

January 2, 2020

LT. GOVERNOR ZUCKERMAN NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2, 2020

Happy New Year! On January, 7th, the 2020 legislative session will begin. Legislators, community members, leaders, and activists will convene in Montpelier to share priorities, ideas, needs and challenges. Through committee work, public forums, citizen engagement and data analysis, legislation will be crafted to address, and hopefully mitigate, some of the challenges facing Vermont and Vermonters. **Your voice, experience and support are needed in this process.**

There has been a marked increase in citizen engagement here in Vermont and around the country. Often the discourse is charged, but democracy is an active sport and thrives with participation. You elected those representing you in Montpelier; I encourage you to build on that support and connect with your legislators as they work on your behalf in Montpelier. Vermont is one of the few states with a citizen legislature. Your Senators and Representatives have no paid staff assisting them. They rely on Legislative Council, lobbyists and **you** to provide data, real life experiences, links to resources and support to build and defend their positions. On the back you will find some suggestions for connecting with your publicly elected officials.

As I travel the state, I am consistently inspired by the ideas, dedication and work being done by individuals, community organizations and local businesses. They are finding ways to address and overcome the underlying causes of economic, environmental and social injustice that divide us and cause too many of our hard-working neighbors to suffer. Let's bring some of these examples and creative ideas to Montpelier and build on them.

Next Friday, January 10th, I will open the office from 8:30-10AM for my weekly '*Coffee with Constituents*' event. This year, I'm inviting different organizations to co-host these events and use them to build support for their work and legislative goals. This opening event will be co-hosted by the Vermont Youth Lobby and Voices for Vermont's Children Youth Council. If you are in the area, I hope you will stop by.

Thank you for staying engaged and connected.



UPCOMING EVENTS

January 2, 7:00AM

Live on The Morning Drive with Kurt and Marcus. WVMT 96.3FM/620AM

January 7

10:00AM – Vermont Senate and House Convene.

Respective Chambers, State House, Montpelier

3:00PM – Welcome Reception for Xusana Davis, VT. Director of Racial Equity. Office of Lt. Gov., State House Montpelier

January 9, 2:00PM

Presiding over Joint Assembly for Gov. Scott's State of the State. House Chamber, State House, Montpelier

January 10, 17, 24 & 31 8:30-10:00AM

'Coffee with Constituents.'
Office of Lt. Governor, State House Montpelier

January 15, 12:00PM

Attending and Speaking at Homelessness Vigil. State House Steps, Montpelier

January 21

11:00AM - Speaking to Vermont Bankers Association. Capitol Plaza, Montpelier

2:00PM – Presiding over Joint Assembly for Gov. Scott's Budget Address. House Chamber, State House, Montpelier

January 23, 5:30PM

Lt. Gov. Movie '*ROLLBACKS.*' Cafeteria, State House, Montpelier

**For a complete list of events please visit our website:
www.LTGov.vermont.gov**

MEET VERMONT'S DIRECTOR OF EQUITY

This summer, Xusana Davis was hired as Vermont's first Director of Racial Equity. In this role, she works across all branches of state government to identify structural racial inequity and develop inclusive policies to support all Vermonters. She also works with state leaders to gather and track data and use it to inform future policies aimed at reducing disparities between Vermont's ethnic groups and to help expand the diversity of the state's population.

Please join me Tuesday, January 7th from 3:00-4:00PM at a Welcoming Reception for Xusana in my office.

CONTACTING YOUR PUBLICLY ELECTED OFFICIAL

Vermont's Legislative Website (<https://legislature.vermont.gov/>) is an information packed, easy to use, database to help you follow legislation and connect with your legislators. You can track any bill here, follow committee activity, find your legislators and their contact information, and learn of upcoming public hearings or State House events.

Your Senators and Representatives often hear from very few constituents and your voice can make a big difference. Here are some tips for productive communication with your elected leaders.

- Never assume you know your legislator's position. It is great to start conversations by asking them what they know or think about the issue you are interested in.
- Offer to share your experiences or thoughts and ask them if there are ways you can assist them in advocating for the issue.
- Be respectful of time. Prepare your main talking points so your conversation will stay focused. Write brief emails with offers to provide additional information if it is desired.
- Legislators need to hear from you when you support their position and votes just as much as they need to hear when you have differing opinions.
- Remember the importance of 'thank you.' Legislators work hard to do what they believe will best serve their constituents and Vermont. Thanking them for their time and service is greatly appreciated.

LT. GOVERNOR ZUCKERMAN'S 2020 MOVIE SERIES

I'm excited for the kick-off of my 2020 movie series and hope you will join me in the Cafeteria of the State House for these films. Movies take place on the fourth Thursday of each month. We welcome attendees at 5:30PM for networking and snacks and start the movies at 6:00PM. Each movie is followed by a panel and community discussion. For more information please visit: <https://ltgov.vermont.gov/monthly-movie-series>.

January 23: *ROLLBACKS: An assault against life on earth.* This film, produced in Vermont, looks at the environmental consequences of policies the Trump administration has reversed.

February 27: *Film to be selected.* We are looking for a racial justice or Black history film. If you have suggestions, please contact us: <https://ltgov.vermont.gov/contact>.

March 27: *Coming Home.* Produced by Vermonter Bess O'Brien, this film follows five recently released prisoners and spotlights the Circle of Accountability and Support (COSA) program and restorative justice.

April 23: *Owned: A Tale of Two Americas.* This film explores the promise and impact of US housing policies.