

#10

COMPLETE

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Q1

Candidate Information

Name	Thomas Chittenden
Email Address	thomas.chittenden@gmail.com
Phone Number	8022331913

Q2

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

State Senate

Q3

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

Chittenden District

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?

The answer to the problems of today is not austerity. It's more socially just economic and regulatory policies that do not concentrate wealth. And in Vermont, the answer is not austerity but expanding opportunity here in the state for more people to come here, live here, stay here and thrive here.

Page 3

Q9

Agree

On institutional racism, do you

Q10

Anything you want to add on institutional racism?

Black lives matter and we have a lot of work to do. Our historical immoral governance in this country taints our society today. We need to repair the malice our countries original sin still inflicts on our country and world through restorative policy, corrective measures and increased scrutiny of our behaviors throughout every aspect of modern day life.

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'd like to better understand the examples of this already employed elsewhere in the country and how this model fits with some of the intentions of Act 46.

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?

What does it say of our society if there are children hungry in our schools? Is education not as important as sustenance? We should provide food for our children in schools because we provide water fountains, shelter, climate controls and safety. Children cannot focus on higher order needs if their physiological needs are not being met.

The NEA and Vermonters can always count on me to support policies, practices and funding that puts our children and their education first.

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?

Here too, I would like to understand proven best practices elsewhere in the country and overlay them with our observed results here in Vermont.

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?

Defining the needs in the school needs to be a local decision.

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?

My concern and hesitation about this is that the Baby Boom generation is seeing their incomes drop but their wealth (including their property) go up or stay the same. A full shift towards income taxes to fund our education system will have adverse negative impacts on our work force. I'd like to better understand this issue and possible hybrid configurations where property taxes still support our education system on parcels that could qualify as luxurious.

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 support polices and practices that provide for our children. Pre-K included.

Page 10

Q29

Agree

On health reform, do you

Q30

No

Do you wish to sponsor legislation on health care reform?

Q31

Anything you want to add on health care reform?

Health care is an area I am not well enough versed in to be ready to sponsor legislation. I will say that I believe a single payer option is much for feasible with a regional compact working with our neighboring states to get there. A "New England" Single Payer healthcare system can achieve the economies of scale that Vermont can't get to alone.

Page 11

Q32

Agree

On the right to strike, do you

Q33

Anything you want to add on the right to strike?

Absolutely. The proletariat has the absolute right to withhold labor as part of a coordinated effort to demand improved working conditions.

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 am a life long learner and I want our teachers to be as well. I fully support professional development strategies to elevate our society, our discourse and our educators.

Page 13

Q37

Agree

On retirement security for teachers, do you

Q38

Anything you want to add on retirement security for teachers?

I am married to a public school teacher (Kim Chittenden - Mallets Bay in Colchester) so I have a personal interest in this. She works hard through out the year and her entire career earning her retirement security. We need to ensure solvency and I am committed to that.

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?

Based on my experience 'on the other side of the table' of this with service on various boards, it is important to make sure the bar for Good Cause is reasonable but I fully support protections for employees.
