



**OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

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**For Immediate Release:**  
April 14, 2021

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**\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\***

**BFA-Fairfax Seniors Are “Lt. Governor for a Day” as Part of Virtual Program in the Vermont State House**

Montpelier, Vt. — On Wednesday, April 14th, 2021 BFA-Fairfax seniors visited the Vermont State House virtually as part of Lt. Governor Gray’s “Lt. Governor for a Day” program.

Launched in February, the bi-weekly virtual program aims to connect Vermont classrooms and students with State government, the legislative process, and the inner-working of the Lt. Governor’s Office and State House.

BFA-Fairfax teacher Mr. Joe Emery and his Senior Civics class met with Lt. Governor Gray via Zoom in advance of the 1:00pm convening of the Vermont Senate, over which the Lt. Governor presides from the Senate Chamber. Lt. Governor Gray recognized the students during the proceedings while they watched the live session via YouTube.

Students shared their views on legislative efforts to require civics education in schools as well as criminal justice reform legislation currently before the Vermont Senate which would eliminate criminal defenses based on victim identity, specifically the “LGBTQ+ panic defense”.

“It has been a challenging year for Vermont High School students, especially seniors preparing for a future with a lot of unknowns caused by this pandemic.” Gray said. “Many students today expressed their eagerness to leave Vermont after graduation. Because of our demographic, this is concerning. I remain committed to engaging graduates on the educational, training and workforce opportunities that exist in our communities.”

“Students also raised important questions about government accessibility and transparency during the pandemic,” Gray added. “For many students and teachers this pandemic has made government more accessible online. As we move forward and encourage civic participation by next generation leaders at the local and statewide-level we must keep tools for strengthening accessibility and transparency top of mind.”

The “Lt. Governor for a Day” program runs every other Wednesday from roughly 12:00 – 2:00pm throughout the Legislative session. To learn more visit: <https://ltgov.vermont.gov/ltgovernorforaday>.

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