

# VERMONT LT. GOVERNOR ZUCKERMAN

APRIL 2017 NEWSLETTER

I was first elected to the Vermont House of Representatives at the age of 25. Throughout my service, I have been acutely aware of the lack of youth voice or focus in state politics. As we consider possible legislation, the budget, and the future of our state, we must take into account the long-term impact of our actions, especially on retaining and attracting young people, workers, and families.

In February, I launched my Youth Initiative (visit [www.ltgov.vermont.gov](http://www.ltgov.vermont.gov) for more details) to empower Vermont youth to become involved in civic activities on the local, state, and national level. At the end of this newsletter you will see three upcoming events to engage Vermont's youth in this process. Statistics show that youth, once engaged, are more likely to stay involved throughout their lives.

*"My wife and I moved to Vermont from Minnesota. We are in our 30's and highly skilled. **We support Paid Family Leave** as it ensures those who are gainfully employed have access to take care of their families and themselves, then return to work and be contributing members of their organizations and the greater VT economy."* Constituents from Essex Junction

**Below are a few ideas to retain and attract young people, workers, and families to our state.**

**Raise the minimum wage** – This year there was not enough support to move this bill forward. Increasing the wage over time to \$15/hour would positively impact more than 85,000 Vermonters, allow them to lift themselves and their families out of poverty, reduce the need for state aid, and infuse our local economies with revenue.

**Pass Paid Family Leave** – H.196, creating a 12-week paid family leave program in Vermont, is working its way through the House. This proactive legislation is attractive to young entrepreneurs looking for family friendly states. This insurance is a bargain at only \$4-\$8 a week for most workers.

**Invest in Affordable Housing** – S.100 would enact a \$35 million Affordable Housing Bond to support construction of affordable housing for Vermonters at various income levels around the state.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Every Friday 8:30-10:00AM**

"Coffee with Constituents" in the Lt. Governor's office at the State House, Montpelier

### **April 1, 3:00 P.M.**

Community Meeting, Tracy Hall, Norwich

### **April 5, 5:30 P.M.**

Hosting "*Merchants of Doubt*" movie, State House Cafeteria, Montpelier

### **April 6, 7:00 A.M.**

"Charlie, Ernie & Lisa in the Morning." AM620, WVMT

### **April 11, 11:30-1:30**

Visit U32 High School East Montpelier

### **April 12**

Youth Lobby Day  
State House, Montpelier

### **April 19**

5:00 – Meet the Lt. Governor  
One Main Tap & Grill, Randolph

7:00 – Community Meeting,  
Thetford Community Center

### **April 20, 6:00 P.M.**

Town Hall Meeting on Health Care, Montpelier

### **April 23, 5:00 P.M.**

Community Meeting, Brattleboro

### **April 25, 6:00 P.M.**

UVM Town Hall Meeting  
Waterman, Burlington

**For more details and a complete list of events please visit the calendar on our website: [LTGov.vermont.gov](http://LTGov.vermont.gov)**

**Support our Schools** – Quality of education is a top factor in attracting families to our state. I was pleased that 90+% of school budgets passed on Town Meeting Day. The Senate recently passed S.122, a bill created in the Senate Education committee, to build upon this success and help local school districts meet the needs of Act 46, the school district efficiency law. I supported S.122 and am pleased with the improvements to allow greater flexibility. While I support many of the Governor’s spending priorities, such as investing in early childhood and higher education, I do not support raising the property tax rate by 6 cents as his spending proposals would now require. There must be a less regressive way.

**Make College Affordable for Vermont Youth** – I am an outspoken advocate for legalizing and regulating marijuana. Capturing this underground economy would provide a revenue stream that could be used for prevention, education, treatment, and law enforcement. Additional revenue should be used to build the higher education trust fund. We should also consider adjusting the portability of VSAC loans to ensure funds allocated by the state, stay in Vermont whenever possible.

I have seen over and over how your participation in our democracy produces positive results. You can follow the bills above, find contact information for your legislators to let them know your thoughts, and watch the progress we are making in Montpelier, at the Vermont Legislative Website: [www.legislature.vermont.gov](http://www.legislature.vermont.gov). I always welcome your thoughts and ideas. If you can’t make it to an upcoming “Coffee with Constituents” or local event, I am happy to receive an email from you (sent to my Chief of Staff at [megan.polyte@vermont.gov](mailto:megan.polyte@vermont.gov)).



## YOUTH LOBBY DAY – APRIL 13

I am proud to be one of the Keynote Speakers for Youth Lobby Day. Students from around the state will gather at 9:00 at the Vermont College of Fine Arts where they will make banners, learn about the climate in Vermont, and prepare to march to the State House. At 10:15 they will arrive on the State House lawn and *Speak Out* against climate change and for proactive steps we can take. For more information and the full schedule please visit: <http://www.youthlobby.org/rallyfortheplanet/>

## UVM TOWN HALL MEETING – APRIL 25

I am hosting this Town Hall Meeting to provide UVM students an opportunity to learn what is happening in Montpelier and share their ideas for the future of Vermont. State and local legislators will also be present and included in the conversation. Incorporating the ideas of college students as we plan Vermont’s future is a win-win situation and I’m excited to hear their visions for our state. This event will start at 6:00PM in the Memorial Lounge of Waterman, UVM, Burlington.

## HIGH SCHOOL TOWN HALL MEETING – MAY 4

I will be joined by a panel of four Vermonters for this live town meeting. The event will take place at the PBS studio in Colchester and broadcast and live streamed around the state. The focus of this meeting will be for the youth panel to share how, why, and what motivates them to be active in their communities, and to hear ideas from Vermont high school students. To reserve your studio tickets, ask a question, or meet the panel visit: [ltgov.vermont.gov/initiatives-priorities/youth-initiative](http://ltgov.vermont.gov/initiatives-priorities/youth-initiative)

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