

march 16, 2019

# LT. GOVERNOR ZUCKERMAN NEWSLETTER

MARCH 16, 2019

Last week many participated in Vermont's Town Meeting tradition. This mid-winter activity is democracy in action. Whether you attended a community update forum, voted on a paper ballot, or participated in a moderated Town Meeting, thank you.

One of the most important votes that takes place on Town Meeting day is on our local school budgets. This year voters, again, showed strong support for their local schools by passing 97% of the budgets. This was accomplished without artificial mandates or directives by the Governor. The strength of our schools, well above average when compared to similar demographic districts around the country, can be attributed to the dedicated, hardworking, caring staff who spend their days with Vermont's next generation. In concert with all who voted for budgets and support our schools I would like to thank all the staff, including classroom teachers, para-educators, custodians, those preparing meals, bus drivers and administrators, for your service.

Last week I launched a *'Building an Economy that Works for All'* Town Hall tour. Over the next month I will travel the state to connect Vermonters with the work being done in Montpelier, listen to the ideas and challenges you are facing and offer ways to amplify your voices. On the back, learn more about my tour and find a stop near you.

Legislators just completed what is known as 'cross-over week.' As of Friday, all bills must have been voted out of their committee to have a chance at being passed by the other body this year. The next few newsletters will look at some of the legislation that is moving such as raising the minimum wage, expanding expungement opportunities, increasing dental benefits, protecting reproductive choice, creating a tax and regulate system for cannabis and more.

Thank you for staying connected.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### March 20

4:00PM – Drive Electric Event  
6:00 – *'Downstream'* Movie.  
Northern State U, 207 Bentley Hall, Johnson

### March 22 8:30-10:00AM

*'Coffee with Constituents.'* Lt. Gov. Office, State House, Montpelier

### March 28 5:30PM

Lt. Gov. Movie *'Intelligent Lives.'* Cafeteria, State House, Montpelier

### April 1 6:00PM

Economy for All Town Hall Meeting. Memorial Building, 20 Church Street, Hardwick

### April 2

All Day – Attending Northern Tier Dairy Summit, Jay Peak

6:00 - Economy for All Town Hall Meeting. Big Picture Theater, Waitsfield

### April 2

12:30 – Speaking at Rights and Democracy Town Hall Press Conference. Cedar Creek Room, State House, Montpelier

3:00 – Attending and speaking at *'Intelligent Lives'* movie screening. Double Tree Hotel, 870 Williston Rd., S. Burlington

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

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

## DOWNSTREAM: THE EFFECTS OF PARENTAL INCARCERATION

Please join me for the first showing of ['Downstream,'](#) produced in collaboration with the Lamoille Restorative Center, on **Wednesday, March 20th at 6:00PM, Northern Vermont University, 207 Bentley Hall, Johnson.**

Following the movie will be a panel discussion. The movie can also be viewed:

Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00PM in the Pavilion Auditorium in Montpelier

Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30, as part of the Lt. Governor's Movie series, at the Briggs Opera House, WRJ

## ENERGY ACTION NETWORK PROGRESS REPORT

Yesterday we saw thousands of youth from around the globe march for our climate and future. I have been disappointed by the lack of movement on meaningful climate actions bills here in Montpelier, despite many being introduced and almost half the legislature serving as members of the climate caucus. Below is a summary of the Energy Action Network's Annual Progress Report. If, like me, you would like to see movement on bills addressing weatherization, alternative transportation, renewables and more, please contact your legislators and ask what is being done about this crisis. You can email them or call the Sergeant of Arms 802-828-2228 and leave them a short message. Find contact info: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/>

### **Report Summary by Sarah Wolfe, Network Director**

Energy Action Network recently released their [2018 Annual Progress Report](#), a status update on Vermont's energy and emissions progress. The report shines a spotlight on how meeting Vermont's energy and emissions commitments will carry major benefits for Vermonters and the state economy, but to do so requires state action far beyond what is already occurring.

Highlights of the report include new graphics that clearly demonstrate how our dependence on fossil fuels for transportation and home heating is a costly and inefficient use of energy. These sectors produce the largest share of greenhouse gas emissions.

Efficient and renewable options like weatherization, sustainable wood heat, cold climate heat pumps, and electric vehicles provide Vermonters lower and more predictable fuel costs. They also keep up to four times more of our energy dollars here in state compared to our current fossil fuel use. This benefits all Vermonters.

To read the full report and learn more about where Vermont currently stands on energy and emissions, the scale and pace of progress that would be necessary to meet the State's commitments, and the benefits to our economy and health that can result, visit [www.eanvt.org/2018-progress-report](http://www.eanvt.org/2018-progress-report).

## LT. GOVERNOR TOWN HALL TOUR

On March 7<sup>th</sup> the Lt. Governor launched his 10-stop '**Building an Economy that Works For All**' Town Hall tour. The tour is being organized by the Rights & Democracy Education Fund (RADEF) and co-sponsored by a wide range of organizations including local chapters of the NAACP, Green Mountain Self Advocates, Vermont Youth Lobby and more. At gatherings in Bellows Falls, Rutland and St. Albans discussions included racial justice, raising the minimum wage, paid family and medical leave, expungement, the cost of health care, ensuring clean water, climate change, transportation and more. Each event begins with food and music then a presentation on current topics by a panel including local legislators and issue specialists, followed by a facilitated discussion with the audience. All events are free and family friendly. I hope you will join me for one of our upcoming discussions.

April 1 6:00-8:00PM – Hardwick, Memorial Building, 20 Church Street

April 2 6:00-8:00PM – Waitsfield, Big Picture Theater, 48 Carroll Road

April 7 6:00-8:00PM – Vergennes, Kennedy Brothers Auditorium, 11 Main Street

April 11 6:00-8:00PM – Montpelier, U32 High School., 930 Gallison Hill Rd

April 13 10:00AM-12:00PM – Essex, Location TBD

April 14 2:00-4:00PM – Bennington, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 108 School Street

April 22 6:00-8:00PM – White River Junction, Location TBD