited to submit a candidate statement and picture for this publication. Those without statements associated with their candidacy chose not to respond.



U.S. Senate



Every state has two U. S. Senators. Both Senators represent citizens in their entire state. Each one serves for six years, and they are elected in different years so there is only one Senator up for election at a time. One third of all U.S. Senators will be elected this year, one third in two years, and one third in four years. This means that some years a particular state will not have any Senators to elect.

Senators serve on committees that discuss problems in smaller groups than the whole Senate. Many of the committees look at topics similar to those covered by the departments in the President's cabinet. The committee members gather information about a problem by studying it and asking people to testify (give information and answer questions) before their committees. Solutions from the committee then may be considered by the full Senate. Because there are many opinions about how to solve problems, one of the main jobs of Senators is to figure out how to work with many people with different opinions to come up with a solution upon which a majority can agree. Another job of Senators is to help the people in their state when they ask for assistance with or information about the government. This work is called constituent services. *You can find more information about the U.S. Senate on the web at <http://www.senate.gov>*





2012 Candidates for U.S. Senate



Cris Erickson for US Senator, United States Marijuana Party

<http://usmjp.com>

“The goals of the United States Marijuana Party and candidate, Cris Ericson, are to be the most respected political group in Vermont as well as the United States of America.

We have created a unique institution with a proud and independent history, and we play an important role in fostering education about hemp, cannabis and marijuana and their roles in health care, farming and product uses.

As Vermonters, we practice a shared responsibility towards each other as citizens and registered voters, helping one another so each person can reach their full potential. We treat all Vermonters as team members towards our goals of respect for ourselves and each other, and we champion our remarkable diversity.

We put Vermonters first in relationship to the rest of the United States, while acting with the highest level of integrity. We respect our local culture, and do not want to be just like any other state. We know that most Vermonters think that a little marijuana should be legal, but we don't want to be like California.

We are aware that the Arctic ice caps are melting and that Hillary Clinton visited there to see the proof. We are ready to face this climate change challenge. Our first job is to out-law motorboats on Lake Champlain which provides drinking water for one-third of Vermonters. As the weather gets warmer in some areas of the country, more people will be moving to Vermont, and more people will need clean drinking water. Motor boats are not allowed in any other drinking water reservoir in the United States, so we have to come up to national standards. Good, better, best, never let it rest, under the good is better, and the better best.

Vote for Cris Ericson, United States Marijuana Party.”

.....

Laurel LaFramboise for US Senator, VoteKISS

www.votekiss.org

laurel@votekiss.org

802-685-3214

“Do Americans agree on ANYTHING politically? Our political parties want us to believe the United States is a nation divided: red conservatives, white moderates, OR blue liberals can't agree on ANYTHING.



2012 Candidates for U.S. Senate



I've come to believe, however, that most Americans are red, white AND blue:

- We are fiscal conservatives because we KNOW it's our civic duty to use public monies responsibly, but the current overspending isn't being responsible.
- We are social moderates because we KNOW it's our moral duty to care for the less fortunate, but we don't want to be patsies for the lazy and corrupt.
- We are environmental liberals because we KNOW it's our sacred duty to protect God's creation and preserve it for future generations, but we're not sure how to balance it with our other duties.

Most Americans are also united in one other area: we have a deep distrust of and distaste for politicians and our political system. All that is needed to unite Americans this November is a vehicle that will embrace our red, white and blue core beliefs and by-pass the political system we despise. That vehicle, I believe, is VoteKISS. VoteKISS stands for Vote to Keep It Short and Simple. It is a way to by-pass politics by changing the way we vote:

- Today we vote for candidates who make a lot of promises, but then they vote for compromise bills NOBODY wants and increasingly, nobody understands.
- VoteKISS candidates stand for 3 short and simply written bills that solve our biggest problems in ways everyone can understand and most of us can agree with—because they represent our red, white, and blue beliefs. VoteKISS candidates sign a contract to ONLY vote for those 3 bills as written each election cycle, which removes politics from the position of representative.

Read US House candidate Andre LaFramboise's statement for more on VoteKISS.

This campaign isn't about me so there's no photo of me, but you can see the VoteKISS logo at www.votekiss.org. Thank you for the opportunity to be in your voter packet. I wish there were more organizations like yours!"

.....

John MacGovern for US Senator, Republican Party

www.johnmacgovern.com

“Our campaign is about getting this economy moving again so that money, taken from hard working taxpayers, can start coming into the US government coffers. That is the only way we can be sure there will be money for the important uses like looking after those who truly need it. It will take political courage to save these programs for future generations. The US government must learn to live within its means and stop spending more than it takes in. Right now, that is being done by borrowing from the Chinese and leaving our children and grand-children the bill. Let's get serious about these important matters and solve them. That will not be done if we keep sending the same people to Washington, those who have been there for the last quarter century.

Many thanks,

John MacGovern for US Senate”



2012 Candidates for U.S. Senate



Peter Moss for US Senator, PEACE AND PROSPERITY Party

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phone and fax 802-849-2108
peter28moss@gmail.com
<http://petermosss.org/book/index.html>

“THE MOSS SAWBUCK

Sawbuck is slang for the ten-dollar bill, and is based on the Roman numeral interpretation of the ‘X’ shape of the device holding wood to be sawed. Below I am proposing ten legislative bills that I will introduce if elected.

Mike Murphy’s recent column titled “The Past Is History – Candidates, we know what you have done. Now tell us what you’re going to do.” TIME, April 23, 2012, page 24. Murphy was, of course, addressing Obama and Romney but I believe his admonition should apply to all candidates for elective office, hence THE MOSS SAWBUCK, below.

- I. Single Payer Health Care now
- II. Single term of office to replace professional career politicians
- III. Fairness Doctrine Law to level playing field and end buying office
- IV. Senior Amendment so obligation to seniors will be the senior obligation of the U.S.
- V. Initiative, Referendum and Recall for direct democracy and real voter control
- VI. Cooperatives, not Corporations, to end corporatocracy control of legislation
- VII. Evaluate Lobbies as good and bad, and eliminate bad lobbies
- VIII. Replace Judges with Justice and end the law business
- IX. Choice of jury duty or legislative service for jury pool volunteers
- X. Suffrage and legislative service limits for political conservatism handicapped

Brevity is the soul of wit. A BBC study of developed nations found the U.S. the most corrupt.

We can become the least corrupt in one biennium by implementing the Moss Sawbuck. Thanks.”



Bernie Sanders for US Senator, Independent Party

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Email: bernie@bernie.org
Mailing address: PO Box 391, Burlington VT 05402
phone number: 802-862-1505.

“I support the access of those with disabilities to all the rights of citizenship and more importantly perhaps to full participation in all aspects of American life. But of course one wants specifics, not just fine phrases. I strongly support the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). I have

(continued on next page)



2012 Candidates for U.S. Senate



been a strong supporter of full federal funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and in fact introduced legislation to assure that it would be fully funded. (The legislation did not pass -- many in Congress prefer that it remain an partly-unfunded mandated.) I am a cosponsor of the Senate resolution -- the Senate must approve all treaty obligations of the US -- to approve the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which is a comprehensive human rights treaty that spells out the rights of persons with disabilities.

As chair of the Senate Subcommittee on Aging, I am leading the effort to reauthorize the Older Americans Act, which has important provisions to enhance the lives of senior citizens who live with disabilities.”



U.S. Representatives



Each state is given a certain number of U.S. Representatives, based on the number of people living in the state. On average, for every 700,000 people, there is a specific congressional district created and the people within that district elect their own representative. In states with more than one district, a U.S. Representative represents only his or her district, not the entire state. States that do not have that many people get fewer Representatives in Congress. Some states with very few people get only one U.S. Representative. Vermont is such a small state that we have only one U.S. Representative. Representatives serve on committees and provide constituent services, just as senators do. There is an election for U.S. Representative every two years. *You can find more information about the U.S. House of Representatives on the web at <http://www.house.gov>*

2012 Candidates for U.S. Representative

James Desrochers for Representative to Congress, Independent Party

All Candidates were invited to submit a candidate statement and picture for this publication. Those without statements associated with their candidacy chose not to respond.



2012 Candidates for U.S. Representative



Mark Donka for Representative to Congress, Republican Party

www.markdonkaforvt.com

mark@markdonkaforvt.com

“I am in total support of the American Disabilities Act. I believe we should look at what people with disabilities can do not what they limitations they have.

1. When elected to Congress I will be in a position to be the voice of disabled persons.
2. As a member of Congress I will be in a position to provide service to disabled persons and listening to their issues.
3. We need to continue enforcing the ADA regulations making sure that all public places are readily accessible.
4. I will work to make sure people with disabilities in Vermont are treated as equals and not considered limited due to their disability.

I am a working middle class person who has made a career as a Law Enforcement officer in Vermont. As a law enforcement officer I have been protecting the rights of people for over 28 years. I am a husband, a father and grandfather. I have been married to my wife and best friend for over 30 years. I have 2 grown daughters and a grandson.

I am asking for your support to help me go to Washington and help save our country's future. I am will continue to be available for your input. Even though I am not elected yet I would appreciate input from Vermonters. Democracy only works if our elected officials' listen to the people they serve. I will be that person.”

.....

Andre LaFramboise for Representative to Congress, VoteKISS

andre@votekiss.org

www.votekiss.org

802-685-3214

“My mother, Laurel, who is running for US Senator, and I are VoteKISS Congressional candidates on Vermont's ballot. VoteKISS stands for Vote to Keep It Short and Simple (see Laurel's candidate statement for an introduction to VoteKISS).

ANY candidate currently on other state ballots can become VoteKISS candidates by signing a contract to vote ONLY FOR the 3 bills as written in final form by November 1. If no candidate in a race signs, voters can still register their approval for VoteKISS by voting for any presidential candidate and NOT voting for any state or federal representative. By doing so the winner of the race will know exactly how many constituents favor the

2012 Candidates for U.S. Representative

VoteKISS bills. If the idea of VoteKISS “goes viral” and every voter learns of the idea, we believe voters are angry enough at the current political system to embrace this simple way to change government in MAJOR WAYS.

Have I tweaked your interest in what the 3 bills are about? Visit www.votekiss.org to read the exact wording of the current drafts. Here’s a quick peek:

- Government reform as a US Constitutional Amendment with TEN major changes most Americans have wanted since before Mr Smith went to Washington (ie term limits, campaign spending restrictions, short and simple bills, representatives LIVE in their districts and get pay/benefits of the average private sector mid level manager, etc.)
- Replace Obamacare with a Short and Simple healthcare solution: employer paid, employee owned private health insurance with a lifetime cap; government pays private insurance for those who CAN’T work and for the indigent; government and non-profits are watchdogs for costs and practitioners.
- Replace the income tax with the Fairtax, a national retail sales tax on new goods and services.

Don’t give up on the power of your vote. We the People can unite and fix what’s wrong with government this November. Have faith, and spread the word!

This campaign is not about me, it’s about the bills. You can see the VoteKISS logo at www.votekiss.org.. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to present this idea to your members.”

.....



Peter Welch for Representative to Congress, Democratic Party

www.welchforcongress.com
info@welchforcongress.com
802.264.9069

“Since his election in 2006, Congressman Peter Welch has established himself as a forceful and effective advocate for Vermonters. In a climate of gridlock and partisanship, he has worked hard to create jobs, make college and health care affordable, balance the budget fairly, end the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and take care of our veterans. Last fall when Vermont was hammered by Tropical Storm Irene, Congressman Welch quickly formed the bipartisan House Irene Coalition. Against the odds, he secured support in the Republican-controlled House to deliver much needed disaster assistance to a reeling Vermont.

Congressman Welch’s advocacy for those with disabilities dates back to his service in the Vermont State Senate. He is committed to ensuring every Vermonter has the opportunity to reach his or her full potential. He was proud to be an original cosponsor of the Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act, which was signed into law in 2008.

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2012 Candidates for U.S. Representative

Congressman Welch continues to support the historic health care reform legislation signed into law by President Obama in 2010 and upheld by the United States Supreme Court earlier this year. This law expands health care coverage to millions of Americans and takes on many of the anti-consumer practices of insurance companies. It prohibits health insurers from denying coverage to children with pre-existing conditions, tightly restricts new health insurance plans' use of annual limits on coverage, and creates a long-term care insurance program to provide benefits to adults who become functionally disabled.

When leaders in the House passed a budget that would have decimated the Medicaid program, Congressman Welch strongly opposed the plan. He believes that the federal debt must be brought under control, but not at the expense of a program like Medicaid that is so critical for so many Vermonters.

Congressman Welch is humbled by the encouragement he has received from all corners of Vermont. He asks for your support so that he can return to Congress to continue to fight for all Vermonters.”



Vermont Governor



The Governor serves as the head of the state, provides overall direction for the state government and is responsible for the administration of all the state agencies. He or she appoints the heads of the agencies, who serve in the Governor's cabinet. The Governor sets a general tone about what is important in the government and proposes major legislation, including the overall budget. Legislation (bills) which passes both the Vermont House of Representatives and the Senate must be signed by the Governor to take effect, unless the Governor vetoes, or says “no” to the proposed law and the House and Senate override the veto. In some cases if the Governor takes no action a bill can become law also. Elections for Governor are held every two years. *You can find more information about Vermont State Government on the web at <http://www.vermont.gov>*

2012 Vermont Gubernatorial Candidates



Randy Brock for Governor, Republican Party

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802.230.4450
www.randybrock.com

- “I believe the disabled, like all Vermonters, deserve to be treated equally. Vermont's economy and health care system should reflect an equal opportunity and choice for every individual. I do not support

(continued on next page)

2012 Vermont Gubernatorial Candidates

a government run single payer system that will deprive the disabled of their ability to choose the health care insurance that best meets their needs.

- In a vibrant economy, the high demand for workers incentivizes employers to accommodate disabilities and creates long-term benefits to the disabled. One effect of the recent health care reforms is an increasing difficulty for employers to provide jobs for anyone, including the disabled. We must craft policies that allow for a dynamic and growing economy which provides those incentives.
- Working with the disabled community, I will fight to blend our common themes of economic freedom and self-reliance into policies that can survive because they make economic sense for everyone.
- I supported a number of DRVT bill this year. My positions on two key bills sponsored by DRVT in the Vermont Senate are as follows:
- S.12 An act relating to adding a member from the area agencies on aging to the Governor’s Commission on Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders. I sponsored this legislation. I am the past president of the Vermont Alzheimer’s Association, so I am acutely aware that Vermont’s increasing percentage of persons over the age of 65 means we can expect a surge in the number of Vermonters affected by Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia. Area Agencies on Aging need to be at the table when policy is being discussed. I also support implementation of the “State Plan on Dementia.” Vermont’s government needs to have the capacity to respond to and serve the needs of the thousands of Vermonters suffering from these diseases.
- S.19 An act relating to increasing the property tax exemption for disabled veterans. I support this legislation. As a Vietnam veteran, I recognize that a disability incurred in protecting all of us deserves special consideration.”



Cris Erickson For Governor, United States Marijuana Party

<http://usmjp.com>

“The goals of the United States Marijuana Party and candidate, Cris Ericson, are to be the most respected political group in Vermont as well as the United States of America. We have created a unique institution with a proud and independent history, and we play an important role in fostering education about hemp, cannabis and marijuana and

their roles in health care, farming and product uses.

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2012 Vermont Gubernatorial Candidates

We are aware that the Arctic ice caps are melting and that Hillary Clinton visited there to see the proof. We are ready to face this climate change challenge. Our first job is to out-law motorboats on Lake Champlain which provides drinking water for one-third of Vermonters. As the weather gets warmer in some areas of the country, more people will be moving to Vermont, and more people will need clean drinking water. Motor boats are not allowed in any other drinking water reservoir in the United States, so we have to come up to national standards.

Good, better, best, never let it rest, under the good is better, and the better best.

Vote for Cris Ericson, United States Marijuana Party.”



Emily Peyton for Governor, Independent Party

“People with Disabilities need to feel especially cared for, they are vulnerable and often are the ones who help the rest of us act like real humans beings. Their struggles make ours dim, and so we feel thankful. Their hopes and dreams seem so simple and minimal compared to ours, and so we feel empowered. In fact it is often the people

with disabilities who are attending to us, making certain that we have our priorities in order, that we remember to be thankful for the many gifts we are given. Gifts appear in the most unlikely of places within our connection to the most vulnerable amongst us, giving us important experiences of miracles.

It is true however, that we appear to have more and more people with disabilities, more people harmed from unnatural conditions than ever before. If there are corporations creating poisons and pawning them on the people as goods (aspartame, roundup pesticides with active ingredient agent orange, mercury in our vaccines responsible for an epidemic of autism and thousands more), then it is knowledge that we crave to avoid every last one of them. I am concerned that the politicians who appear to be the choicest and most electable are also too ready to kiss up to the corporate toxification and the wickedness that has been wrought on the Earth and Vermont. When the myth of the valor, pride and service of joining the armed forces is perpetuated by Shumlin, Sanders, Leahy, and Welch all in unison, I say these leaders are deeply flawed, and are leading you away from the humanity one would hope they inspire.

The vision I hold in my heart for Vermont involves bravery in the hearts of each of us, and no one knows what it means to be brave like people with disabilities, so I call on this group especially to insist that those with less courage find the resolve we need to take the Vermont Pledge: off of oil in 5 and all organic in 5. Please see my web site www.emilypeyton.org for more about the leader I am.”

2012 Vermont Gubernatorial Candidates



Peter Shumlin for Governor, Democratic Party

“Since entering into public service, I have worked to create jobs and better economic opportunities and to stand up for all Vermonters. I have a strong record of protecting and expanding civil liberties from fighting for marriage equality to working for the rights of the disabled.

I learn differently and learning how to read was a struggle. When I was in third grade, my teacher told my parents that I didn't have a promising future. Having grown up with this learning disability, I am deeply committed to working for the rights of the impoverished, the dispossessed and those not on an equal playing field.

As Governor, my top priority has been to put Vermonters back to work and to raise the incomes of all Vermonters. I am proud that we have made significant progress. Vermont's unemployment rate is one of the lowest in the nation. Through vocational rehabilitation and creative workforce solutions we have exceeded our employment goals for the disable community. Yet there is more work to do and I am working tirelessly to control skyrocketing health care costs, expand broadband and cell service to every corner of the state, reduce recidivism, invest in quality education opportunities, make housing options more affordable and rebuild our roads and bridges.

A key component of this ambitious agenda is health care reform and controlling skyrocketing costs. To do this, we have put Vermont on the path to a single payer system. Once implemented, skyrocketing health care costs will be contained and all Vermonters will have access to quality, affordable health care. With stifling health care costs off the backs of our employers I believe we will make real economic progress.

As Governor, I am committed to ensuring that every Vermonter who can and wants to work will be able to contribute. I am humbled by the encouragement and help that I have received and ask for your support so I can continue to work for all Vermonters.”

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As of this printing (September 13, 2012), there is a recount scheduled for the Progressive Party Primary for the position of Governor. The current vote count by the Secretary of State has Martha Abbot leading over the write-in candidate, Annette Smith, by 371 to 370. At this time we do not know whether either Ms Abbott or Ms Smith's name will be on the final ballot as the Progressive Party candidate. Thus voters should look carefully at ballots to see if these candidates are among your choices for the election of Vermont's next governor.

Martha Abbott for Governor, Progressive Party

All Candidates were invited to submit a candidate statement and picture for this publication. Those without statements associated with their candidacy chose not to respond.

2012 Vermont Gubernatorial Candidates



Annette Smith for Governor, Write In candidate for Progressive Party

If I am a candidate for governor, I will continue to support people who have been marginalized and whose voices are not being heard. One area of the Americans with Disabilities Act that I am particularly interested in is to ensure that individuals with Implanted Medical Devices or with ElectroMagnetic impairments are not injured by wireless technologies in public places. Currently the limits established by the FCC for

Radio Frequency limits do not protect people with disabilities related to wireless technologies.



Vermont Lieutenant Governor



The Lieutenant Governor remains ready to take over for the Governor if the Governor becomes unable to continue in office (for example, if the governor dies or resigns). He or she stands in for the Governor at the Governor’s request. Just as the Vice President is the President of the U. S. Senate, the Lieutenant Governor is President of the Vermont Senate. In Vermont, the Lieutenant Governor is elected independent of the Governor. Elections for Lieutenant Governor are held every two years.

You can find more information about Vermont Lieutenant Governor on the web at <http://www.ltgov.vermont.gov>

Cassandra Gekas for Lt. Governor, Democratic Party

All Candidates were invited to submit a candidate statement and picture for this publication. Those without statements associated with their candidacy chose not to respond.



Phil Scott for Lieutenant Governor, Republican Party

Website: www.philscott.org

Email: phil@philscott.org

Facebook: Phil Scott for Lieutenant Governor

Twitter: philscottvt

“My strong support for preserving rights, opportunities and independence for Vermonters with disabilities isn’t something that began when I entered the Vermont Senate in 2000, or when I took office as Lt. Governor in 2010 – though I have certainly sought out opportunities to use those leadership

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2012 Candidates for Vermont Lt. Governor

positions to advance those goals.

As the Chair of the Senate Institutions Committee, I ensured the continued appropriation for ADA improvements to public facilities. I also supported continued funding for such entities as the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services, Austine School for the Deaf and the Vermont State Hospital, as well as transitional, supportive and affordable housing for persons with disabilities.

On a more personal level, I have volunteered my time at the annual Autism Puzzle Foundation Casino Night, which raises funds and awareness in support of Central Vermont families living with Autism. I've also been very proud to watch the progress of a young man with Autism whom I've mentored over the last several years, as he pursues his political interests by observing committee hearings and other proceedings in the Vermont State House.

But my profound respect for people with disabilities goes back to my childhood, and to the example set for me by my father. My dad lost both of his legs during the D-Day invasion in WWII, before I was born, but he never let that stop him. My dad taught me the importance of determination and of making the most of every opportunity. I believe strongly in the right of all individuals to live, as my father did, with dignity and independence, and for each and every individual to reach his or her maximum potential.”



Vermont Treasurer



The State Treasurer is responsible for handling the state's money. The State Treasurer and his or her office fulfill this responsibility through five divisions: financial operations, retirement operations, investment services, audit compliance and technology services. State law says that the Treasurer's office is responsible for four areas: managing the state's checking accounts, investing state money and borrowing money for the state, keeping unclaimed property for return to its rightful owner, and taking care of the retirement money for several groups of government workers. Elections for State Treasurer are held every two years.

You can find more information about the Treasurer's office on the web at: <http://www.vermonttreasurer.gov>



2012 Candidates for Vermont Treasurer



**Beth Pearce for State Treasurer,
Democratic Party**

Web address: www.bethpearce.com,
Campaign phone number is 802-552-3488
Email: bpearce4tres@gmail.com

“I was 20 years old when my dad suffered a stroke, and I saw firsthand the impact this had on his life, his work, and our family. What still stands out to me now is the hard work and vivacity with which he met every challenge that arose in the following 20 years, until his passing. He was a community organizer, and became a voice for persons with disabilities. It was an especially proud moment for my whole family when, for this work, he received the “Personal Achievement” award by the Easter Seal Society in 1987. My dad was a Town Selectman, a School Committee member, and Town Meeting member over these years, and a strong advocate. His public service, as well as his personal commitment to maintaining the rights of all people, has contributed greatly to my choice of service through public finance.

As Treasurer, I have a responsibility to over 45,900 active, vested and retired members of public retirement systems. My responsibility is to provide retirement plans that are affordable to both the taxpayer and employee, while at the same time providing reliable and adequate retirement income. This is a commitment not just to these individuals, but to Vermont’s entire future economic growth. Expenditures by retirees create jobs that are important to our economy.

There are currently 588 people with disabilities receiving retirement benefits. Like my Dad, many of these individuals are facing difficult changes in their work life. I am committed to working with them to insure they understand their options for retirement and health care benefits.

Our Office also provides financial literacy programs. We are committed to assisting persons with disabilities at all ages to obtain a lifetime of financial well-being. This past year we worked with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance sites to provide customers with information they needed, and we encouraged eligible citizens to take advantage of the earned income tax credit.

Our Office works to provide capital financing for state and public buildings serving our citizens and improving access to those buildings in compliance with ADA standards. As a member of the Vermont Housing Finance Agency Board, I am committed to providing housing that meets the needs of persons with disabilities.”

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**Don Schramm for State Treasurer,
Progressive Party**

All Candidates were invited to submit a candidate statement and picture for this publication. Those without statements associated with their candidacy chose not to respond.

2012 Candidates for Vermont Treasurer



Wendy Wilton for State Treasurer, Republican Party

wendywilton@comcast.net

www.wendywilton.org

802-770-0743

Facebook: Wendy Wilton for VT State Treasurer

Twitter: Wendy Wilton

“I am a native Vermonter and UVM graduate. I have served Vermonters as a state senator, and as a member of the Rutland City Board of Aldermen, The Rutland Redevelopment Authority, Rutland Regional Planning Commission, Rutland Region Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and Vermont Community Development Board. I have been the treasurer for the City of Rutland since 2007. State Auditor Tom Salmon invited me to serve as a special adviser to his effort to reduce fraud and abuse in local government which resulted in legislation approved in 2012. I am a wife and mother of two college students, one at Castleton State College and the other at UVM. One of our children has ADHD and throughout that child’s K-12 education we were challenged to help him overcome his disability; we were successful in doing so through education and love. The Rutland Redevelopment Authority, of which I am a member, recently hired an intern with a disability, which I was pleased to support.

As Vermont state treasurer, I will work to ensure our state is on solid financial ground and that Vermont has a fiscally sustainable future. Without that assurance, Vermonters will not enjoy the services of government that we hold dear to support those in need, send our children to college, and support local government to improve access issues important to those disabled and the elderly. I will be an independent voice for Vermonters in the state treasurer’s office as I have been for Rutland; I led the effort to transform the City’s financial picture from a deficit to a surplus and produced the first clean audit in 32 years. I will make the state’s finances transparent, as I also did for Rutland, so you will have access to how the state spends our tax dollars and reverse our recent D-rating from US Public Interest Research Group. I will take utmost care in the handling of our state’s finances.”



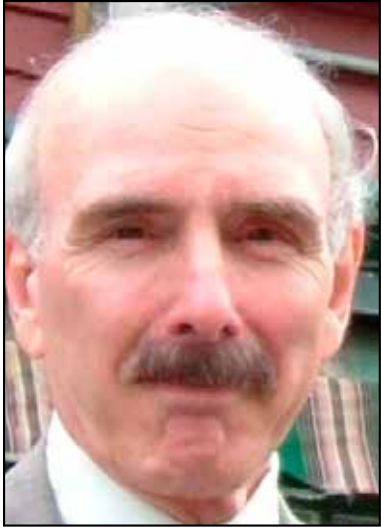
Vermont Attorney General



The Attorney General is the chief law enforcement officer of the state. He or she represents the state in all civil and criminal cases where the state is involved or has an interest. There are five divisions within the office of the Attorney General: criminal, public protection, civil law, human services, and general counsel and administrative laws. The Attorney General’s office represents the state’s view in many matters of importance to the disability community, including mental health care and the use of involuntary psychiatric treatment in designated hospitals and mental health centers. Elections for the Attorney General are held every two years.

You can find more information about the Attorney General’s office on the web at: <http://www.atg.state.vt.us/display.php?smod=64>

2012 Candidates For VT Attorney General



Jack McMullen for Attorney General, Republican Party

“The Office of Attorney General, if I am elected, will be open-minded, non-ideological, and a place where the rule of law will be respected.

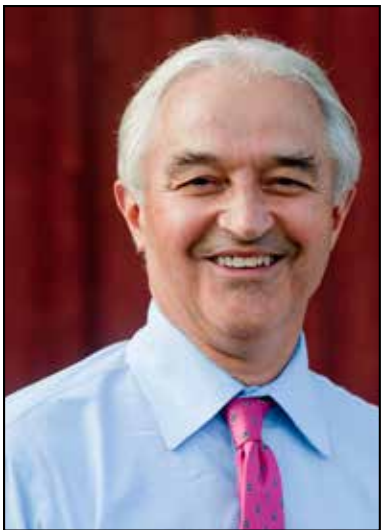
Vermont is a place where disability rights have a prominent place both in the law and in the sentiments of its citizens. This is as it should be because we all want the disabled to be able to function as much as possible as those who are not handicapped.

My own niece is mentally disabled owing to medical malpractice at birth which deprived her brain of needed oxygen. She is able to function on her own because of special group housing designed to provide a positive living experience for her and others similarly handicapped. As a result, she is able to live independently despite her disability. My niece’s treatment is a good example of government policy designed to allow the disabled to function as nearly as possible as able-bodied and able-minded adults.

The Attorney General’s office is not a place where policy is created; that is the province of elected officials. However, that office is a place where legislation passed by elected officials embodying policy is enforced. If I become Vermont’s Attorney General the concerns of the disabled about discrimination in employment, abuse or neglect, mental impairment, and as targets and victims of crime will be addressed swiftly.

The overall goal of the office will be to assure that policies, designed to give the disabled every opportunity to function in society up to their potential and to eliminate obstacles to their becoming productive citizens within the limitations of their handicaps, are fairly administered and enforced to achieve those policy objectives.

I look forward to getting periodic briefings from DRVT to learn where the Office of the Attorney General should be directing its enforcement effort in this area.”



William Sorrell for Attorney General, Democratic Party

www.billsorrell.com

info@billsorrell.com

(802) 859-9186

“A native and resident of Burlington, Bill is Vermont’s longest-serving attorney general, having held the post since 1997.

I have a long history of commitment to improving the lives of those living with disabilities. As a volunteer outside my professional life, I served as president of United Cerebral Palsy of Vermont and as secretary of what was

2012 Candidates For VT Attorney General

then-called the Vermont Coalition of the Handicapped. I have raised tens of thousands of dollars for the Multiple Sclerosis Society by participating as team captain for more than ten years in the Society's annual two-day fundraising bike ride.

As Attorney General, my Civil Rights Unit (CRU) enforces Vermont and federal laws prohibiting job discrimination against those with disabilities. We currently have 39 open investigations involving alleged disability discrimination. During the past three years, we have brought 49 individual cases to successful conclusions, specifically for targeted equitable including agreements to provide requested reasonable accommodations, the modification of hiring and recruiting practices to ensure equal opportunity, changes in personnel policies regarding reasonable accommodation, confidentiality of medical conditions and protections from retaliation. Our successful investigations have resulted in payments of over \$225,000 to affected individuals.

The CRU has worked hard to educate Vermont employers as to their obligations under Vermont and federal law to afford reasonable accommodations to employees with disabilities and during the past 15 months my CRU has presented to the Disability Law section of the Vermont Bar Association, continued its strong working relationship with VCIL, including participation in an ADA Training Day.

I have affirmatively responded to requests from disability rights advocates here in Vermont that I put the weight of the state behind positions in national litigation in favor of positions expanding or not reducing rights of those with disabilities.

In my office we continue to strive to accommodate the needs of our own employees who face a number of different challenging disability conditions – both acute and chronic.

Going forward, I will continue to zealously enforce federal and state anti-discrimination laws and will fight against lawsuits seeking to water down the protections of those with disabilities.”



Vermont Auditor of Accounts



The Auditor of Accounts is responsible for protecting against governmental waste and preventing inappropriate use of the state government's money. The people who work in the Auditor's office do audits (looking at the record keeping for money matters) and reviews to accomplish their goals. They go over the State's financial statements, and check all the federal money that goes through state government. The Auditor of Accounts may also audit or review special areas of concern about how our money is spent. In the past, the auditor has done special reviews of the Vermont Veteran's Home and the Department of Developmental and Mental Health Service's Oversight of Health Care and Rehabilitation Services of Southeastern Vermont. The public may suggest areas to investigate and has access to the reports issued by the Auditor. Elections for Vermont Auditor of Accounts are held every two years. *You can find more information about the Auditor of Account's office on the web at: <http://auditor.vermont.gov>*

2012 Candidates For VT Auditor of Accounts



**Doug Hoffer for State Auditor,
Democrat / Progressive**

<http://hofferforauditor.com/>

drhoffer@comcast.net

802.864.5711

“All Vermonters must have the resources necessary to participate in civic life and to live fulfilling lives. As State Auditor, I will make every effort to see that state and federal funds are used effectively to help achieve that goal.

The State Auditor is not a policy maker, although he or she can certainly add value to the process. The core function of the office is to follow the money, which is critical to ensuring that waste, fraud, and abuse don't claim funds intended for program beneficiaries. But there is more to the job than that.

An important part of the Auditor's job is to conduct periodic performance audits of state programs (limited of course by time and resources). This can cover a number of issues, including compliance with statutes and consideration of legislative intent.

For example, one audit objective could be to review a program's efforts to inform potential beneficiaries about the program and how to apply. And more generally to determine whether the programs are achieving the goals intended by the legislature.

While working under contract to the State Auditor in the 1990s, I worked on audits and reviews of programs serving those with disabilities so I have some experience in these matters (e.g., Dept. of Aging & Disabilities Implementation of Act 160).

In addition, I am the author of the Job Gap Study which introduced the livable wage to Vermont. This led to increases in the minimum wage (now indexed to inflation) and the state's Earned Income Tax Credit. This has helped thousands of Vermonters become more self-sufficient.”

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**Vincent Illuzzi for Auditor of Accounts,
Republican Party**

All Candidates were invited to submit a candidate statement and picture for this publication. Those without statements associated with their candidacy chose not to respond.



Vermont Secretary of State



The Secretary of State is responsible for four main areas. These are: archives, or the historical files of the state; corporations, that is, making sure all the companies doing business in the state are registered so they can be held responsible for what they do here; elections, or making sure that all the voting in the state is done correctly; and professional regulation, or the licensing/certification/registration and disciplinary action of 40 professions, including psychologists, clinical social workers, and nursing home administrators. Elections for Vermont secretary of state are held every two years. *You can find more information about the Secretary of State's office on the web at <http://www.sec.state.vt.us>*

2012 Candidates For VT Secretary of State

**Jim Condos for Secretary of State,
Democratic Party**

All Candidates were invited to submit a candidate statement and picture for this publication. Those without statements associated with their candidacy chose not to respond.

**YOUR VOTE
IS YOUR VOICE...
BE HEARD.**





Local Elected Offices



State Senator

State Senators are one of the two parts of the legislative branch of state government. Senators act like the federal senators in that they review the needs of our state, have meetings in committees, and propose bills that will respond to the concerns they have reviewed. State Senators provide constituent services for state government concerns. Just as the federal government has Senators for each state, the state government has Senators for each county. There is one Senator for approximately every 20,750 citizens. Senators are elected by county, so counties that have more than 20,750 people get more than one Senator. There are 30 Senators in the Vermont Senate. State Senators are elected every two years.

In order to keep the populations of senate districts within the number of people they are supposed to represent, a town from one county may be taken out of one county and included in the district of another county. For example, the Windham County senatorial district does not include Wilmington, which is part of the county, and Wilmington is included in the Bennington County district; and Colchester, which is part of Chittenden County, is in the Grand Isle County senatorial district. Also, a very small county is combined with a larger one to make one district, as is the case in Essex and Orleans counties.

State Representative

Representatives are one of the two parts of the legislative branch of government. Representatives act like the federal Representatives in that they review needs of our state, have meetings in committees, and propose bills that will respond to the concerns they have reviewed. State Representatives provide constituent services for state government concerns. Just as the federal government has Representatives for each national district, the state government has Representatives for each state district. Each state district Representative represents approximately 4,150 citizens. There are 150 Representatives in the Vermont House of Representatives. State Representatives are elected every two years.

Probate Court Judge

Probate Court judges have several areas of responsibility. They handle the probate of wills (proving the will is real), the settlement of estates, adoptions, guardianships, name changes and uniform gifts to minors. There is no requirement that the judges of probate be attorneys. Probate Court judges are elected every four years in non-presidential election years.

Assistant Judges

Assistant judges, often called side judges, administer the county budget. The county budget includes part of the costs of the probate court and the sheriff's department. The assistant judges also serve in the superior court. Their job there is to give their opinion on factual matters to the presiding judge on cases. In some counties they may hear certain cases on their own. With additional training, they also may "sit" (preside) in traffic court. Assistant judges are elected every four years in non-presidential election years.



Local Elected Offices



County State's Attorney

The County State's Attorney is the chief law enforcement officer for each county. The State's Attorney office is responsible for prosecuting all criminal, child protection and fish and game charges within their county. The State's Attorney does not have to be an attorney, although he or she will have to hire attorneys to do the work of the State's Attorney office in the courts. The State's Attorney is elected every four years in non-presidential election years.

County Sheriff

The Sheriff has several law enforcement responsibilities. He or she is an officer of the courts, delivers writs and summons (official papers telling people certain legal things), keeps order in the court and carries out the court's orders including transporting prisoners to and from court appearances. Vermont County Sheriff departments also perform other duties that they are allowed, but not required, to do. These include contracting with various towns or villages, special events and road construction projects to provide traffic control and policing services. The Sheriff is elected every four years in non-presidential election years.

High Bailiff

The High Bailiff's duty is to arrest the sheriff if it should ever become necessary, and to serve as sheriff while the sheriff is incarcerated. The High Bailiff does not have to be a law enforcement officer to be elected. High Bailiffs are elected every two years.

Justice of the Peace

Justices of the Peace have some mandatory and some voluntary duties. The Justices must serve on the board of civil authority (BCA) and the town board for abatement of taxes. Members of the BCA serve as election officials, and deliver absentee ballots to voters at election time. BCA members also hear and decide appeals of the decisions of listers. The town board for the abatement of taxes decides whether a taxpayer's tax obligation should be forgiven in certain circumstances. Justices of the Peace may join people in marriage, notarize documents, administer oaths, and, when commissioned by the state Supreme Court, serve as magistrates. Justices of the Peace are elected every two years.

To get the names of the people running for any of the following offices for which there are elections this year, visit your town clerk's office and check the sample ballot. If you don't know what district you are in, call your town clerk. Then, if you want more information about the people, call them! Let them know you are interested in finding out their positions on issues.

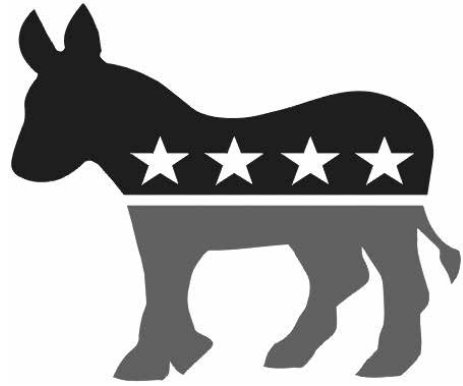


Major Political Parties



We asked all the political parties in Vermont recognized by legal definition as major political parties to provide a description of what they stand for. The following descriptions are what they submitted, unedited. In Vermont, you do not need to register for a political party in order to vote.

Many candidates run for office as a member of a political party. They do that because it gives voters a chance to get a quick idea about what types of issues are important to a candidate, and because political parties offer an existing organization of volunteers and in some parties, paid staff, to help candidates.



Democratic Party

Vermont Democrats believe the rights to health care, food, shelter, clean air and water, education, privacy, justice, peace and equality, the right to organize and of free speech are essential to a robust democracy. These rights are not negotiable.

Based on these principles, we stand against torture, bigotry and discrimination, forced childbirth, corruption, and the establishment of state-sponsored religion or religious doctrine.

We believe that all citizens have a responsibility to be informed, engaged participants of our democracy. We demand that all elected officials fully adhere to their oaths of office and defend the Constitutions of the United States and Vermont at all times, using all lawful means available to them through their office.

We expect elected leaders at all levels to adhere to national and international laws and treaties, as required by the Constitution, and to govern compassionately and with fiscal integrity and transparency.

As a society, we must work toward economically and environmentally sustainable communities to protect the future of our planet.

Everything we do – every policy, law, and regulation – must consider the effects of our actions on the lives and futures of the world’s children, and their children.

Contact:

Vermont Democratic Party

PO Box 1220, 29 Main Street, Suite 3, Montpelier, VT 05601

1-802-229-1783 / www.vtdemocrats.org



Progressive

The Progressive Party champions sensible policies and the traditional Vermont values which put people first. Livable wages and small business development will guarantee that young Vermonters can find good jobs in state. Universal health care will mean families won’t fear bankruptcy from catastrophic illnesses. Safe, clean energy and thriving family farms will mean food and energy security for future generations.



Major Political Parties



Unfortunately, government is increasingly becoming unresponsive and irresponsible. The two brand-name parties frequently act in concert, because they serve the same corporate interests. They take issues “off the table”, preventing discussion of issues important to most Vermonters: health care for all, property tax reform, energy independence.

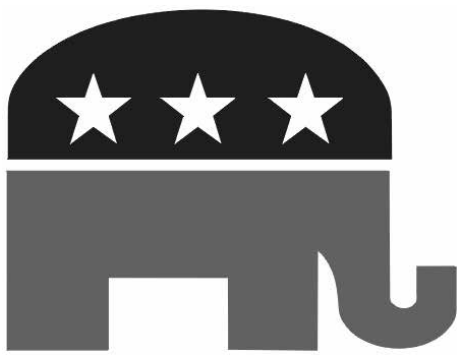
The Progressive Party does not take campaign donations from corporations. We put the interests of the farmers, laborers, students, small business owners and seniors ahead of the interests of the large corporations that influence the other major parties. We give the voters leverage to force the other major parties and candidates to take stands on those issues. We can fight for these issues on a level playing field when politicians are no longer influenced by corporate money, voting is more accessible to all Vermonters, and elections are more representative of our hopes for government.

Contact:

Morgan Daybell, Executive Director, Progressive Party

PO Box 281, 146 Main St., #6, Montpelier, VT 05601

1-802-229-0800 / www.progressiveparty.com



Republican

Vermont Republicans believe in the principles laid out most eloquently in the Declaration of Independence: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men [and women] are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men [and women], deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed...”

As such Vermont Republicans believe in government strong enough to protect the rights of our citizens, but limited and restrained enough to respect each individual’s freedom.

We believe in maintaining Vermont’s quality of life by encouraging economic growth and affordability, adhering to responsible environmental practices and providing choices in education and health care.

We believe in efficient limited government, quality jobs, sensible economic development, and affordable health care. We believe in equality of opportunity, preservation of our freedoms and honoring the wisdom of our citizens. We believe in public safety and environmental stewardship.

We believe in empowering all Vermonters to succeed and to secure a future for themselves and their communities.

To learn more about the Vermont Republican Party please contact us.

Vermont Republican Party

PO Box 70

141 Main St., Suite 3, Montpelier, VT 05601

1-802-223-3411 / www.vtgop.org / vtgop@vtgop.org

Voting Worksheet

Fill in the name(s) of the people you want to vote for and bring this with you to the polls to help you remember who you want to vote for. Remember to bring it with you after you vote. It is not okay to leave papers in the voting booth.

US Senator _____

US Representative from Vermont _____

Vermont Governor _____

Vermont Lt. Governor _____

Vermont Treasurer _____

Vermont Sec. of State _____

Vermont Auditor of Accounts _____

Vermont Attorney General _____

State Senator(s) _____

(number varies by district) _____

Addison -- 2, Bennington - 2, _____

Caledonia – 2 Chittenden - 6, _____

Grand Isle – 1, Lamoille - 1, _____

Essex-Orleans - 2, Franklin - 2 _____

Orange - 1, Rutland - 3, _____

Washington - 3, Windham- 2, _____

Windsor – 3 _____

State Representative(s) most districts _____

have one rep.; a few have two. See _____

your district for your district's number _____

High Bailiff _____
