



## **2017 Legislative Policy Framework**

### **1. Support for a Thriving Private Sector Economy**

- a. Define Independent Contractors for the purposes of Workers' Compensation and Unemployment Insurance, reflecting both the needs of our 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce and Vermont's long tradition of independent business people.
- b. Create 'time certain' permit and regulatory decisions to allow businesses to move forward or redirect their efforts.
- c. Support economic incentives and training programs targeted to new and expanding businesses, to include raising the cap on VEGI and having a single government agency review and dispense federal training dollars.
- d. Revise current storm water regulations to permit businesses and municipalities to collaborate on reaching net zero requirements within current time structure.

### **2. Affordability & Efficiency**

- a. Align State budget growth with the growth of Vermont's economy.
- b. Begin the process to pass a Constitutional Amendment setting a 4-year term for the Governor and enact legislation mandating biennial budgets.
- c. Fee increases should be in line with cost of living increases and not used in lieu of raising taxes.
- d. Adopt a five to ten-year plan to retire unfunded pension liabilities for state employees and teachers and then fund on an ongoing basis new commitments.
- e. Refine our health care regulatory process so that it encourages competition and improves service and quality outcomes without escalating costs to businesses or their employees.
- f. Focus on measures that increase efficiency within our health care delivery system in order to reduce health care costs.
- g. Prioritize housing creation that is affordable to working Vermonters. There is a significant need in Northwest Vermont for single family homes at 300,000 or less.

### **3. Workforce**

- a. Coordinated through the Agency of Commerce, market Vermont as a place to live, work and visit, with sufficient funds to reach a national markets through multi-media platforms and targeted sector outreach.
- b. Define the skills gap between current vacant jobs and current talent pool undertake a formal state directed initiative, using private sector training partners.
- c. Better define the costs to expand early education and the anticipated outcomes. Expansion should use savings found through K-12 and other efficiencies.
- d. The cost of requiring paid time off above current benefit levels must be quantified prior to enacting legislation mandating this additional benefit.