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**COMPLETE**

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Page 1

**Q1**

Candidate Information

Name	<b>Ken Fredette</b>
Email Address	<b>kfredettevt@gmail.com</b>
Phone Number	<b>(802) 446-3108</b>

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**Q2**

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

House

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**Q3**

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

Rutland-2

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**Q4**

**No**

Incumbent (select one):

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**Q5**

**Yes**

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

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Page 2

**Q6**

**Agree**

On resisting austerity, do you

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**Q7**

**Yes**

Do you wish to sponsor legislation on resisting austerity?

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**Q8**

Anything you want to add on resisting austerity?

Reimagining our economy can be win-win in many cases, for example creating decent jobs building affordable housing.

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Page 3

**Q9**

**Agree**

On institutional racism, do you

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**Q10**

Anything you want to add on institutional racism?

Our school district (Mill River) will be flying Black Lives Matter and Pride flags when schools reopen, and I fully support that. Feedback from our community has been overwhelmingly on the positive side, with a few dissenters (including one of my opponents).

I have a piece on equality up on my website, [kenfredetteforvermont.com](http://kenfredetteforvermont.com)

I'm not sure what "permanently de-militarize" means, but I know a well-trained, responsible police force is a vital component to protecting our citizens and way of life. While we certainly need transparency to weed out the bad actors, and not just transfer them to another precinct, we must move forward deliberately. More training in defusing situations and availability of mental health professionals to assist seem like good first steps.

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Page 4

**Q11**

**Agree**

On community schools, do you

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**Q12**

**Yes**

Do you wish to sponsor legislation establishing community schools?

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**Q13**

Anything you want to add on community schools?

Schools are where the buck stops for these kids. Please see Jamie Volmer's "Schools cannot do it alone"

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Page 5

**Q14** **Agree**

On universal school meals, do you

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**Q15** **Yes**

Do you wish to sponsor legislation on universal school meals?

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**Q16**  
Anything you want to add on universal school meals?

I have been supporting this concept for years.

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Page 6

**Q17** **Agree**

On student and staff safety, do you

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**Q18** **Yes**

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

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

I have helped draft resolutions and policies through my time on school boards on this. My daughter is a teacher in a public school, and my son-in-law works with children whose needs are such that their behavior is too disruptive for inclusion in public schools; I have my finger on the pulse, as they say, on challenges teachers face every day.

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Page 7

**Q20** **Agree**

On para-educators, do you

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**Q21** **No**

Do you wish to sponsor legislation on para-educators?

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**Q22**

Anything you want to add on para-educators?

Sponsoring legislation on this would be antithetical to local decision-making...unless, of course, the legislation was simply to leave those decisions to be made in the school buildings. I don't know of many pieces of legislation that are simple, though.

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Page 8

**Q23**

**Agree**

On school finance, do you

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**Q24**

**Yes**

Do you wish to sponsor legislation on school finance?

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**Q25**

Anything you want to add on school finance?

I began serving on a school board the year after Act 60 became law, and have written many letters over the years and two commentaries (in 2018) on the subject of ed funding; I also speak to it in my education piece on my website. The intro to this question could have been penned by me.

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Page 9

**Q26**

**Agree**

On public funded and provided Pre-K, do you

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**Q27**

**Yes**

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

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**Q28**

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

Again, you are preaching to the choir here. I fought hard to get a Pre-K program into Wallingford Elementary, failing to get a majority of the board to support it two years in a row, and finally succeeding on the third try, after persuading a conference committee in Montpelier to drop a provision in a bill for a moratorium on new Pre-K programs that would have thwarted my efforts again that year.

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Page 10

**Q29**

**Agree**

On health reform, do you

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**Q30**

**No**

Do you wish to sponsor legislation on health care reform?

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**Q31**

Anything you want to add on health care reform?

I do heartily agree that something needs to be done, something very serious, to reform our current health care system. Having said that, I feel it would be disingenuous of me to commit to sponsoring anything at this point in time as I need to gain a better understanding of the specifics of different proposals.

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Page 11

**Q32**

**Agree**

On the right to strike, do you

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**Q33**

Anything you want to add on the right to strike?

I agree to teachers' right to strike as long as boards have a right to impose working conditions, and feel both tactics should be eliminated in favor of a more collaborative approach. Notwithstanding the low numbers of actual occurrences over the years, the threat of a strike or imposition being in the back of negotiators minds can take away from productive deliberations, and hence the focus on what's best for students and staff.

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Page 12

**Q34**

**Agree**

On teachers rights and professional growth, do you

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**Q35**

**No**

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

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**Q36**

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

This is news to me...I have never heard of such a thing. Of course teachers should have the freedom to change jobs without "permission" from the superintendent.

I suspect I might be somewhat confused by the wording of the question, or wording about being under contract "between academic years" that is not included in the question. As I understand it, teachers are currently free to interview, and can accept positions at any time if they have not committed to a district for that school year, or they can accept for a future school year if they have.

And I personally know of cases where teachers were allowed to leave during a school year.

In any case, this is something that can be negotiated, it does not need to be legislated. We put language I considered to be solid and fair into our contract years ago, and it is still there.

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Page 13

**Q37**

**Agree**

On retirement security for teachers, do you

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**Q38**

Anything you want to add on retirement security for teachers?

I agree with properly funding the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement systems, and am painfully aware of the chronic underfunding over the years. Vermont property owners have had further burdens placed upon them by this in the annual fee school districts have to pay for every new teacher hired.

I would not commit to legislating "any budget surplus" solely to the Teachers' Retirement fund, however. While saving millions in interest would be great, of course, it's impossible to say what funds might be needed to help cope with an emergency, as we have learned in 2020.

Besides, one session legislators earmarked any budget surplus to make up a shortfall in the Ed Fund and then danced around that when the time came to actually do it.

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Page 14

**Q39**

**Don't Know**

On good cause employment, do you

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**Q40**

**No**

Do you wish to sponsor legislation on good cause employment?

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**Q41**

Anything you want to add on good cause employment?

"Right to work" sounded like a good thing until I learned what it actually is, and hence "good cause" raises some concerns.

I do agree that people should not worry about losing their job for "trivial, arbitrary or capricious reasons", but people might define those terms differently. I would have to see specific legislation before committing to supporting it

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