

LT. GOVERNOR ZUCKERMAN NEWSLETTER

APRIL 9, 2018

The decisions our government makes today will directly impact the future of Vermont's youth. As a lifelong proponent of youth activism, it is truly inspiring to see so many of our state's youth involved in the decision-making process through movements like March for Our Lives, Black Lives Matter, and the youth environmental movement to name a few.

While many are too young to vote, I work to remind those under 18 that their elected officials still represent them. I empower them to connect with their legislators and express their views.

Over the past few weeks I have met with high school students and youth leaders across the state to hear about their ideas and goals for Vermont. This past Wednesday, March 28th, I went to Bristol and met with students from the Mt. Abe Student Activism Club. We had a great discussion about community engagement strategies and how to connect with a diverse set of perspectives.

Last month I sat down with the outgoing pages who work here at the State House. These are eighth grade students who have chosen to spend six weeks delivering messages for legislators and learning more about how our legislature works. It was amazing to hear how much they had learned. They then asked how they could continue their involvement in local politics. A very encouraging sign for our state!

Youth can get involved in a variety of ways including running for public office. Inspired by Bernie, I first ran when I was still a student at UVM. Two years later I was elected to the Vermont House of Representatives. Another young Vermonter, Jay Hooper, is a first-term member of the House and at 24 is the second youngest legislator in the state. He shared some of his thoughts on youth involvement in politics and what inspired him to run for office in an op-ed on the back.

We must not abdicate our responsibility by telling youth we are counting on them to solve the problems we are facing. We must welcome their engagement, recognize their unique perspective, and thank them for pushing us to be part of the solution.



(Over)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Every Friday 8:30-10:00AM

'Coffee with Constituents' All are welcome to join the Lt. Governor for coffee or tea in his office at the State House.

April 11

12:00PM - *'Lunchtime Town Hall with Lt. Gov. Zuckerman and Guests'* Theme: Youth Activism. Live on Facebook VTLtGov

3:30 - Speaking at Democracies Class, Champlain College, Burlington

April 12

10:00 - Hosting *'The Lake Effect'* with House Committee on Natural Resources. State House, Room 10, Montpelier

12:00 - Financial Literacy Awards Ceremony. Pavilion Auditorium, Montpelier

April 13 9:00-6:30

'Make a Difference, Make a Living' Sustainability Conference. Green Mountain College, Poultney.

April 18 10:00AM

Youth Conference. U32 High School, Montpelier

April 26 5:30PM

Lt. Gov. Movie *"Awake: A dream from Standing Rock"* State House Cafeteria, Montpelier

For a complete list of events

please visit our website:

www.LTGov.vermont.gov

YOUTH TOWN HALL LIVE AND YOUTH LOBBY

Every Wednesday at noon I host a Town Hall 'live' on Facebook. On the show this coming Wednesday, April 11th, I will talk with students from Montpelier High School about youth activism and engagement. Watch this, and all my Town Hall video's, by visiting my Facebook page (@VTLtGov) and clicking on Video.

The next day, **April 12th, is *Climate Justice: Rally for the Planet 2018***, an initiative of the Youth Lobby. This event is specifically designed for young people to join together at the State House and speak out about one of the most pressing issues facing our state: climate change. This will be a day of marching, rallying, talking with state legislators, learning, and building momentum to make change on issues related to climate change and justice. Join the march from Montpelier High School to the State House at 10, and then rally at the State House from 10:15 to 1:45. To learn more about the rally, transportation, registration for students, and more, visit <http://www.youthlobby.org/rallyfortheplanet/>.

REPRESENTATIVE JAY HOOPER OP-ED

I'd like to thank our Lt. Governor for being a champion of youth engagement in political movement as the activist for progressive change that he has always been. **There is likely no better way to become politically motivated than to participate in a grassroots movement, and thanks to the savvy student organizers of today, opportunity is plentiful.** Having been a canvasser and field manager for Vermont Public Interest Research Group, my training grounds for sincere involvement in politics was any Vermont township to which I led a carpool of committed young activists. I graduated from Connecticut College as a double-major in [history and government] in May of 2016 and then launched a campaign for a seat in the House of Representatives about 15 days later. I believe that is imperative—for the vitality of democracy as we know it—that young people start thinking critically well before turning the legal age to become registered voters. **Not only must we vote every chance we get, from your local Selectboard race to each time this nation chooses a new president, but we must lead. It is up to us, to be the change we want to see in the world.**

SAVE THE DATE - RACIAL JUSTICE RALLY

It is time for our public schools to take on institutional racism and work to bring racial justice to all of our students in Vermont! You are invited to attend the **Vermont-NEA's kick off rally at noon on May 19th on the State House lawn.** I will be speaking, along with other teachers and students committed to racial justice in our State's schools. If you're interested in their work, the Vermont-NEA Racial Justice Task Force has created a comprehensive virtual toolkit for our schools to use as they take on this very important initiative. They look forward to getting interested allies together to support this important work.