

#96

COMPLETE

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Q1

Candidate Information

Name	John Bartholomew
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Q2

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

House

Q3

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

Windsor-1

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?

The wording of your question is not very clear. Resisting austerity?

I share the concerns in your statement and agree we need living wages, universal and affordable health care, strong public education, free higher education, functioning infrastructure, public transportation, high-speed internet and cellular service across the state, paid family and medical leave, employment benefits (such as vacation time), and unemployment benefits. These are issues I have espoused during my 5 terms as a State Representative. The challenge is finding the way to move forward.

Page 3

Q9

Agree

On institutional racism, do you

Q10

Anything you want to add on institutional racism?

Many Vermonters care deeply about justice and equality. The death of George Floyd has galvanized many American into action. I am hearing loudly and clearly from my constituents an outcry for racial justice.

From the beginnings of our history as a state, we recognized deep social injustices. We became the first state to abolish slavery. Unfortunately, woefully inadequate progress has followed. Americans are waking up to the fact that our county, our society, our laws, and our institutions are built on foundations that neither incorporate the interests of everyone nor protect the well-being of every citizen. Now is the time to address the institutional and systemic racism that harms and traumatizes many of our citizens.

We must work both individually to educate ourselves and collectively to transform institutions in order to dismantle systemic racism and centuries of oppression. Our laws and our lives need to be aligned for this work to be successful. Every Vermonter is impacted by systemic racism and everyone has an important role to play in addressing this important issue.

Page 4

Q11

Agree

On community schools, do you

Q12

Yes

Do you wish to sponsor legislation establishing community schools?

Q13 Respondent skipped this question

Anything you want to add on community schools?

Page 5

Q14 Agree

On universal school meals, do you

Q15 Yes

Do you wish to sponsor legislation on universal school meals?

Q16 Respondent skipped this question

Anything you want to add on universal school meals?

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 Respondent skipped this question

Anything you want to add on student and staff safety?

Page 7

Q20 Agree

On para-educators, do you

Q21 No

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 **Don't Know**

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?

Public education is vital to our state, nation, and civilization. I agree with the concepts that all Vermonters should pay their fair share toward education and that taxation should largely be based on ability to pay.

Taxation is a complex topic. I'll need more information before making decisions on the best approach to education funding.

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?

The Vermont legislature must continue to explore options for health care reform. Many in the legislature have not given up on a health care system that will provide health care for every Vermonter. Exploring health care options with other northeastern states may provide the most logical path forward to making this a reality.

My experience in the Public Health Service and as a veterinarian has underscored my belief in the importance of preventive medicine. We need to make strides in limiting health care expenses by reducing unnecessary tests and procedures, and by controlling bureaucracy and unnecessary paperwork.

I am committed to making improvements to our health care system so that every Vermonter, without regard to employment, has access to health care and prescription medications.

Page 11

Q32

Agree

On the right to strike, do you

Q33

Anything you want to add on the right to strike?

I have been an active participant on the legislative Worker's Caucus for my entire 10-year tenure in the House. History has repeatedly shown us that the rights to organize and strike have been of paramount importance to American workers. It is distressing that so many workers have forgotten this lesson.

Page 12

Q34

Agree

On teachers rights and professional growth, do you

Q35

No

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

Q36

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

This is not a topic to which I have given much attention. I need to learn more.

Page 13

Q37

Agree

On retirement security for teachers, do you

Q38

Anything you want to add on retirement security for teachers?

This is the only logical approach. Fiscal responsibility is more important than political sleight of hand.

Page 14

Q39

Agree

On good cause employment, do you

Q40

No

Do you wish to sponsor legislation on good cause employment?

Q41

Anything you want to add on good cause employment?

As with any piece of legislation, the wording, intent, and effectiveness must be considered. It is likely I would be willing to co-sponsor legislation on good cause employment. Please refer to my comments regarding the Worker's Caucus from one of your previous questions.
