

LT. GOVERNOR ZUCKERMAN NEWSLETTER

APRIL 15, 2017

Over the last four months I've heard from hundreds of Vermonters; in my office during my "Coffee with Constituents" time on Friday mornings, at community forums around the state, and from numerous email and phone communications. I've heard loud and clear; the majority of Vermonters are tapped out.

The Governor presented a budget in January, recognizing the need and value of investing in pre-K and higher education, but missing a realistic way to fund this. It was premised on shifting new costs to the local property tax.

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What I haven't heard over the last few months are creative ideas to pay for the services needed, particularly for our youth and most vulnerable, or any alternative proposals to meet the noble goals the Governor put forward.

On April 13th, all Legislators received a forward-thinking, fair proposal to address our budget needs from the diverse coalition, One Vermont. Their report, "[Meeting Vermonters' needs in Fiscal 2018 and beyond](#)," was put together by the Public Assets Institute. Their proposal would balance the budget without more cuts to state services.

(Over)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Every Friday 8:30-10:00AM

"Coffee with Constituents" in the Lt. Governor's office at the State House, Montpelier

April 19

5:00 – Meet the Lt. Governor
One Main Tap & Grill,
Randolph

7:00 – Community Meeting,
Thetford Community Center

April 20, 6:00 P.M.

Town Hall Meeting on Health
Care, Montpelier High School
Auditorium

April 23, 4:00 P.M.

Community Meeting with Rep.
Burke. Brattleboro Co-op

April 25

11:00 - Sterling College Visit

6:00 - UVM Town Hall Meeting
Waterman, Burlington

April 27, 9:00 A.M.

Visit Montpelier High School

May 4, 8:00 P.M.

Vermont High School Town
Meeting. Broadcast live on
Vermont PBS

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

LtGov.vermont.gov

This bold plan includes:

1. **Funding the Governor's proposed investments** without adding state mandates reducing local control.
2. **Solving the budget gap** without additional harmful cuts.
3. **Eliminating income tax loopholes** for the highest-income Vermonters while lowering tax rates for everyone.

I am encouraged by the vision they have put forward, and welcome the discussion I hope it will foster. These ideas would lead us to a more prosperous future for hardworking Vermonters. I encourage you to [read their summary](#) and let me know what you think. While you are at it, email your legislators and share your ideas with them too. You can find contact information for them at www.legislature.vermont.gov.

As always, I welcome your thoughts and feedback. I will continue to host “*Coffee with Constituents*,” my open office time from 8:30-10:00 Friday's at the State House, until the legislature adjourns in May.



ONE VERMONT

One Vermont is a coalition of citizens, organizations, and businesses committed to state policies, programs, and public structures that help build a society that works for all Vermonters.

Their steering committee includes:

Dan Barlow, Public Policy Manager, Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility

Paul Cillo, Executive Director, Public Assets Institute

Carlen Finn, Executive Director, Voices for Vermont's Children

Dan Hoxworth, Executive Director, Capstone Community Action

Karen Lafayette, Legislative Advocate, Vermont Low Income Advocacy Council (VLIAC)

Ed Paquin, Executive Director, Disability Rights Vermont

Colin Robinson, Political Director, VT NEA

Julie Tessler, Executive Director, Vermont Council of Developmental and Mental Health Services

For more information visit www.onevt.org

Vermont Lt. Governor David Zuckerman

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www.LtGov.vermont.gov