

Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

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Candidate Survey 2004

By
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This is the seventh General Election for which the Christian Action Ministry has provided a survey of the candidates' positions on those issues of interest to the body of Christ. To enable you to understand the survey and appreciate the information contained in it, we will provide some insight about the thought process that went into the survey and how we obtained the information that it contains.

The first step in developing a survey is to determine the questions that you would like answers to. The members of CAM met to formulate the questions. We wanted them to represent those issues that should be, and are, of interest to Christians. Many of the questions would not be asked of the candidates in the normal forums found in the local papers or sponsored by various groups. The type of questions we tried to ask were also geared to determining a candidate's character. How someone stands on an issue, even if it may not come to a vote or be contained in legislation, can tell you a lot about how they might react to other issues that have not yet been introduced.

Once a first draft of the questions was formulated, we took some time to refresh our thought process and regrouped several times to

review them again. We worded the questions with a key word, usually SUPPORT or OPPOSE, to clarify the intent of each question and allow a "yes" or "no" answer.

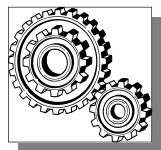
The next step in the survey was to determine who would be contacted. In past questionnaires we decided to limit our questionnaire to candidates for the Vermont House and Senate from Chittenden, and Grand Isle Counties, since the bulk of our readers re-

viewers of the primaries, as well as those whose seats were uncontested, were mailed the questionnaire. Unfortunately independent candidates, those not associated with a recognized party, register later and there is not sufficient time to include them in our survey.

Not all candidates answered. Some never answer questionnaires; others don't wish you to know their positions (particularly if they are not favorably inclined to a Christian perspective); and many of the uncontested races saw no need to put the effort into providing a reply. We have seen a decline over the years in the number of candidates who respond, and feel this is a regrettable trend. We attempt to make up for this by repeated calls to the candidates to complete the survey or to give us the information over the telephone.

The final step is setting up a format to display the answers and entering that information as it is received. We hope you will closely review the survey and make an informed decision on November 2nd.

Dick Trudell is a Board member of CAM and attends Community Bible Church.



In the Works

Election Follow-up

Are you interested in becoming involved? CAM is looking for interested and active people to act as liaisons to their church, helping to keep the Christian community informed. Contact CAM at 372-6442.

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please call 655-0280, email, or contact our website (see back page)

side there. This year we have expanded the survey to Franklin and Rutland Counties as well.

We obtained the candidate list for the primaries from the Secretary of State and prepared letters and questionnaires for them all. We did this because of the short time frame available to us. A couple of days after the primary election, the



“Nations crumble from within when the citizenry asks of government those things which the citizenry might better provide for itself.” - Ronald Reagan

What can I do?



Faith without works is dead
James 2:17

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This Edition of our newsletter contains an expanded Candidate Survey that includes Franklin, Grand Isle, Chittenden, and Rutland Counties, as well as State-wide offices.

We urge all our readers to exercise their right to vote and note that there is also a duty to vote as a Christian. That duty is found in Deut. 17:15, where we are advised to select as leaders those who share our beliefs (...do not place a foreigner over you...).

If your candidate did not respond to our survey, you can call them directly as ask them how they stand on the issues.

The survey is also found on our website www.christianactionministry.com

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Next Meetings
November 8, 7:00 pm
Maranatha Christian Church
Williston, Vt.
December 6, 7:00 pm
St. Marks Catholic Church
Burlington, Vt.

**Making A Difference
in
Vermont!**



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