

A Framework for Progress: Investing in Vermont's people, infrastructure, and good government



1. Ensure that work pays and families meet their basic needs.

A. Make work pay.

- Increase the state minimum wage and state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) so that working families have a livable income.
- Eliminate public benefits barriers that reduce incomes when earnings increase.
- Expand short-term compensation programs to help employers avoid layoffs.

B. Ensure family economic security.

- Make high quality, affordable early care and education available to all who need it.
- Open state-administered retirement plans to everyone.
- Ensure that Reach Up fulfills its statutory purpose to serve the “well-being of children by providing for their immediate basic needs, including food, housing, and clothing.”

C. Advance cost containment and public funding of health care.

2. Make smart, evidence- based investments.

A. Improve Vermont's education system.

- Add two years to public education.
- Improve adult education and workforce training.

B. Increase public investment in infrastructure.

- Fund transportation in ways that are both financially and environmentally sustainable.
- Ensure that state investment in high-speed Internet benefits the public.
- Repair Vermont's aging drinking water, waste water, and solid waste systems.
- Invest in long-term improvements in affordable housing.

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3. Restore public confidence in state government.

A. Restore government's capacity to do its job.

- Strengthen performance measurement and results-based accountability throughout state government.
- Restore policy and planning staff.

B. Include long-range planning in the budget process.

- Provide clear estimates of spending now and at least five years into the future, as is done with revenue.
- Increase rainy day funds and make them easier to use.

C. Fund state services equitably.

- Replace school property taxes on primary residences with an income based tax.
- Avoid business tax incentive gimmicks.