

Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

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Inside

Voting Tips

Considerations to think about when you vote

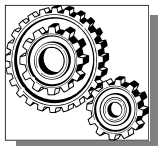
Page 2

2016 Candidate Survey

How candidates responded

Page 3

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



In the Works

Planning for 2017

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.

2016 Candidate Survey

By
Dick Trudell

This is the 13th General Election for which the Christian Action Ministry has taken a survey of the candidates' positions on issues of interest to Christians. We are taking a different approach this year and only publishing results for the candidates that replied. There are several reasons for this. The response to our survey was the lowest of all the 13 surveys we have done, perhaps due to the large number of non-contested races (why reply if you are the only one running). The major parties discourage the candidates from answering surveys, and we had only a few people willing to help out with candidate follow-up and reviewing other sources for answers (which takes the most effort).

We broke our questions into four sections to mirror the Declaration of Independence

and labeled them Unalienable Rights, Life, Liberty, and Pursuit of Happiness. Many of the questions would not be asked of the candidates in the normal forums sponsored by various groups. The questions we asked were also geared to determining a candidate's character. How someone stands on an issue, even if it may not come to a vote, can tell you a lot about how they might react to other issues not yet introduced.

We started questions with a key word, usually SUPPORT or OPPOSE, to clarify the intent of each question and allow a "yes" or "no" answer. If the response contained comments that made the answer unclear, it was marked as "undecided".

The next step in the survey was to determine who to contact. The 2016 questionnaire polled candidates for Governor and Lt. Governor; also the

Vermont House and Senate from Chittenden, Franklin, Rutland, and Grand Isle counties.

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). We attempted to make up for this by return calls to candidates who have answered in previous surveys.

The final step is setting up a format to display the answers, and entering the information as it is received. We hope you will closely review the survey and make an informed decision on November 8th.

Dick Trudell is President of CAM and attends Community Bible Church.

"In selecting men for office, let principle be your guide. Regard not the particular sect or denomination of the candidate ~ look to his character. The scriptures teach that rulers should be men who rule in the fear of God, able men, men of truth, hating covetousness. It is to the neglect of this rule that we must ascribe the multiplied frauds, breaches of trust, and embezzlements of public property which tarnish the character of our country and disgrace government. When a citizen gives his vote to a man of known immorality, he abuses his civic responsibility; he sacrifices not only his interest, but that of his neighbor; he betrays the interest of his country."

Noah Webster, 1823

Voting Tips

by
William Parkinson

As we get ready to vote on November 8th - I am assuming you all will take your responsibility to be salt and light on election day seriously - here are a few things to consider. I use the word *he*, but always include *she* in talking about the candidates, and use *good* and *bad* only to say the candidate agrees with you on the issues.

For state and local elections most of us will have choices that say vote for no more than two or four or six. It is important to get rid of our old high school mind-set that said with multiple choice questions you guess if you don't know - maybe you'll get it right - but a blank is wrong for sure. Not so with voting. In the simplest example, if it is a vote for no more than two and there is one you like but you also vote for another one just because you don't want to leave it blank - that one vote for the bad candidate added in to the total votes might just be the one vote that makes him win over the good candidate. Not voting for the maximum allowed is what is

called **bullet voting** and it is a powerful tool and often ignored. Feel free to leave blanks!

The other factor that comes into play with leaving blanks is, if there are 100 voters and the candidate gets only 60, he



has to wonder why the other 40 didn't vote for him. Perhaps more importantly in two or four years when a potential good candidate is looking at the numbers and considering a run for office, if he sees in the last election his potential opponent got only 60 of 100, he might be more willing to jump into the race.

One of the toughest things about voting can be the ques-

tion of voting the lesser of evils. What do you do when you don't really like either choice, or any of the choices? We each have to examine our conscience in those cases, but I think one thing that makes it easier is to take a close look at the moral issues which should always carry more weight than the other factors. Things like abortion, the sanctity of the traditional family, the protection of the church, our Christian values and constitutional rights, are issues that outweigh the candidate that might give us a free telephone. Not voting can result in basically giving your vote to the opposition. So in the cases where there is a clear difference in something like protecting life, the family, or our Constitution, personally, I think there is a responsibility to vote for that candidate that will stand for the moral values we know are important and we see eroding in our society. Again, personally, I don't see how anyone who claims to be a Bible believing Christian, can vote for a candidate who promotes abortion, homosexuality, the silencing of our Churches, or the denial of our Country's

Christian heritage and Christian founding principles. What could that candidate possibly offer that is more important?

There is probably only one person who would agree with you always and that is you - and you're not running. Why? Probably because it's too hard and a huge sacrifice. So recognize that and support those who are willing to make the sacrifice, are close to your beliefs, and firm on the moral issues. Take the time to go vote for them, endorse them to your family and friends, put up a lawn sign or bumper sticker, tell them thank you when you see them, or really go all out and make a financial contribution to their campaign.

Take it seriously; people have died to give you the right to vote. It is your duty as an American and your responsibility as a Christian. Do it, and do it as an informed voter.

William Parkinson is a member of the Christian Action Ministry and his family attends Trinity Baptist Church in Williston

"Charity is no part of the legislative duty of the government. If we are to be able to avoid ultimate collapse, it's going to take a moral reawakening and renewed constitutional respect -- not by politicians but by the American people." -- **James Madison in a 1794 speech to the House of Representatives**

"It will be of little avail to the people, that the laws are made by men of their own choice, if the laws be so voluminous that they cannot be read, or so incoherent that they cannot be understood; if they be repealed or revised before they are promulgated, or undergo such incessant changes that no man, who knows what the law is to-day, can guess what it will be tomorrow. Law is defined to be a rule of action; but how can that be a rule, which is little known, and less fixed?" - **James Madison, Federalist No. 62, 1788**

CAM Network Survey		Vermont Senate					
2016 General Election							
Key	District	Chittenden Senate 6 seat	Franklin Senate 2 seat		3 Seats	Windsor Senate 3 Seats	
	Town						
Y = Yes	See Key						
N = No							
U = Uncertain							
☑ = Voting Record							
■ = Other Sources *							
Blank = No response							
Other sources include newspapers, PAC scorecards, previous CAM questionnaires, and phone conversations.							
Party		Gifford Licata	Branagan	Collamore	Mullin	Donka	
		R	I	R	R	R	R
<u>UNALIENABLE RIGHTS</u>							
1. Do you BELIEVE that the United States was founded on Judeo-Christian principles?		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
2. Do you SUPPORT the right to bear arms as defined in the 2 nd Amendment?		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3. Despite current law, do you AGREE that marriage should be defined as the union of one man and one woman only?		Y	Y	Y		N	Y
4. Do you OPPOSE the use of foreign law and Sharia (Islamic law) in the Vermont and U.S. Judicial systems?		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
5. Would you SUPPORT efforts to secure our borders and enforce legal immigration laws?		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
<u>LIFE</u>							
6. Do you believe human life begins at conception?		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
7. Would you SUPPORT a woman's pre-abortion right-to-know law, including information on fetal development, alternatives to abortion, and the medical/mental risks?		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
8. Would you SUPPORT legislation that requires parental involvement (Parental Notification), with provisions for a judicial waiver, prior to performing an abortion on a minor?		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
9. Would you vote to REPEAL physician-assisted suicide?		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
10. Do you OPPOSE legalizing "recreational" marijuana?		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<u>LIBERTY</u>							
11. Do you SUPPORT the right of towns and public schools to display items that reflect Christmas as being the celebration of the birth of Christ?		Y	U	Y	Y	Y	Y
12. Do you SUPPORT some form of voucher system to allow parents to choose the form of schooling most beneficial to their child?		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
13. Would you SUPPORT a law allowing citizens' initiative petitions, requiring the legislature to vote on an issue?		Y	U	Y	Y	Y	Y
14. Would you SUPPORT legislation requiring proof of residence for a citizen to be added to the voter checklist?		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
15. Do you AGREE the VT legislature needs an ethics committee?		Y	U	Y	Y	Y	Y
<u>PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS</u>							
16. Do you SUPPORT legislation requiring a balanced VT budget where spending does not exceed income in any given year?		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
17. Would you close the Vermont permit process to parties not materially affected?		Y	U	Y	Y	Y	Y
18. Do you OPPOSE a single payer healthcare system?		N	Y	Y	Y		Y
19. Do you OPPOSE state mandates on particular forms of energy utilities must use?		Y	Y	Y	Y		Y
20. Would you SUPPORT tax incentives and easing the permit process to attract jobs to the state?		Y	Y	Y			Y

Vermont House of Representatives.													
Chittenden 3	Chittenden 8-1	Chittenden 9-1	Franklin 3-1	Franklin 3-2	Franklin 4	Franklin 4	Franklin 5	Franklin 7	Chitt-Grand /sle	Rutland 2	Rutland 3	Rutland 4	Rutland-Windsor
Lawrence	Dame	Purvis	Bouchard	McWilliams	Gamache	Savage	Aldrich	Fiske	Brown	Boucher	Helm	Terenzini	Devereux
R	R	R	R	D	R	R	D	R	R	R	R	R	R
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Y	Y	Y	U	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Voters are urged to contact candidates to be certain of their position



What can I do?



*Faith without
works is dead
James 2:17*

e-mail : camnet@christianactionministry.com

www.christianactionministry.com

During 2016 the Christian Action Ministry addressed issues on who you are representing (God or Hell), same sex marriage, history of Islam, your responsibility to vote, reprobate minds, legalizing marijuana, and the boycott, divestment, sanctions (BDS) against Israel. We also gave presentations on radical Islam (both on public TV and church settings), had two evening presentations with guest speaker William Federer, and conducted our semi-annual candidate survey. It was a busy year.

Since this is our last issue for 2016, we want to wish our readers Happy Thanksgiving and a Joyous Christmas in which we give thanks to God for the many blessings he has bestowed on the United States, and in particular the gift of His Son, Jesus, who has made a path to Heaven for us. We are truly blessed.



The **Christian Action Ministry Network, Inc.** is an educational nonprofit public charity supported entirely by volunteers and contributions from the public. Personal, church and business donations are encouraged and are tax-deductible under the IRS Code 501(C)3. The information provided herein does not necessarily reflect the views of any particular church or individual associated with the Christian Action Ministry Network.

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Next Meetings

November 10th, 7:00 pm
Community Bible Church
So. Burlington, Vt.
December 13, 7:00 pm
Parkinson home
Hinesburg, Vt.

**Making A Difference
In
Vermont!**