

# VERMONT LT. GOVERNOR ZUCKERMAN

FEBRUARY 2017

On January 5, 2017, in the packed Senate Chamber, Vermont Supreme Court Justice Beth Robinson performed the oath of office and I became the 80<sup>th</sup> Lt. Governor of Vermont. In my first month, I have worked very hard to keep my campaign promise of engaging all Vermonters in the political process.

## Highlights from January:

**Launched “Coffee with Constituents.”** My office is open every Friday morning to talk with and listen to Vermonters.

**Hosted “Our First Stand: Save Our Healthcare” rally** in Burlington where more than 1,000 Vermonters gathered to listen as personal stories were told about the importance of the Affordable Care Act and ensuring health care for all our citizens.

**YOUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES  
ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO CRAFT  
LEGISLATION THAT RECOGNIZES THE  
FINANCIAL BURDEN WORKING CLASS  
FAMILIES ARE CARRYING.**

**Invited representatives from labor and environmental organizations to my office** to build better communication and collaboration between these interests.

**Attended and Spoke at the Women’s March on Montpelier and Unity Rally.** On January 20<sup>th</sup>, more than 15,000 Vermonters came together in front of our State House to celebrate our collective power and determination to protect women’s rights, our environment, our LGBTQ sisters and brothers, and the communities of color.

**Launched #YouthCount** at Burr and Burton Academy in Manchester. This initiative focuses on engaging high school students in civic activity and providing opportunities for them to

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

“Coffee with Constituents” in the Lt. Governor’s office at the State House, Montpelier

### **February 26 2:00PM**

Speaking at “The Next Generation of Leadership” Hartland Universalist Church

## PUBLIC HEARINGS

### **February 9 - 7:00-8:30PM**

Re: Minimum Wage  
State House, Room 11,  
Montpelier

### **February 13 – 6:00-7:00PM**

Re: FY2018 Proposed State Budget

Bellows Falls: Windham Antique Center

Johnson: Johnson State College, Bentley 207

Rutland: Rutland Public Schools, Longfellow School Building

Winooski: Community College of VT, Janice Couture Room

### **February 16 – 6:00-7:00PM**

Re: FY2018 Proposed State Budget

State House, Room 11,  
Montpelier

**For a complete list of events please visit the calendar on our website:**

**[LTGov.vermont.gov](http://LTGov.vermont.gov)**

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share their ideas. I look forward to visiting a high school each month and to hosting a Statewide Town Hall Meeting for high school students on May 4, 2017 at 8:00PM broadcast live and streamed around the state via PBS.

I don't think any of us knew exactly what the impact of this new President would be on our country, state, and local communities. January has been a very difficult month for many. Numerous Vermonters, from immigrants to families of children with special needs to military families, have contacted my office to share their concerns. I do believe Vermont can show the nation what civil discourse in difficult times can look like. In Montpelier, we continued the unique practice of using individual expertise, rather than party affiliation, in assigning committee chairs. Multiple organizations have visited the State House and shared a variety of issues in a respectful and helpful way. Your Senators and Representatives are working together to craft legislation that recognizes the financial burden working class families are carrying, respects and protects our beautiful state, defends our civil liberties, and looks for creative ways to protect Vermonters if Federal programs or funding is cut.

I have greatly appreciated the communication coming from Vermonters, as well as your visits when you are in Montpelier, and hope to see many of you in the State House or on my visits to other parts of Vermont.



## #MAPLEMOSAIC

If you are, or know, a Vermont preschool – college student you might want to participate in a collaborative art project to raise awareness about our environment. #MapleMosaic will be a 50-foot square taking the form of 3 giant maple leaves, and will be comprised of students' artistic answers to questions such as: Why do you love Vermont? Contact Sarah ([sarah@ourclimate.us](mailto:sarah@ourclimate.us)) for instructions on how to make your 1 foot square for the collage. Squares are due by March 25<sup>th</sup> and the #MapleMosaic will be displayed on the State House lawn as part of **Youth Lobby Day on April 31, 2017**. For more info: <http://www.youthlobby.org/rallyfortheplanet/>

## INCOME BASED EDUCATION FUNDING

Property taxes are crippling many working families. We also value the importance of a quality education. Here in Montpelier a bill (S.58) was introduced to ensure all Vermonters pay based on income. Right now, Vermonters making more than \$137,500 often pay a smaller proportion of their household income than those making less. Ensuring all Vermonters, regardless of their wealth, pay based on income would result in a property tax reduction of about 10% for most Vermonters. I expect a similar bill will be introduced in the House soon. You can follow all bills by visiting <http://legislature.vermont.gov/>

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