

#16

COMPLETE

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Q1

Candidate Information

Name	Kesha Ram
Email Address	kesha@kesharam.com
Phone Number	(802) 881-4433

Q2

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

State Senate

Q3

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

Chittenden County

Q4

No

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?

I agree that this is a critical time to reimagine and reshape our economy and infrastructure to more equitably serve all Vermonters. Having spent three years on the House Ways & Means Committee and as an advocate for green infrastructure as Vice Chair of the House Natural Resources & Energy Committee, I am ready on day one to help convene stakeholders and champion this vision.

Page 3

Q9

Agree

On institutional racism, do you

Q10

Anything you want to add on institutional racism?

If elected, I will be the first woman of color in Vermont history to serve in the State Senate. While this is a sad milestone in the year 2020, I plan to waste no time ensuring more Vermonters are heard and reflected in government, and will be a champion for racial, social, environmental, and economic justice.

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?

This idea is inspiring, and I would want to see it connected to supports for expecting parents and children from birth to five years old. These are critical years when families are missing out on early interventions. Before starting my legislative career, I was the Interim Head Start Advocate for a local preschool in Burlington. This meant providing a lot of the aforementioned functions, especially helping families find housing to keep their children stable in a school they loved. We need more opportunities to give children stability and safety in these uncertain times.

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 sponsored similar legislation in the House when the idea was in a pilot phase. It's an idea that works and whose time for universality has come.

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?

I would like to see this work supported and funded, along with restorative justice models. I hope it can be coupled with measures to reduce the use of suspension and expulsion as behavioral modification tools, as we know they have a disproportionate impact on Black students, students of color, and students with disabilities.

Page 7

Q20 **Agree**

On para-educators, do you

Q21 **No**

Do you wish to sponsor legislation on para-educators?

Q22

Anything you want to add on para-educators?

I would be willing to consider sponsoring para-educator legislation, but would like to learn more. I would like to see more support for cultural liaison roles in our schools, as well.

Page 8

Q23

Don't Know

On school finance, do you

Q24

No

Do you wish to sponsor legislation on school finance?

Q25

Anything you want to add on school finance?

I generally support the vision that education be funded based on ability to pay. Property taxes are a less volatile source of financing in comparison to income, however, so I would need to see the details to know how schools would be shielded from that volatility.

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

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

I would like to help lead on this issue. It is a critical step forward.

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?

Now more than ever, as we look at our pandemic experience and its disproportionate effects, we need greater health care access.

Page 11

Q32

Agree

On the right to strike, do you

Q33

Anything you want to add on the right to strike?

I have fought for this, including against my own Democratic leadership, in the past. Collective bargaining is fundamental to our democracy and economy.

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

Respondent skipped this question

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

Page 13

Q37

Agree

On retirement security for teachers, do you

Q38

Respondent skipped this question

Anything you want to add on retirement security for teachers?

Page 14

Q39

Agree

On good cause employment, do you

Q40

Yes

Do you wish to sponsor legislation on good cause employment?

Q41

Respondent skipped this question

Anything you want to add on good cause employment?
