

#61

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Page 1

Q1

Candidate Information

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Q2

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

State Senate Essex/Orleans

Q3

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

Essex/Orleans

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?

This country, probably much of the world, has had a same ol' same ol' mentality for far too long. "We've tried that and it didn't work." "We've always done it that way so we're not changing now." "We Can't..." I say Enough already. I'm not a fan of the word "Can't," however, if it makes the stagnant feel better I'll say we Can't afford to continue doing things like we've always done them. We Can't afford to be stupid or greedy during this pandemic. We Can't afford to reelect members of our government with zero regard to their views, believing they've been in there this long I guess they are doing a good job. If we don't change course we won't have a course to change.

Page 3

Q9

Agree

On institutional racism, do you

Q10

Anything you want to add on institutional racism?

I grew up in South Florida in the 50s. As a young boy I was force fed some of the worst practices imaginable. It took getting out of there in 1966, entering the Air Force, and seeing my fellow humans in an entirely different light for me to start trying to undo my past and what I lived back then.

Now we have a president, and I use the term lightly, who is pushing us back to the 50s. He, not only, does not try and stop what is going on, he promotes it. "His" military police have lit the fuse that could just blow this country apart. Instead of standing in a line with full riot gear on these police officers should be marching with BLM showing their support and being there to keep them safe. They don't have any idea what their actions are doing.

We can, and must, do better.

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?

Our kids are suffering from our government's lack of concern and spread of misinformation. There is a mentality out there that suggests just because one person has been able to claw their way out of poverty, depression, or whatever other hardship they may have faced, that everyone should be able to do the same. Not so. Not all lives are created equal as we should all be aware.

As you can probably tell, I'm for new ideas. The newest idea for our schools is community school. Sure, families would be the ideal place for kids to start a vibrant life, but it's not to be in far too many instances.

Bringing in professional help for conditions that hurt learning and developing successfully makes perfect sense. The argument is that funding needs to be found. Okay... let's find it. Let's recoup the drastic tax giveaways of the trump administration and fully fund an education system the likes of which America should have.

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?

Again, the money can be there for this extremely important program. The time is right. We have all seen the lines of families needing food during this pre-depression. It's going to get worse and we must not wait. Before we can feed their minds we need to make sure their little bodies are fed.

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'll go one better I believe. The teachers have so much on their plates that, like we discussed earlier, I believe we need the extra professional help these kids need, outside the classroom. We shouldn't expect a teacher to devote the extra time to troubled kids that will take away from the rest of the class. However, if they had someone to call to the class that would help the troubled kid, then the entire class would benefit. We can make this happen.

Page 7

Q20

Agree

On para-educators, do you

Q21

Yes

Do you wish to sponsor legislation on para-educators?

Q22

Anything you want to add on para-educators?

My daughter had physical limitations for a while during Jr. High and High School. The Para-educators were not as important for her as others, however, they were a huge mental support for her. They made her years in our NEK Vermont schools so much better. They are valued.

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?

This only makes sense. What also makes sense is a wealth tax that would go directly to the school system. And, way out of the box for those who have not come from an aviation background like I have, is my proposal for Vermont to become the first state to own and operate its own airline. I've given the Governor the business plan showing that profits would pay for the majority of our school budget yearly. And now is the ideal time to start the wheels on this endeavor in motion. It will take a year to get an airline up and running and to upgrade our 17 airports to commercial status. Supplies are all on sale for getting this started which means the first profit will be seen sooner than during a normal time. This will also open our state up to new businesses, bringing in new families, which means more students.

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?

As parents we read to our kids in the womb. Books were always the gift of choice and the most request gifts by our girls. It is known that the brain is most active in the early years. Pre-K is essential. I would also suggest that we might start considering a younger start to school for our kids. I'd love to hear the professionals debate this.

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?

As the parent of a Make A Wish kid this hits home hard. Without great insurance we would be homeless and our daughter would not have made it to 21. When she was forced home from college by Covid-19, she died. Her Vermont medicaid was not accepted in Georgia so she skipped appointments that may have saved her life.

Our country is a joke when it comes to health care. We must wake up to medicare for all. If we can't get there all at once we must dedicate all resources toward saving the lives of the most vulnerable. Our maximum income level must be raised. And we have to do all we can to put more pressure on Washington to receive the assistance we need.

Page 11

Q32 **Agree**

On the right to strike, do you

Q33

Anything you want to add on the right to strike?

I'd love to see a Vermont where teachers would never want to strike. I worked for Delta Air Lines for 26 years. We were non-union and never wanted to strike because Delta considered us their greatest asset. That's what Vermont needs to do for the education community.

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?

We all know it is disrupting to kids if their teacher is suddenly not there. That is why I believe Vermont needs to become the kind of education society that treats their members so well that they will want to stay to complete their year. However, they should not be required to do so if personal conditions dictate otherwise. This isn't slave labor.

Page 13

Q37

Agree

On retirement security for teachers, do you

Q38

Anything you want to add on retirement security for teachers?

I depend on my retirement. It is fully funded yearly. It's an agreement the company made with me. It should not be any different in the case of a state sponsored retirement. We must protect retirement.

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?

When a business opens and hires employees they need to accept responsibility for their due diligence in hiring. They also need to treat their employees as they would like to be treated as an employee. (Sound familiar?) I've seen the malpractice of firing that goes on in non-unionized places of employment. It's not only morally inept, it's without empathy or any concern what they are doing to their future former employee.

Workers deserve rights and a fair process by which they can challenge a decision as important as if they are going to be employed or not.
