

## Vermont Progressive Party State Committee Meeting August 7, 2021

Meeting attendees: Party Chairs Anthony Polina and Marielle Blias, Secretary Chris Brimmer, Delegates Olivia Brimmer, Ellen Oxfeld, Jeremy Hanson, Ken White, Elijah Bergman, Laurel Stevenson, Lynn Barnes, Steve May, Cynthia Weed, Rachel Siegel, David Kreindler Barb Giardi, Mark Hughes, Bill Coleman, Party Director Josh Wronsku, Legislative Assistant Lisa Gerlach,.

1) Anthony opened at 1:00 PM.

2) Anthony laid out the meeting agenda and discussed the budget surplus and reapportionment issues to be discussed in more detail. Ellen discussed the failure of the public input process for affordable health care.

3) Ellen opened a discussion of the health care issue discussed the failure of the public input process for affordable health care, Steve May raised the issue of the sale of patient and violation of privacy rights. Mark Hughes raised the issues of health outcome disparities driven by wealth inequality that has been laid bare by the pandemic, suggests that it should be a priority when looking at the budget surpluses forecast over the next 2 years.

4) Josh updated on a shift in personnel, Lisa is going down to 10 hrs a week to take another opportunity. While the fundraiser was successful the budget with two full time staffers was getting tighter and tighter. This will shift the budget for the coming year. .

5) Josh moved into executive update, been working on the Ward 3 race in Burlington, feels confident about holding the seat, election August 17. Gearing up for party re-org, expects town committees to pull together in September. Working with AFL-CIO on rolling back some privatization efforts in Burlington. Lisa working legislative events on education, harm reduction and pension issues. The fundraiser was a great way to bring Progressives back together for the first time in a long time. Lisa is working on standing up restorative justice committee.

6) Cindy gave a report for the fundraising committee. We have been receiving more donations from both new members and old and the fundraiser was very successful. Another event is planned for Hubbard Park Montpelier in September. Working up new swag to sell on the website. Josh added the monthlies are now covering the operational budget.

7) Turned to Restorative Justice Committee, to work on best practices and deal with issues of conflict in the party. We have those sorts of resources in the Party and will be reaching out to those members. Communications Committee, we need to speed our ability to respond immediately when events arise that need a party statement. Elections we have a concern about getting a 5% vote total for a statewide candidate. Re-org we need to organize 30 towns and 7 counties to maintain our status, we have been double the requirement the last several cycles, we may look at how we devote resources in towns and counties where we really aren't running candidates. Anthony mentioned the issue of the open ballot issue where we had to defend against others using our ballot. We are planning to hang on to all the ones we have now but turning new ground may not be on the agenda.

8) Redistricting, Chittenden County may pick up one and will be broken up and the question is how. Discussion around one seat vs two seat districts. Much easier campaign in a single seat district but some two seat districts have a sense of identity that breaking them up might not make sense. Jeremy reviewed the process. Elijah made an argument for a more partisan approach to the way the districts are split.

9) Anthony reviewed the meeting and the legislative priorities of the party.

Meeting adjourned at 2:34 PM.