

LCC

**ADVOCACY**

# Introduction to House Commerce and Economic Development

Austin Davis, Director of Government Affairs



## Introduction to the Lake Champlain Chamber

1. Seeking economic opportunity for all.
2. Celebrating business ownership and entrepreneurship.
3. Promoting a robust, diversified visitor economy.
4. Cultivating community leadership.
5. Nurturing emerging talent.





## *Nurturing emerging talent*

- **TalentBTV is a Lake Champlain Chamber initiative that focuses on strengthening our business community's talent recruitment and retention through programming and connections.**
  - Burlington Young Professionals
  - Recruitment and relocation work



## *Celebrating business ownership and entrepreneurship*

- LaunchVT accelerates outstanding early-stage, Vermont-based startups with world class business curricula, networking opportunities, and industry-specific mentorship to help their ventures scale.
- Received funding as part to further the region's GaN work / Tech Hub.

# Overall Impact



**300+**

people employed by 71 businesses accelerated since inception



**\$25M**

in revenues from LaunchVT alumni in 2021



**\$150K**

in cash and services invested in businesses in 2022



**\$1M**

invested over the lifetime of the program



**43%**

female or BIPOC founders



## ALUMNI

**PLINK!**

Sleep Well Recycling

DANDYLION

**Dairy Dirt**

**LOGIC**  
BUILDING SYSTEMS

PURPL  
couch

QOR360

TACITLY

wasted\*

Little Patakha

bivo

euerMind

SLÄGGN

Vermont Shrimp

TalkGo

ZION GROWERS

OST LANTERN

WYLO BIOSCIENCES

IRONELYR

SHIKIWRAP

MONA

AVIAR.PADZ

AQUANA

ApprentiScope

BrandGen

ATMOSPHERIA

StrollRunner

BRICK MATH

Pictal Health

SEAROCKET

VARISES

PACKETIZED ENERGY

BENCHMARK SPACE SYSTEMS

BURLINGTON CODE ACADEMY

EZ-Probate

cora ball

OGEE

ARENOUN

THINKMD

IRISVR

**SAP!**

LOCALVORE

MAJORITY

fla bot

FLOURISH FARM, VT

LAUNCHPAD

Notabli

STILL THYME BOTANICALS

bitybean

CashorTrade

campersAPP

A&I ALICE & THE MAGICIAN FLAVOR & FRAGRANCE

WINTERSMITHS

adver-cycle

wheel pad your home, accessible now

SHARE TO WEAR.

HomeOutside

agewize

Northview WEATHER

TheaterEngine

*Promoting a robust,  
diversified visitor  
economy.*

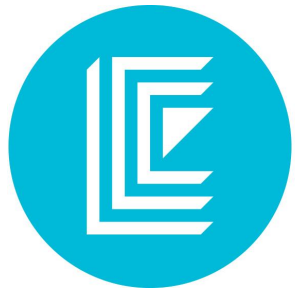


- Hello Burlington is the destination marketing initiative of Greater Burlington, VT, promoting the region for leisure travel, business meetings, and events.
  - Public relations
  - Conference and event leads
  - Promotional materials
  - Relocation efforts
  - Generally managing relationships with visitors and future Vermonters



## ***Cultivating community leadership.***

- Leadership Champlain is a professional development and community engagement program of the Lake Champlain Chamber with a mission to foster growth and leadership in professionals who will serve our community now and in the future.
- Consists of retreats, full-day seminars, service projects, discussion groups and community tours from September to June.
- Notable alumni include many in the State House...
- We've since expanded to include Advance Champlain aimed at C-Suite Leaders



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## Our Priorities



**AFFORDABILITY**



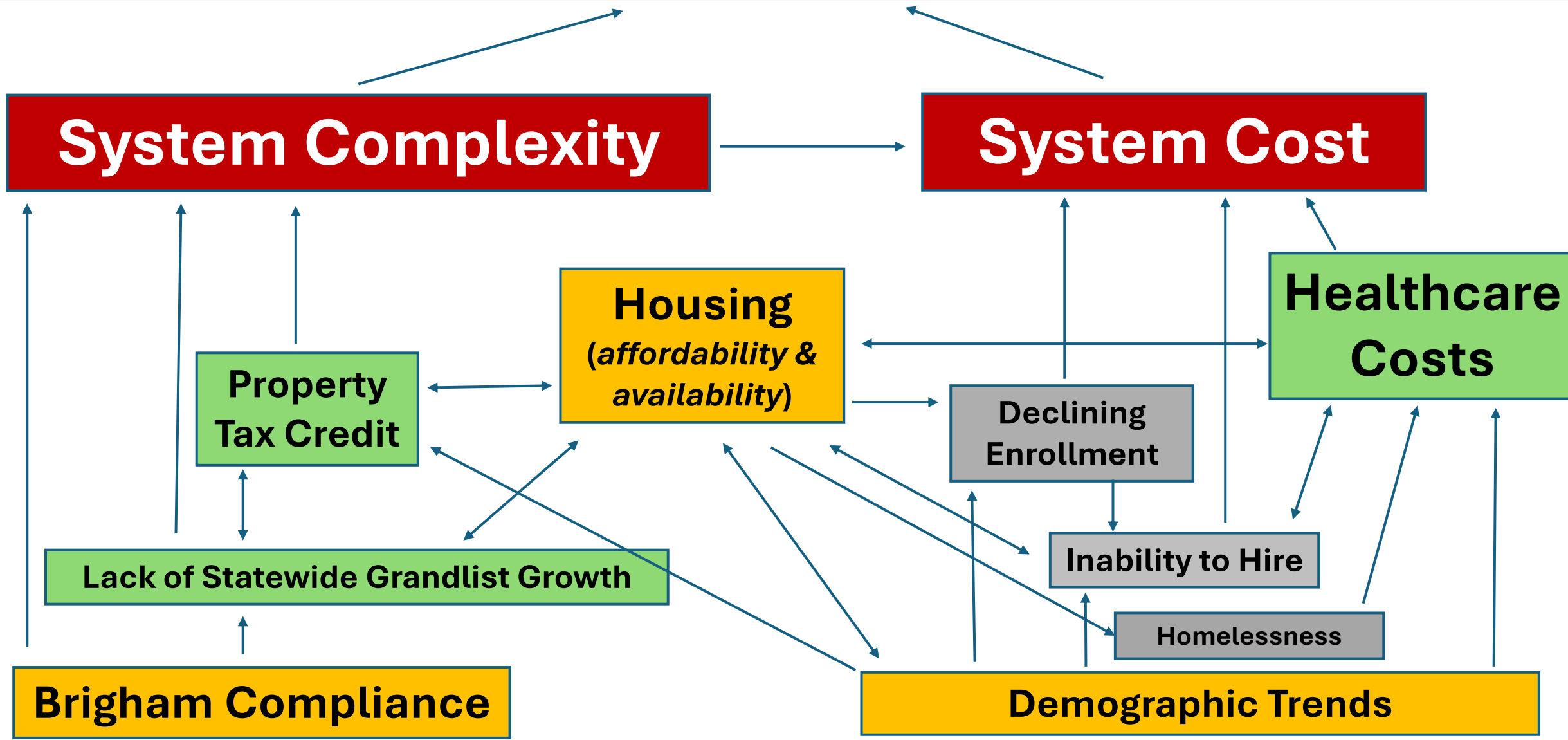
**HOUSING**



**PUBLIC SAFETY**

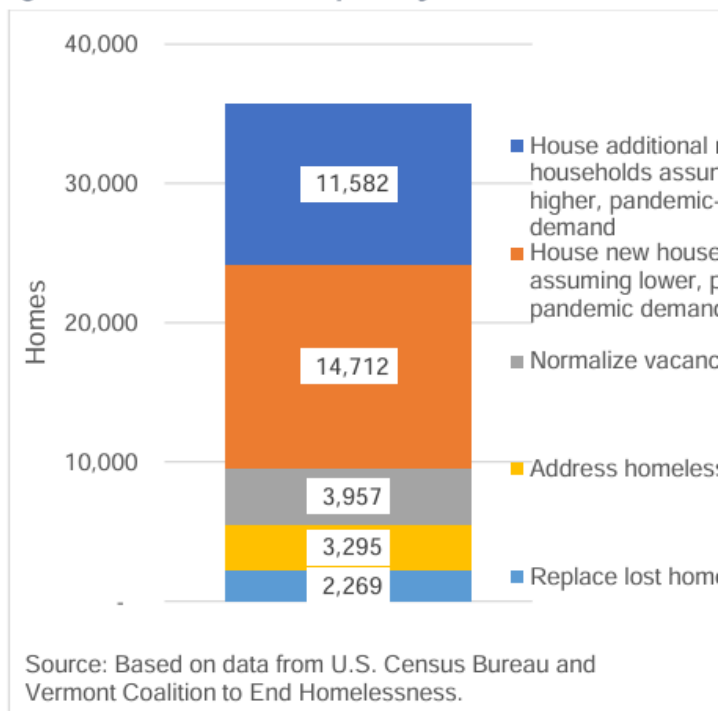


# Statewide Education System Funding Crisis

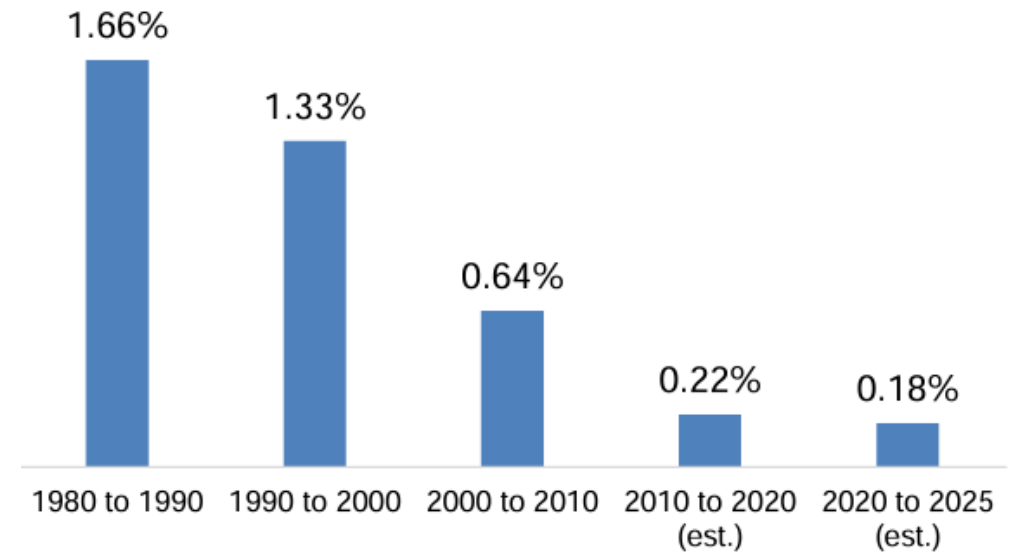


# A lack of housing is at the root of all problems

Figure 1-1 36,000 Vermont primary homes needed in 2025



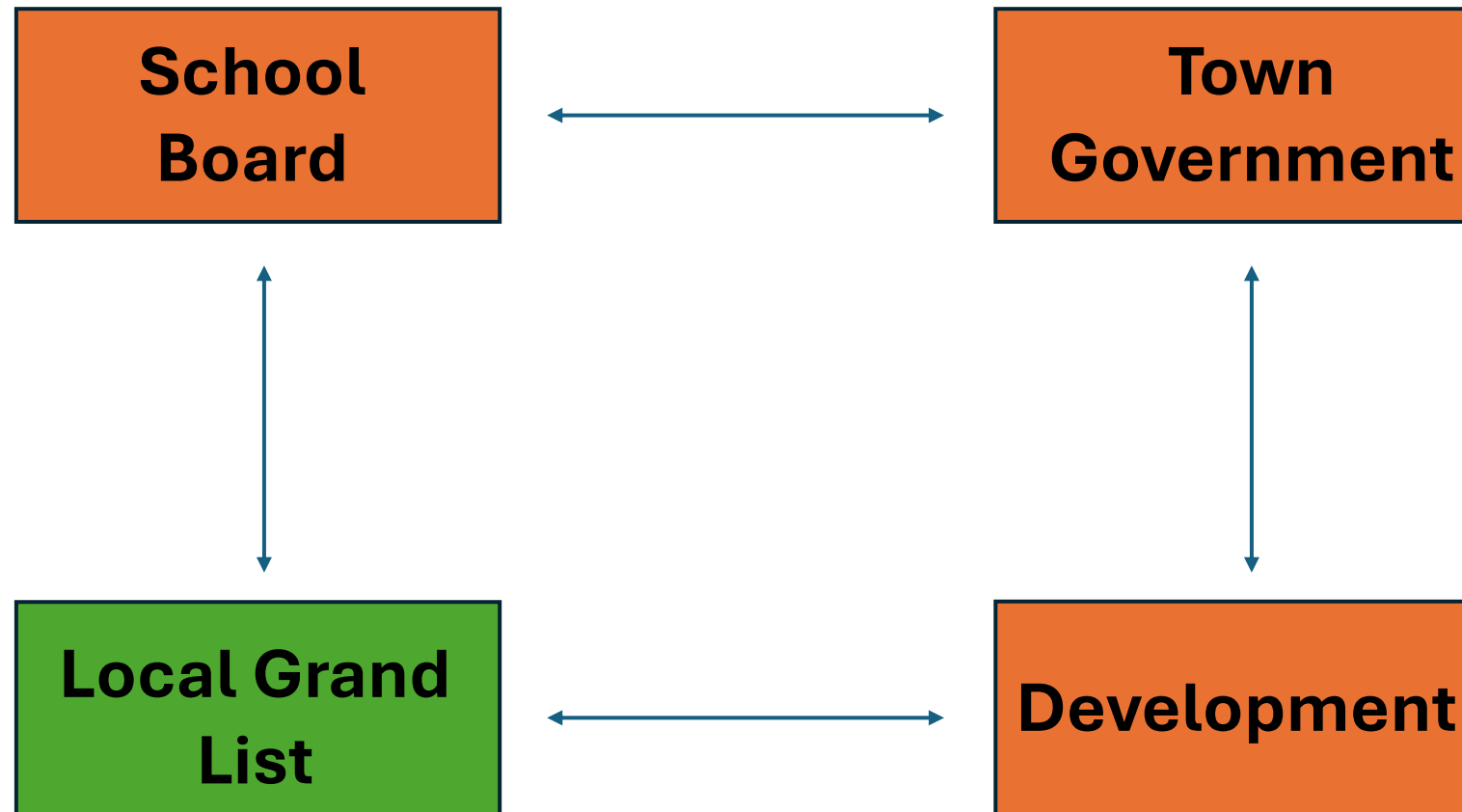
Average annual growth of Vermont's year-round housing stock



Source: U.S. Census Bureau from [housingdata.org](https://www.housingdata.org) and Claritas.

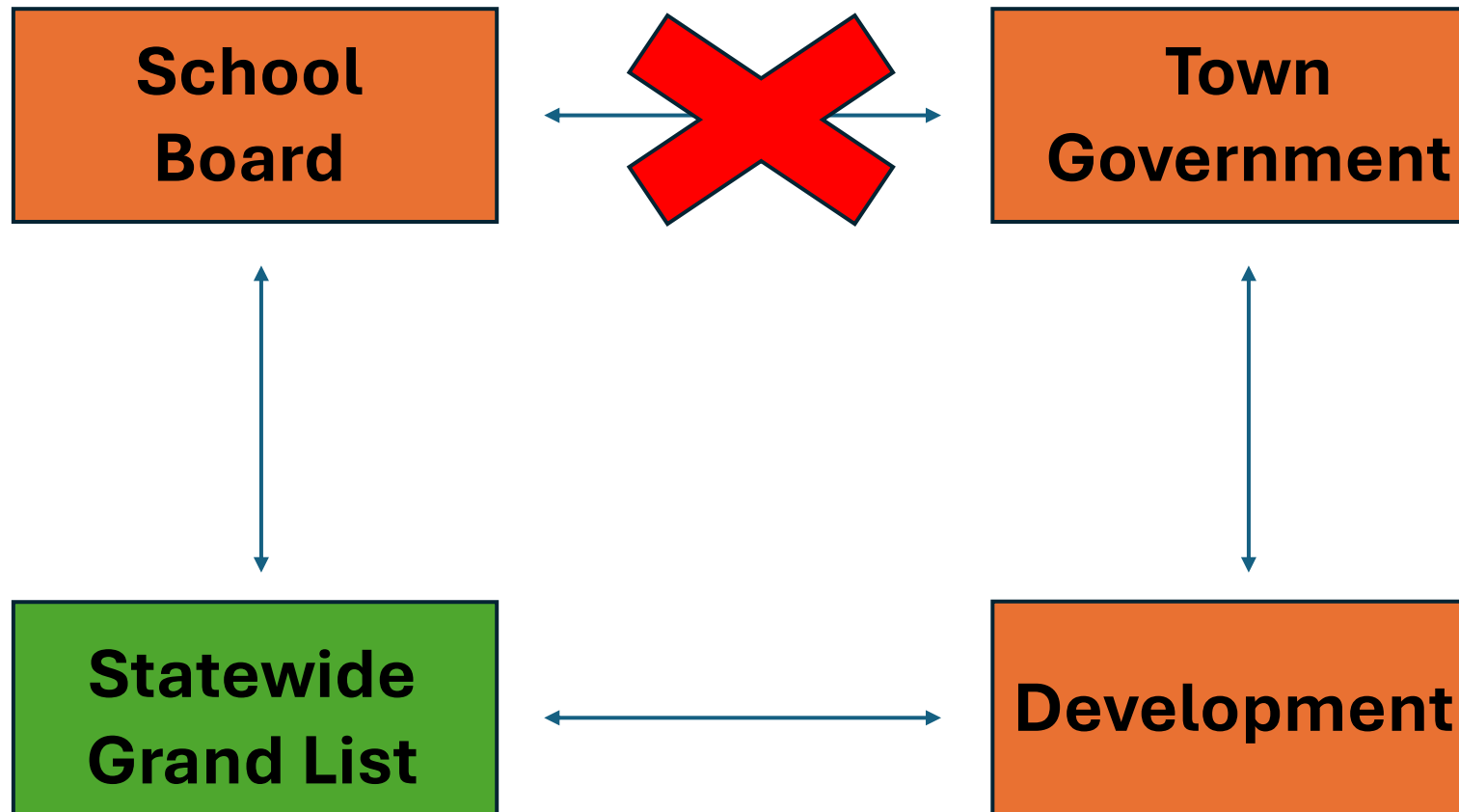
# Pre-Brigham

Local education decisions were linked to grand list growth, requiring collaboration at the local level to grow the grandlist



# Post-Brigham

Post-Brigham, there is local control with statewide dollars, detaching local grandlist growth from local education. Grandlist growth becomes everyone's job, which means it is no one's job.

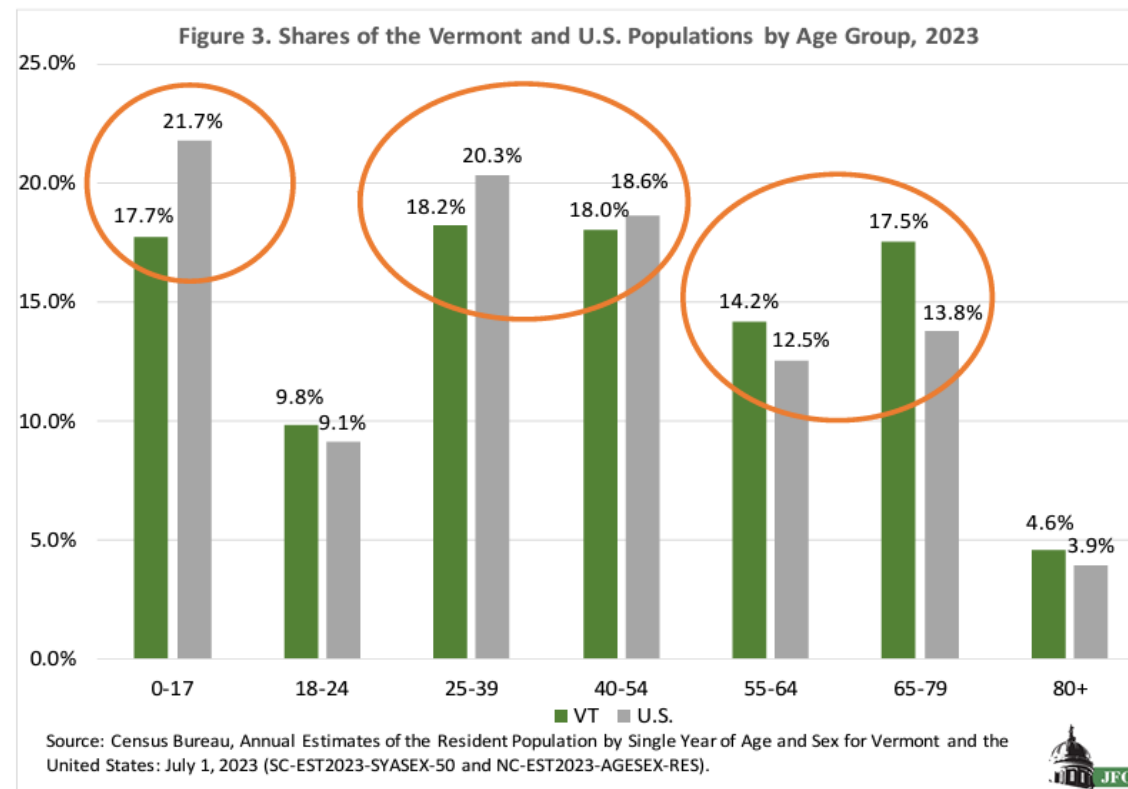


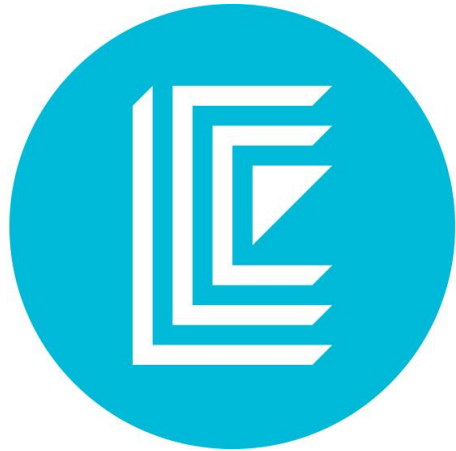
# Grand List Growth

- We often discuss our education funding issues as issues of “local control with statewide dollars”
  - We have a classic “tragedy of the commons” in which schools can draw from a statewide resource with no real consequences for drawing too much
- We don’t talk enough about the issue “local control of the development of statewide dollars.”
  - The statewide education fund is funded by the aggregate of grandlists across the state and incentives are diminished to help build that fund

# Our Aging Demographics

- **Who's going to do the work?** The aging population poses challenges for Vermont's labor force, now comprising just 50.4% of residents aged 25–64, down from 51.3% in 2020.
- The working age population is projected to decline by 13% by 2040.
- Individuals over 65 are projected to be 1-in-5 Vermonters by 2030 and to exceed 30% of the total population by 2040.





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# Questions?

Austin Davis, Director of Government Affairs

[Austin@vermont.org](mailto:Austin@vermont.org)