

#37

COMPLETE

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Q1

Candidate Information

Name	Christopher Pearson
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Phone Number	8028603933

Q2

Office you are seeking (e.g. House, Senate, Governor):

Senate

Q3

Legislative District (e.g. Chittenden, Senate, Addison-1):

Chittenden Senate

Q4

Yes

Incumbent (select one):

Q5

Yes

Would you be interested in visiting a school in your district and meeting with local educators?

Page 2

Q6

Agree

On resisting austerity, do you

Q7

Yes

Do you wish to sponsor legislation on resisting austerity?

Q8

Anything you want to add on resisting austerity?

This is not a new issue for me and I look forward to working together now that more legislative colleagues are recognizing how broken our economy is for so many Vermonters.

Page 3

Q9

Agree

On institutional racism, do you

Q10

Anything you want to add on institutional racism?

Vermont and the US have extreme income inequality. And, as COVID has demonstrated, our economy is built on vital work done in low-wage jobs. These injustices are even more pronounced among communities of color and we must stamp out economic inequality at the same time we fight for police reforms, criminal justice reform, and more.

Page 4

Q11

Agree

On community schools, do you

Q12

Yes

Do you wish to sponsor legislation establishing community schools?

Q13

Anything you want to add on community schools?

I have long supported ACE-aware policies in health care and education. It's encouraging that we are gaining traction. I also think schools should get more funding to work on these issues. As we move to divert resources from police budgets I hope we will increase funding for social workers in schools.

Page 5

Q14 **Agree**

On universal school meals, do you

Q15 **Yes**

Do you wish to sponsor legislation on universal school meals?

Q16
Anything you want to add on universal school meals?

I was a sponsor of the 2020 bill and look forward to continue toward that goal. I have also been a leader pushing to get more local foods into cafeterias and look forward to making progress on that too.

Page 6

Q17 **Agree**

On student and staff safety, do you

Q18 **Yes**

Do you wish to sponsor legislation on student and staff safety?

Q19
Anything you want to add on student and staff safety?

This is all part of the package of schools as centers of communities where we acknowledge and work together on food security, mental health, and education. I am grateful Vermont teachers are willing to take on such complex leadership roles.

Page 7

Q20 **Agree**

On para-educators, do you

Q21 **Yes**

Do you wish to sponsor legislation on para-educators?

Q22 **Respondent skipped this question**

Anything you want to add on para-educators?

Page 8

Q23 **Agree**

On school finance, do you

Q24 **Yes**

Do you wish to sponsor legislation on school finance?

Q25

Anything you want to add on school finance?

As you know, I've pushed this for years. I think we may need to come together and sharpen our strategy as we have not been able to gain enough traction to move this forward. I look forward to working together to achieve this long-standing goal.

Page 9

Q26 **Agree**

On public funded and provided Pre-K, do you

Q27 **Yes**

Do you wish to sponsor legislation on public funded and provided Pre-K?

Q28 **Respondent skipped this question**

Anything you want to add on public funded and provided Pre-K?

Page 10

Q29 **Agree**

On health reform, do you

Q30 **Yes**

Do you wish to sponsor legislation on health care reform?

Q31

Anything you want to add on health care reform?

Achieving universal health care as a single state isn't easy. But we can take meaningful steps to make care more affordable and shrink out-of-pocket expenses. I look forward to continuing our work together on cost-share free primary care and more.

Page 11

Q32

Agree

On the right to strike, do you

Q33

Anything you want to add on the right to strike?

This right is fundamental to collective bargaining and I will always work with you to protect your rights.

Page 12

Q34

Agree

On teachers rights and professional growth, do you

Q35

Yes

Do you wish to sponsor legislation on teachers right and professional growth?

Q36

Anything you want to add on teachers right and professional growth?

I wonder, do superintendents have to get similar permission from the school board to interview at a neighboring district? Probably not...

Page 13

Q37

Agree

On retirement security for teachers, do you

Q38

Anything you want to add on retirement security for teachers?

I agree, but it's worth noting the challenge of what to do with our budget surpluses is likely years away.

Page 14

Q39

Agree

On good cause employment, do you

Q40

Yes

Do you wish to sponsor legislation on good cause employment?

Q41

Anything you want to add on good cause employment?

I'll be glad to sponsor this bill again. I have also filed a bill to mandate that Vermont workers get 2-weeks paid vacation. It's important that we keep pushing the envelope , expand the discussion of what workers deserve, and what is politically possible in Montpelier.
