

Lamoille County Legislators (Info taken from VT Digger)



House

Party: REPUBLICAN

District: LAMOILLE-1

Residence: STOWE, VT

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HEIDI SCHEUERMANN

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Candidate Bio

Born in Burlington, Vermont, Heidi grew up in the village of Stowe and attended Stowe public schools. Upon graduation, she she attended Saint Louis University and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Education. Heidi then served for three years (1994 - 1997) in the United States Peace Corps, teaching English as a Second Language in Klodzko, Poland. Upon her return to the United States, Heidi went to Washington, D.C. to work for Senator Jim Jeffords on the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, helping draft education and disability legislation, in addition to that involving the arts and humanities.

Heidi returned to Stowe in 2000 for Jeffords' campaign for a third Senate term. She then went into government affairs at Capitol Strategies in Montpelier. Heidi returned to Jeffords' office in 2003, until his retirement in 2007, to serve as his liaison to the Vermont Legislature. Heidi also owns Allegro Properties, a property management and development company in Stowe.

Top Priorities Tracker – Scheuermann

1

I am very excited about the new leadership that is inevitably coming to Montpelier next year, and want to be part of it. Like most Vermonters I know, I am looking forward to a realignment of priorities a renewed focus on addressing our economic challenges and taking advantage of the opportunities we have; a comprehensive, long-term plan to address our demographic challenges; common sense approaches to health care and education that include local control and local decision-making; and, a new kind of fiscal restraint when it comes to state spending.

I simply believe that Vermont is at a crossroads, and that I can be an asset in our turnaround.

2

I would like to return fiscal responsibility and moderation to state spending, and to make the health of our state's economy priority # 1.

State spending has far outpaced incoming revenues in each of the last six years, and has been paid for by higher and higher taxes and fees on all Vermonters. We cannot afford anymore, and must turn this around. We must return to sustainable spending, not simply increase taxes and fees to fill so-called budget gaps.

But in order to ensure Vermonters have the opportunity to prosper, and the state has the resources necessary to work, we must have a laser focus on the health of our state's economy. We must put into place policies that encourage and reward private investment and economic growth. For six years I have fought to do just that, but have run into political roadblocks almost every step of the way. Instead of being a partner to Vermont families and businesses, Montpelier has too often become an adversary. That must change.

3

The one-size-fits-all big warehouse approach to education has allowed Montpelier to take control of almost every aspect of our children's education.

And, incompetent management of health care reform has seen hundreds of millions of dollars spent on a website that does not work, and on a health insurance exchange that has some of the highest priced insurance products in the country.

Come January, I am looking forward to new approaches to both education and health care.

It's time to address the actual cause of the increased education spending – the education funding system – and to return local control and local decision-making in education to our local communities.

And, it's time to pull the plug – responsibly – on Vermont Health Connect, and to replace it with a health care exchange and health care reform that works for Vermonters.



MATTHEW HILL

House

Party: DEMOCRATIC

District: LAMOILLE-2

Residence: WOLCOTT, VT

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Candidate Bio

Matt is a native Vermonter, born and raised in Johnson. He is the grandson of Emery and Barb Hill and son of Lynda and Bob Hill. He attended Johnson Elementary School and Lamoille Union High School. Matthew graduated from Johnson State College with a degree in Political Science and received the Bill Doyle Political Science Scholar award. Matt's career started with a job at the Vermont Department of Labor working in workforce development. Matthew knows what it takes to connect the right skills with the right person and the right employer. Too often good jobs in Vermont are going unfilled because employers aren't finding qualified Vermonters to fill them. Matt is committed to fixing this. While with the Department of Labor, Matt also worked as legislative liaison, helping legislators understand the unique needs of Vermont employers when it comes to employee skills. It is these years of working with legislators that have inspired Matt to make the jump from advisor to Legislator.

Top Priorities Tracker – Hill

1

I am incredibly fortunate to have grown up in Johnson and Lamoille County. This community has given me so many opportunities over the years and I believe running for office is the best way for me to use my current skills, knowledge and experience to give back.

1. Affordability:

One concern I hear from many Vermonters, regardless of political affiliation, is the need to make Vermont more affordable. That is why I want to focus on economic development in Lamoille County. As a self-employed carpenter and realtor in the area I understand the struggle between earning a living and meeting the tax obligation at both the state and federal level. My previous profession was a legislative liaison for the Department of Labor. I know how to implement meaningful workforce development and get Vermonters in our region better jobs for their families. I hope to solve the stagnating income issues with stronger workforce development and stronger opportunities for entrepreneurs to thrive.

2

Quality jobs and business opportunities:

Access to high speed internet for Vermonters is essential to attracting young entrepreneurs to stay or relocate to Vermont. As a young adult who grew up in the computer age. I know that technology is critical to the future of our communities. We need to understand that high speed internet is as important today as electricity was to farmers in the early 20th century. With today's technology we can maintain Vermont's natural beauty, recreational opportunities, high quality schools and great neighbors. To grow we must invest in high speed internet and infrastructure that can accommodate future entrepreneurs.

3

Education:

For our citizens to be the best they can be, we need to make sure they start their lives with a strong early childhood education. Many studies have shown that when a child has a strong start in life they have a much higher chance of being a successful adult.

When they have a successful childhood, we then need to make sure they enter the workforce with the skills and resources necessary to continue to be successful. We need to make higher education affordable. Recent college graduates are coming out of college with an immense debt load that is hindering their ability to participate in many things older generations have taken for granted. Buying a house, for example, is simply unobtainable for many recent college grads because of their expensive student loans.

Making college, and other forms of higher education, affordable is essential to keeping young adults in Vermont and maintain the great education system we enjoy today.



House

Party: DEMOCRATIC

District: LAMOILLE-2

Residence: WOLCOTT, VT

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[DANIEL NOYES](#)

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Candidate Bio

I live in Wolcott with my wife, Amy, and two children. I graduated from Johnson State College with a B.S in Environmental Science and have certificate in Nonprofit Management. I work for Central Vermont Council on Aging as Director of RSVP, a Senior Corp program that engages volunteers in community service.

I am the current President of the Vermont Automobile Enthusiasts, Commissioner of SerVermont, and board member of the Vermont chapter of the Farmers Veterans Coalition. I am the coordinator of the Wolcott School Ski and Snowboard Program.

I have worked with volunteers across Lamoille County to build wheel chair ramps for the disabled. I partner with the Untied Way to run the Lamoille Wood Bank. In the past I have served as Chair of the Wolcott Planning Commission, board member of the Friends of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, President of the Lamoille River Anglers, and on the Osher Life Long Learning Committee.

Top Priorities Tracker – Noyes

1

Our Elders

I am concerned about the ability of our elders to age in their homes and communities. When I think about successful aging it is access to transportation, companionship, heat, and food. It's about not letting anyone in our community fall through the cracks. I believe that the state can come up with creative low cost / no cost ways to partner with the local nonprofits to make sure our seniors are taken care of and have the ability to age successfully.

2

Working Vermonters and Families

I am a working Vermonter with a full time job, I also have a family and know that trying to make ends meet is no easy task. I understand what it takes to live in a rural community where you need to think about transportation and the rising cost of just about everything. I know what it costs to heat my house, and what it takes to heat with firewood. I know what it takes to be involved in my community, from participating in my children's education to serving on my town's planning commission. I am running for the legislature because working Vermonters and families need someone who is "living it and gets it" in Montpelier.

3

Lessons Learned in Lamoille

I have been involved with many grass-roots organizations that engage our community in service to solve our own problems. I know how to build those partnerships and get things done. I am running because I believe I can bring the successes I have been a part of in Lamoille County to Montpelier. We need to work on solutions to address the needs of our veterans, our elders and children. We need to find solutions to our opiate epidemic as much as we need to protect our environment.



House

Party: REP./DEM.

District: LAMOILLE-3

Residence: CAMBRIDGE, VT

BERNARD C. JUSKIEWICZ

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Candidate Bio

BERNARD C. JUSKIEWICZ of Cambridge, Lamoille County, Republican, was born on April 6, 1943, in Northampton, Massachusetts. He has lived in Cambridge since 1978. Bernie graduated from Hopkins Academy in Hadley, MA, in 1962 and The College of Emporia, Emporia, Kansas, in 1966 with a BA in business administration. He married Suzan Wanczyk in 1967. They have three children, Mary Kathryn, Scott, and Mark and four grandchildren. Bernie began a career in Accounting and Management with IBM in East Fishkill, NY, and transferred to Essex Jct. in 1978. Upon retirement he worked as District Manager for the Department of Employment and Training. He has served on the Lamoille Union High School Board (15 years), Cambridge Elementary School Board (5 years), Cambridge Selectboard (5 years), Cambridge Recreation Board, Reparative Board, coached Little League, basketball, soccer and was a founding member and first Vice President of Lamoille County United Way. Bernie currently serves on the following boards: Cambridge Regional Health Center for eight years (President), Vermont Golf Association for eight years (Past President) and the Cambridge Town Finance Committee for 22 years. Member of the House: 2013-2014. Contact information: Home phone: 644-5606. E-mail: juskiewicz@myfairpoint.net. Mailing Address: PO Box 93, Cambridge, VT



House

Party: REPUBLICAN

District: LAMOILLE-WASHINGTON

Residence: MORRISTOWN, VT

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GARY NOLAN

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Candidate Bio

Born and raised in Jeffersonville, VT. Have two brothers and one sister. Married to an exceptional woman, Shelley. Have two wonderful daughters and a wonderful stepdaughter, eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Lived in Morrisville for the past 30 years.

General Manager of Aggregate Division at the H.A. Manosh Corporation and have been employed there for 40+ years. Member of the Morrisville Development Review Board for 25+ years and chairman for the last 20. I am a lifetime member of the Morrisville VFW, Member of the American Legion, Member and Past President of Morrisville Rotary Club since 1994. Member and participant in many other civic organizations.

Top Priorities Tracker – Nolan

1

The economy is the number one concern in the State. We have to grow the economy in this State in order to make it a more affordable place to reside. We are losing our 25 – 45 year old population, which, by the way, should be the majority of our workforce. Our ever increasing cost of living is not sustainable for the young or the old.

2

I believe we need to address our regulatory process. We need to maintain our one of a kind environment, but I believe we can accomplish that by helping our developers and businesses through the permit process. Developers cannot continually be burdened with ever increasing regulations. Who do you think the developers pass these increased cost of regulations on to? It is us, the common working person and tax payer.

I have learned through my time on the DRB, that with proper administration and competent board members, that permits reasonable conditions can be issued in a very timely manner. The construction season in Vermont is very short, and developers must be able to take advantage of each and every day of that season to keep projects "affordable".

3

Responsible State spending must be a goal of this administration. Spending 3% more than we take in, is not reasonable or prudent. We must manage our budgets in our personal and business lives, so why shouldn't we expect the same from our Government.

We are taxed to the point that many people I talk with, have family and friends moving out of State, due to this dilemma. We cannot continue to let this happen.



House

Party: DEMOCRATIC

District: LAMOILLE-WASHINGTON

Residence: MORRISTOWN, VT



DAVID YACOVONE

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Candidate Bio

Currently Retired – employed for forty years in health and human services on the state and local level. Served as Commissioner of Aging and Disabilities in the Dean Administration and Commissioner of Children and Families in the Shumlin Administration. Past Chair of Public Oversight Commission. Director of Operations for Agency of Human Services. Sixteen years as Nursing Home Administrator. Directed government relations for Vermont Hospital Association.

Thirty years combined experience in local government including Select Board, School Board, Planning Commission (local and regional), Town Moderator and State Representative (served two terms in the 1990's).

Community service as Trustee on hospital, home health, nursing home, mental health and Federally Qualified Health Center Board of Directors in the past.

Graduated from Johnson State College. Recipient of Distinguished Alumni Award.

Lives in Morrisville with wife Deborah. Two sons, Seth and Evan.

Top Priorities Tracker– Yacavone

1

Martin Luther King said one of the most important questions any of us will be asked is "What are we doing for others?" I am trying to serve my community by paying it forward, by putting service above self, in the spirit of neighbor helping neighbor. I believe in the end what matters most is not the wealth we acquire or the possessions we accumulate or the power we might mass. In the end what matters most to me is how we care for the frailest and most vulnerable among us. I hope to bring this voice to the legislature.

2

Health care – I believe we can better integrate health and human services and in so doing address the social determinants of health that drive health care spending. I want Accountable Care Organizations to be focused on community and invest in prevention and wellness including hunger and homelessness to help mitigate toxic stress. Payment reform is critical so we can break away from fee for service and pay for population health. Focusing on sick care, while necessary in the short term as we transition to a more sustainable system, is not a viable long term answer. Additionally our aging population will increase by 50% in just the next 15 years. Unless we plan now that demographic tsunami will drown us. There is much to be done.

3

Social justice issues matter to me including fair taxation. Education financing must not be based on what our houses or land might be worth, but rather on our ability to pay. If we share the cost of education fairly Vermonters of modest means will be better off. Livable wages must be mindful of the benefits cliff and the unintended negative consequences on the poorest among us. Climate change can be addressed in a way that promotes economic development. Our State retirement investment portfolio must be divested of old energy stocks and redirected creatively into the Vermont economy. We can fulfill our fiduciary obligation while being responsible to those who will come behind us. Additionally we must put the issue of child care front and center on the public policy agenda. We cannot impoverish young families and deny children a decent head start. The list goes on and on. I think I can contribute in a positive way, and help ordinary Vermonters enjoy more economic freedom.



House

Party: REPUBLICAN

District: ORLEANS-LAMOILLE

Residence: LOWELL, VT



MARK HIGLEY

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Candidate Bio

MARK HIGLEY of Lowell, Orleans County, Republican, was born on March 5, 1956, in Brattleboro, Vermont, and became a resident of Lowell in 1990. He was educated at the Guilford Central School and Brattleboro Union High School. After graduation he served in the USN Seabees as a builder. In 1978 he became a self-employed general contractor and in 1980 married his wife, Cathy. They have four children, two daughters and two sons, and grandchildren. Board appointments include Solid Waste Committee and Agricultural Advisory Committee. Elected positions include two one-year terms on the Brattleboro selectboard, 1986 & 1987, and lister in Lowell since 1994. He worked for five winters for the Town of Lowell, plowing roads and running a grader. Mark operates a hobby farm with draft horses and beef cows. He's a current member of the Vermont Beef Producers Association, Vermont Sugar Makers Association and Vt Farm Bureau. Member of the House: 2009-2016.

Top Priorities Tracker – Higley

1

Over-Regulation and Over-Taxation of Vermonters!

With the very real possibility of Phil Scott as our next Governor, we have the opportunity to stop the over regulation and taxation of Vermonters. I agree with Phil that we can't continue to grow the general fund at around 4.8%, when revenue comes in at around 2.2%. This requires tax packages, fee increases, possible rescissions and budget adjustments. With new or expanded laws come new regulations, expanded oversight by agencies and taxes or fees to pay for them. While many new laws being drafted and considered have merit, Vermonters are looking for predictability and stability in regulations and fees so they can plan for the future. Example are: expanded regulations and certification fees for small farms, harvest notification regulations for landowners looking to cut timber, mandates on our small businesses like paid sick leave and mandates on education that affect the property tax, to name just a few.

2

Creation of a working Healthcare website and affordable, personal patient care for Vermonters. For far too long, Vermonters have had to endure the frustration of using the Vermont Health Connect VHC website. I have been advocating for years to move to the federal health exchange. The State of Oregon did the move to the federal exchange in 8 months. This would be just a helpful start in accessing healthcare. GP physicians are leaving the state and others are having a hard time finding new doctors to take over their practices. Hospitals are stepping forward and taking on these practices but I think this will be detrimental to overall personal health care of Vermonters.

Governor Shumlin proposed to place a provider tax on doctors and dentists to help pay for the huge cost of Medicaid. However, the Governor found \$16M in Medicaid savings to help pay for some of this years' \$28M revenue downgrade. This type of budgeting just makes it harder in the next year.

3

Making Vermont a better environment for starting or growing a business. Let's do our best, to grow the economy and not state government. By providing good local jobs our youth and all Vermonters will feel good about themselves, as well as contributing to society. The opiate addiction epidemic could be eased by providing access to jobs. Even in the most rural parts of Vermont, crime is on the rise. This has a devastating effect on local community members that have been burglarized as well as their neighbors. We must get this epidemic under control!



[RICHARD A. WESTMAN](#)

Senate

Party: REPUBLICAN

District: LAMOILLE

Residence: CAMBRIDGE, VT

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Candidate Bio

Government Experience: State Senator from Lamoille 2010 to present, Vermont House of Representatives 1983 to 2009, Vermont Commissioner of Taxes 2009 to 2010, House Minority Leader 1993 to 1996, House Appropriations Chair 2001 to 2004, House Transportation Chair 2005 to 2009.

Present Legislative Committees: Senate Appropriations Committee; Clerk, Senate Transportation Committee, Vice Chair; Legislative Joint Fiscal Committee.

Present Work Life Experience: Director of the Vermont Higher Education Investment Plan at VSAC, Board of Directors at Vermont Electric Co-op, Board of Trustees at Copley Hospital, Apartment Rental Business owner, Family Farm.

Education: BA, Politics and Public Policy at Johnson State College

Recognized: 2014 Lamoille Restorative Justice for the support of youth and adults; 2014 Cady Brooks Award for Lamoille Economic Development; 2015 President's Award VT Farm Bureau; 2016 VAST Legislator of the Year for support of the Lamoille Rail Trail.

Top Priorities Tracker – Westman

1

I'm in a good spot to be effective for the Lamoille County. My politics are practical and fact-based. I know government has limits and I know what government is good at. Most importantly, I believe in listening to my community. These are things I believe make a good legislator.

On the home page of my website www.richardwestmansenate.com I've outlined why I'd like to go back to Montpelier and why I believe I have the right skills to be effective for Lamoille County and Vermont. Here are issues I'd like to see worked on:

- A health care delivery system that's close to people community hospitals like Copley, agencies like Lamoille Home Health, and independent primary care doctors – are the heart of cost-effective, quality health care. Sensible reimbursement rates will allow primary care doctors to continue in our communities. Consolidation of health care services to big expensive centers doesn't produce better results or reduce costs.

2

continued from #1:

- Johnson State made college a reality for me. The state college system is moving toward consolidating administrative services at Johnson and Lyndon, which is a good goal, but that should not happen at the expense of course offerings to students. I've worked to encourage early college. JSC has 42 of those student. Higher education must become a priority.

- Stowe Mountain Resort and Smugglers' Notch Resort and the many small businesses that support the recreation economy are important employers in this county. Issues like workers' compensation, taxes, permits, and the state's role in marketing are all legislative matters that affect these businesses and businesses like them. We need to work with our important employers.

- The Education funding formula and the property tax system that supports the formula is in need of real change. While school consolidation is an important discussion, the central issue is the property tax and the formula.

3

Finally, locally we have lots of things going on that I'd like to see move forward. I'd like to be there to push projects to fruition like the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. The trail is the kind of project that years from today people will be using and enjoying. I hope I'm around to say to some young person years from now that I had a hand in supporting the creation of the trail and its completion. Leadership changes in the Legislature will create possibilities for individuals who have the right combination of knowledge and judgment to lead efforts to make change happen in the Legislature. My experience and my history of using facts to make decisions put me in a position to be effective.

Orleans/Caledonia– These Legislators cover some of the towns in the Lamoille Valley. Please check the <http://legislature.vermont.gov/people/search/2018> to confirm the Legislator for your town if you are in Orleans or Caledonia counties.



House

Party: DEMOCRATIC

District: CALEDONIA–2

Residence: STANNARD, VT



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Candidate Bio

I was born Joseph Troiano, on Staten Island New York. I graduated from New Dorp High School and worked as an assistant stock trader for about two years and was then drafted into the US Army, reporting for duty on June 28th 1966. After six months of training as an Infantryman I shipped out to Viet Nam at the age of 19. I served a one year combat tour. As an Infantryman and a door gunner on a Helicopter Gun Ship and upon return to the states I was assigned to Riot Control duty at Fort Meade Maryland. I enrolled in Fashion Institute of Technology and studied Photography After graduation I was manager of a clothing store in Manhattan, in 1972 we purchased our farm in Stannard where my wife Regina and I still live. We homesteaded, raising our vegetables, and most of our meet, and raised pour daughter. I worked for Community Action through the late 70s and moved on to a 34 year as a Criminal Defense Investigator. As my career was winding down I ran for an open seat in the Vermont House.

Top Priorities Tracker – Troiano

1

My Father was a local Democratic committee man and I grew up in a household where dinner time discussion was more often than not about politics. My Father was always involved in the community, growing up going to Boy Scout meetings and picnics at the local Democratic Hall. My father instilled in me the greatness of a country is measured by the way it cares for its citizens. I care that political thinking with me and I employ if now in my roll as a legislator, my Father would be proud!

2

I moved to Vermont in the Spring of 1973 and attended my first town meeting. Even being from a political family, I was incredibly enthused with the town meeting process. I have a great recollection of that meeting, thinking we are sitting here voting on our road budget, and our school budget, this was an awakening. The notion of service to the community instilled in by my Father took over. The following year I was elected Lister a position I have held since, over 40 years, and the year after that I was elected Moderator, a position I held till I was elected to the House 2 years ago. I consider service to my community and state to be a privilege and an honor.

3

Working in law offices for the past 34 years, I became very familiar with the Vermont Statutes. Over the years I was able to review the work the legislature had done each year. My observations over that time was, the Legislature had passed some good laws and some not so good statutes. I became more interested in the process over the years, but my commitment to my job kept me from taking a seat in the house which would keep me away from the office for 5 months of the year. In 2014 I began to wind down my career and was working 3 days a week, the House seat in my district came open so I ran for that seat and was elected. My thoughts of service to my State were fulfilled and after the completion of my first term I can say that the work is invigorating and service to the citizens of Vermont is rewarding.



Party: REPUBLICAN

District: ORLEANS-CALEDONIA

Residence: ALBANY, VT

Website: vickistrong.com



VICKI STRONG

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Candidate Bio

After high school Vicki attended Sterling College in Craftsbury, VT and LeTourneau College in Longview, TX majoring in missions. She was married to her husband Nate on 7/7/77 and the joy of her life was raising and home-schooling their three children. During those years she became a leader for Weight Watchers, was a Pastor's wife, and helped her husband with several part time businesses, including building and selling a musical instrument called a dulcimer. Vicki and Nate experienced the painful loss of their second child, Marine Sgt. Jesse Strong, when he was killed in Iraq on January 26, 2005 while his unit was securing the Iraqi polls for their first free election. From that day Vicki has sought to honor her son's sacrifice for freedom, and has found many ways to honor our military for their service. Running for office was never a life goal, but became a another form of service to the people of our state. Vicki has enjoyed serving in the legislature for six years.

Top Priorities Tracker – Strong

1

I feel strongly that serving as a Representative in our Legislature is a privilege and is something that I take very seriously. The number one reason why I am running for office again is because I have enjoyed helping my constituents with their questions, concerns, and situations that require someone to listen, care, and find them the help that they need. I strive to be a trustworthy and honest representative, and I have kept my constituents' best interests at heart with every vote that I have made on the House floor. As we look to the future together I want to make Vermont a great place to live, work, and raise a family for generations to come.

2

Keeping the concerns of the Northeast Kingdom at the forefront of my mind has always been my priority and is important to me as a legislator. We need more employment opportunities to help our struggling economy, educational choice and excellence for our young people, less regulation and obstacles for small businesses, and lower property taxes so families can afford to live here.

3

I have been very concerned by the unwise push for industrial wind energy in Vermont, and all seven towns that I represent have been deeply affected by large scale wind projects on our local ridgelines. I passionately believe that industrial wind is not a good fit for the state of Vermont and I vehemently oppose any further destruction of our beautiful ridgelines.



House

Party: DEMOCRATIC

District: ORLEANS-CALEDONIA

Residence: GLOVER, VT

Website: repsamyoung.com



SAM YOUNG

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Candidate Bio

SAM YOUNG of Glover, Orleans County, Democrat, was born in Newport, Vermont, on May 29, 1978. He was educated at Barton Academy, Barton, Vermont; Lake Region Union High School, Orleans, Vermont. He also attended the University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont from 1996-98 where he was a member of the Lawrence Debate Union. In 1998-99 he attended Prescott College in Prescott, Arizona, but did not complete a degree. A longtime computer geek, he is a self-employed web developer at his company, Think or Sink. He is an avid traveler, having visited 48 states and 18 countries. He also enjoys snowboarding, x-c skiing, riding motorcycles and hacking his mobile phone.

Top Priorities Tracker – Young

1

We need access to drug treatment and reform of our drug laws. We have a problem in Vermont that requires treatment not incarceration. While we have made progress in recent years in recognizing the problem of drug abuse in Vermont we still do not have the access to treatment that we require. When a user is ready to seek treatment it needs to be immediately available without a wait list.

2

Broadband access for rural areas remains a challenge in Vermont. For six years I have worked on this issue but it still remains a problem for many small Vermont towns. Without access to this basic service it is barrier for economic development, education, and even the ability to sell homes. At this point broadband access needs to be considered an essential service and requires government commitment to make it happen.

3

I have the experience to provide good representation for my constituents. Learning to be a good State Representative does not happen overnight. I have spent six years dealing with a variety of issues for my neighbors. Whether it is sorting out problems with the tax department, Vermont Health Connect or getting a road on a paving list, these are the essential services that your elected representative provides. It takes some time to learn how to navigate the bureaucracy of government and I feel that my experience will help my constituents get the service from government that they deserve.



JOE BENNING

Senate

Party: REP./DEM.

District: CALEDONIA

Residence: LYNDON, VT

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Candidate Bio

Currently serving as Minority Leader, Vice Chair of Senate Judiciary and on Government Operations, as well as various ad hoc committees. Past chair of Vermont's Human Rights Commission. Past member of the Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees. Past President of Lyndon State College Foundation and Lyndonville Rotary Club. Current Trustee at Lyndon Institute, Corporator of Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital and Moderator for the Town of Lyndon. Trial Attorney for 32 years. Married with two grown children. Plays guitar and is addicted to long distance travel on his Harley-Davidson.

Top Priorities Tracker – Benning

1

Vermont needs to improve its approach to jobs and the economy.

2

Vermont needs to get its budget under control.

3

Vermont needs to focus on improving education, public welfare and safety, and infrastructure.



House

Party: DEM./REP.

District: CALEDONIA

Residence: DANVILLE, VT

Website: kitchelforsenate.com



JANE KITCHEL

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Candidate Bio

JANE KITCHEL of Danville, Caledonia County, Democrat, was born in St. Johnsbury, Vermont, on August 23, 1945, and grew up in Danville on the family farm. Occupation: Public Administrator. Retired from the State of Vermont, former Secretary, Agency of Human Services. Jane was educated in Danville Schools, graduating from Danville High School in 1963; Wilson College, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania (AB, 1967); Toll Fellow, Council of State Governments, 1994. She is married to Robert Kitchel and they have one son. Jane is Former President, Board of Trustees, Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium (St. Johnsbury, Vt.); Secretary, Danville Chamber of Commerce; Corporate, Northeastern Vermont Regional Corporation; Fairbanks Museum Fellow; Board Member, Vermont Food Bank, Member, Board of Directors of the Northeastern Vermont Area Health Education Center; Member, Danville Congregational Church. Member of the Senate: 2005-2006, 2007-2008, 2009-2010, 2011-2012, 2013-2014, 2015-2016.

As a longtime assistant to Senator James Jeffords, and later as vice president at Central Vermont Public Service, she gained experience in public policy as well as empathy for the individuals and businesses that pay the taxes to fund our government.

Top Priorities Tracker – Kitchel

1

As Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have been involved in an ongoing effort to make the state budgeting process more understandable and transparent to citizens and interested organizations. There is more work to be done and I would like to continue these efforts. A particular emphasis for me is getting a better handle on the performance of Vermont government's functions and programs so that we can be assured that government is serving Vermonters well and programs are delivering the intended results.

The budget is where all of state government comes together, where priorities have to be set in order to align spending with available revenues and the connecting points between programs can be examined. Long-term fiscal obligations need to be identified, understood and addressed. This requires the development of reserves and sustainability of spending. The FY 2017 budget reflects a substantial commitment to doing just this.

2

The Caledonia/Orange Senate District has its own distinct characteristics. It is rural and has many miles of border with New Hampshire. In addition, there has been a significant erosion of the traditional economic base. I believe I have been and can continue to be a strong voice for the tax and economic development policies that reflect the needs of the District. For example, several years ago I was successful in getting legislation passed creating a multi-million equipment investment tax credit— a pivotal piece in getting a foreign corporation to make a large investment in its local plant, thus preserving over 250 good paying jobs. Regional differences are important factors in the development of a range of public policies including education, health, economic development and tax. My ties to this area are multi-generational which provide me with a deep historical perspective and understanding of the District's challenges and needs.

3

I retired after many years in state government working my way up through the system. This experience has given me a unique and invaluable knowledge of the diverse functions of government. I can see the connections between programs, departments and systems that are essential if resources, both fiscal and human, are used effectively and efficiently. Government needs to adapt to changing needs and demands. Change is not easy, but necessary. Old ways of doing work need to be replaced or overhauled. I am proud of a number of initiatives that I directed while working in state service including Dr. Dynasaur coverage to assure all Vermont children have access to health care, the creation in partnership with United Way of the 211 Information and Referral Service and the reform of the State's welfare system to replace long-

term dependency with education, training and employment through the Reach Up program. I am willing to challenge the status quo, endorse change and demand accountability.



JOHN S. RODGERS

House

Party: DEMOCRATIC

District: ESSEX-ORLEANS

Residence: GLOVER, VT

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Candidate Bio

JOHN S. RODGERS of Glover, Orleans County, Democrat, was born on July 29, 1965, in Saint Johnsbury, Vermont. John was raised in Glover on the family dairy farm; he was the fifth generation to grow up on the farm. He graduated from Sacred Heart, Newport, VT, (1983) and from New Hampshire Vocational Technical College, Berlin, NH, (Associates Degree 1985). After college John started a construction business, JS Rodgers Masonry Inc., specializing in dry stonework and excavation. He served eight years in the VT House of Representatives; he was the Collector of Delinquent Taxes for many years in Glover and coached youth soccer. He is a member of the NRA, Barton Area Chamber of Commerce, and served as the Director to Shadow Lake Association, Glover, VT. In 2008, John received the Crime Victim Service Award. He is married to Brenda Rodgers, a nurse at the NVR Hospital, and they have two boys. Post Office Address: PO Box 217, Glover, VT 05839.



ROBERT A. STARR

Senate

Party: DEMOCRATIC

District: ESSEX-ORLEANS

Residence: TROY, VT

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Candidate Bio

ROBERT A. STARR of Troy, Orleans County, Democrat, was born in Hartford, Connecticut, on December 17, 1942, and became a resident of present town on June 3, 1944. He is married to the former Anita Cadieux, and they have one son. Occupation: president, Starr's United, Inc., d/b/a Starr's Transportation. He was educated in elementary schools in North Troy, Vermont; North Troy High School; and Vermont Technical College, Randolph, Vermont (associate degree in agriculture). Member of: Troy school board; O.E.N.S.U. school board; Troy zoning board and planning commission; Board of Civil Authority; Troy town moderator; North Country High School, moderator; Vermont State College trustee; Vermont Truck and Bus Association, director; Elks Club #2155, Newport; National Conference of State Legislatures. Chair of the House Agriculture Committee, 1985-2000. Member of the House: 1979-80, 1981-82, 1983-84, 1985-86, 1987-88, 1989-90, 1991-92, 1993-94, 1995-96, 1997-98, 1999-2000, 2001-2002 (House Agriculture Committee), 2003-2004. Member of the Senate: 2005-2016. Chair of the Ed. Comm. 2009-2010, 2011-2012. Chair of Agriculture Committee 2013-2014, Appropriations Committee Member. Religious preference: Protestant. Home phone: 988-2877; Office: 988-2281 or 2282. Post Office Address: 958 Route 105W, North Troy, VT 05859.

Have lived in North Troy, Vt for the past 72 years. Was educated in Troy elementary, N. Troy High School and Vt. Technical College with associate degree in agriculture. Member of Troy school board 21 yrs. OENSU school board, Troy zoning & planning board 35 yrs, Troy town moderator 52 yrs. Vt. St. College trustee, Director of Vt. Truck & Bus Assoc. Elks Club 2155 member, Nat. Conference of State Leg. Chair of House Agri Comm. 16 yrs. Member of House from 1979 -2004. Member of Senate 2005 to 2016, Chair Agri. Comm. and serve on the Appropriation Comm.

Top Priorities Tracker – Starr

1

I enjoy serving the great people of the N-E-K, I know the needs of the people and work hard to see that their needs are taken care of.

2

Our economy in the NEK is very important and we must keep working hard to maintain our Agricultural, Wood and Recreational industries, all three are so critical to our region as well as the whole state.

3

We have many problems facing us in the Leg. in the next few years. We need to make changes to Act 46 so our rural towns are treated fair and that their children receive the education they deserve. R-E siting is still not taken care of, and need to be fixed. Health Care is still in shambles and unaffordable and needs to be fixed. Our state budget needs to be brought into line with our ability to pay, our tax payers are tap out. And I could go on.