

Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Executive Summary

The Lieutenant Governor serves as President of the Senate, as a Member of the Committee on Committees, casts a tie-breaking vote when the Senate is equally divided, and stands in for the Governor should that be necessary. As a result of its limited constitutional duties, the Lieutenant Governor is able to dedicate time to special projects and initiatives to improve government efficiency, accountability, and expand citizen participation in democracy. To that end, the Lieutenant Governor devotes significant amount of time to engaging Vermonters from all corners of the state.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, the 2022 Legislative session will again face unique challenges. The Lieutenant Governor and her Chief of Staff, continue safe and socially distant in-person operations necessary to uphold the Lieutenant Governor's constitutional obligations, including presiding over remote or hybrid convenings of the Senate.

Against that backdrop, most activities of the Office are remote during the first half of 2022 or longer and benefit from the effective use of existing technology. Moreover, existing staff resources are committed to supporting COVID-19 response and Vermont's recovery.

The Lieutenant Governor, her Chief of Staff, and unpaid interns work to meet the urgent and ongoing needs of Vermonters impacted by COVID-19. In close coordination with the Scott Administration and Vermont's Congressional Delegation, the Office continues to regularly and rapidly direct Vermonters to available COVID-19 resources as well as support services.

The Lieutenant Governor utilizes all existing technology to support Vermonters in remotely accessing the Office and to meet Vermonters virtually in their communities.

On a bi-weekly basis the Lieutenant Governor hosts virtual events for constituents, advocacy groups, lawmakers, and other members of the public on topical issues. These virtual events bring the voices of Vermonters into the State House during the remote legislative session and elevate their views and expertise. This bi-weekly gathering will continue to be held virtually for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On a regular basis, the Lieutenant Governor also meets bi-laterally with constituents, advocacy groups and lawmakers via existing telecommunications platforms to hear their views on existing legislation or policy initiatives.

In the absence of the ability to travel to communities across Vermont, the Lieutenant Governor also meets virtually with Vermonters in their homes and businesses.

The Lieutenant Governor continues to support a "recover stronger" strategy for Vermont that addressess deeply rooted inequities and vulnerabilities present before the COVID-19 pandemic. These inequities and vulnerabilities include: systemic racism; a demographic crisis and shrinking workforce; a lack of affordable, universal and quality childcare; inequity in access to broadband; food insecurity; soaring healthcare costs; a housing crisis; and the climate crisis.

What is more, the Lieutenant Governor recognizes that the State's budget constraints are linked to shrinking revenue streams in light of the State's demographic crisis, and that the Office plays an important role in supporting legislative efforts, convening community leaders and building coalitions to devise long-term solutions.

With acknowledgement of the limited staffing and resources of the Office, the Lieutenant Governor gives particular attention to three areas where investment could have the greatest impact on Vermont's economic infrastructure: workforce development,

universal access to broadband and addressing the economic well-being of Vermont families.

The Lieutenant Governor regularly partners with Vermont's Congressional Delegation, the Scott Administration, lawmakers, community leaders, community non-profits and businesses to help close Vermont's broadband gap.

The Lieutenant Governor also regularly partners with Vermont educators, employers, community leaders, and non-profits to grow a classroom-to-community pipeline that supports Vermont employers in recruiting and retaining employees, and Vermont employees in access good jobs in a 21st century Vermont economy.

Finally, the Lieutenant Governor regularly works to support efforts to address the economic well-being of Vermont families. Particularly, efforts to support universal access to childcare, eldercare, as well as paid family and medical leave.

When the COVID-19 pandemic concludes and in-person gatherings and travel are more frequent again, the Lieutenant Governor meets with individuals and communities across Vermont on identified priority areas as well as the issues facing Vermonters at home and in the workplace. In turn, the Lieutenant Governor shares the perspectives, ideas and concerns she gathers from communications with Vermonters with lawmakers.

At all times, the Lieutenant Governor strives to put the needs of Vermonters at the forefront and work in a non-partisan fashion. In particular, in recognition of the January 6, 2021 deadly attack on the U.S. Capitol and national distrust in government, the Lieutenant Governor carries out the responsibilities of the Office with a commitment to integrity, truthfulness and transparency, and an abiding respect for the Vermont Constitution and the rule of law.