

## **To the Chair and members of the Senate Committee on Appropriations**

The League of Women Voters of Vermont is writing in support of the Vermont State Ethics Commission's request for funding of two additional staff members: one legal counsel to provide state government services and one staff attorney whose primary job will be to provide advice and training to municipal officials.

The Vermont State Ethics Commission's staffing has remained the same since 2021, though its responsibilities were increased in both 2022 and 2024 with the addition of the State Code of Ethics (2022) and Municipal Code of Ethics (2024.) The former required training for State employees and public servants. The latter required training for certain local officials and gave the Commission investigating powers.

The Vermont State Ethics Commission currently has a staff of one Full-Time Equivalent (FTE): a part-time Administrative Assistant and part-time Executive Director. In contrast, as highlighted in the Commission's budget request, [Hawaii's State Ethics Commission](#) (Hawaii's population is a little more than double that of Vermont) employs 12 staff: Executive Director, Compliance Director, Enforcement Director, three attorneys, Investigator, Investigatory Analyst, Computer Specialist, Office Manager, Secretary, and Administrative Assistant. [The Rhode Island Ethics Commission](#) (Rhode Island's population is less than double Vermont's population) has 11 staff: Executive Director/Chief Prosecutor, three attorneys (one of whom also acts as Education Coordinator), three investigators, Office Manager, Financial Disclosure Officer, Administrative Assistant, and Administrative Aide.

It's time the Vermont State Ethics Commission was given resources commensurate with its responsibilities.

**Sue Racanelli, President**