

# Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

Nov—Dec, 2018★ Vol. 28, Number 06

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By  
Dick Trudell

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*Nine good reasons to be an active voter*

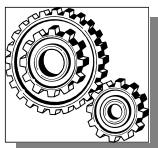
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### Results of the 2018 CAM Candidate Survey

*Our questionnaire was limited to Federal and Statewide candidates.*

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**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**

### New Legislative Session

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.

The Democrat controlled Vermont Legislature legalized the possession of marijuana for recreational use, and it became law in July 2018. Their eyes were blinded by the vision of non THC hemp based products, new businesses that will be formed, reduction in no-victim crime, and the siren call of large inflows of tax money from the regulated sale of this mind-altering drug. What politician doesn't want more of your money to spend?

But now that they have "sown the wind", they will "reap the whirlwind". The unintended consequences of their actions will be felt by Vermonters in higher taxes to compensate for increased costs of regulation, increased crime, black market sales, the gateway to stronger drugs, and the damage to developing children. Yes, children will get their hands on it – just as they can get hold of tobacco and alcohol.

According to the law you can't smoke marijuana in a car, or on Lake Champlain, on a beach, park, sidewalk, or any

other public space. But that was happening anyway without the new law. With more people using marijuana, are those infractions likely to increase or decrease? You can be the judge on that one!



Let's look at some things we do know. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention lists marijuana as the second most abused drug in the United States, after alcohol. Although a legal substance, the excessive use of alcohol costs employers and taxpayers \$250 billion per year.

Proponents of legalization try to convince us that legalization just decriminalizes the users of today, but in the next breath they tout the increase of businesses that will open and the positive effects on the economy. So, what is it that's missing here to give us an increase in business and positive effects on the econo-

my? Could it perhaps be increased use?

In the states of Colorado and Washington where marijuana is legal, positive tests for marijuana increased by 20 and 23 percent, respectively, after legalization. The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration reported that "Drugged driving accounted for more than 28 percent of traffic deaths in 2010 ...". (that's drugged, not drunk driving). The main drug was marijuana.

The US Attorney for Colorado stated that his State's youth marijuana use is 85% higher than the national average, Marijuana-related traffic fatalities are up 151%.

Indoor marijuana growing uses 17 times as much energy as the average residence, and each plant consumes 2.2 liters of water per day. Doesn't sound like the ecologically sensitive business desired in Vermont.

*Dick Trudell is President of the Christian Action Ministry and attends Vibrant Church in South Burlington*

**A country cannot subsist well without liberty,  
nor liberty without virtue"**  
*Daniel Webster*



Editor's Note: The following is from the website [Military One Source](#). Although directed at our troops, it is relevant to our civilian population as well.

## It's time to vote again

It's easy to come up with reasons not to go to the polls. "I'm too busy. I don't know where to send my ballot." Or this one, repeated over and over by people across America: "My vote doesn't count, so what's the point?" Here are a few reasons why your vote does count:

- 1. You get to complain all you want.** If you don't vote, you can't complain (and we're all pretty good at complaining). Do you feel strongly about taxes, your health care or the size of our military? If these or other issues matter to you, then your vote matters, too. If you don't head to the polls or send in your absentee ballot, you don't get to yell at the TV later on.
- 2. Vote ratios matter.** Even if you live in a state that swings one way or another, the ratio by which the candidates win or lose matters. A landslide win makes for a more powerful politician than one who barely squeaks by. Your vote can either help keep that power in check or give it an extra boost.
- 3. The pollsters might be wrong.** It's easy to get discouraged about voting if you listen to the media's predictions. But if you're old enough to vote, you're old enough to know the media can get things wrong.
- 4. You're only one person, but so is everybody else who votes.** If millions of people stay home because they think their votes don't count, the people who do turn out to vote become much more powerful. Are their voices really more important than yours? Your vote is your voice. Elect to be heard.
- 5. Your vote always counts.** Not just in close elections. In every election. Remember #4? Your vote counts the same as every other individual who votes. Just make sure you send your ballot back by your state's deadline!
- 6. You can vote from literally anywhere in the world.** Vote by absentee ballot when you're deployed or away from your polling location and the same goes for your spouse and any eligible family members.
- 7. You don't have to be an expert on the issues to cast your vote.** There's no need to pull an all-nighter before sending in your vote. You won't be graded.
- 8. You're part of the military family.** Elected officials make decisions about many things that affect you, including military benefits. It's your life — make your voice heard.
- 9. You live in a democracy.** Voting is one of your most precious American rights. Enough said.

Editor's Note: We actually live in a Constitutional Republic

“The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government.”

*Thomas Jefferson, 3rd President of the United States*



# Results of the 2018 CAM Candidate Survey

By  
Dick Trudell

In this 2018 election cycle, CAM sent questionnaires to the 34 candidates for Federal and State-wide offices listed as Qualified Candidates on the Secretary of State’s website. We received five replies. Their full replies were typed up and sent back to them by email or discussed by telephone to ensure there were no incorrect positions shown.

The summary below is based on the editor’s reading and best understanding of the complete answers provided. I have summarized the answers into four categories for this newsletter:

- YES**
- NO**
- U** (undecided or unclear)
- Q** (with qualifications)

The full replies of the five candidates are on our website for your use. Responses were varied in length and some expanded into other areas we had not questioned them about. We encourage you to read the answers in full on our website, and to get out and vote on Election Day this November 6th.

Look for the title “2018 Candidate Survey” on the CAM website to read the full answers.

[christianactionministry.com](http://christianactionministry.com)

*Dick Trudell is President of the Christian Action Ministry and attends Vibrant Church in South Burlington*

## Questions

1. Do you BELIEVE that human life begins at conception and should be protected, and will you vote accordingly?

2. Do you SUPPORT the right of Americans to bear arms as defined in the Second Amendment, and will you vote to protect that right?

3. Would you SUPPORT efforts to secure our borders and enforce legal immigration laws, and vote accordingly?

4. Despite current law, do you AGREE that marriage should be defined as the union of one man and one woman only?

5. Despite current law, do you OPPOSE the legalization of recreational marijuana?

6. Would you SUPPORT legislation requiring proof of Vermont residence (if at the state level) or proof of U.S. citizenship (if at the federal level) for a citizen to be added to the voter checklist?

	<b>Bruce Busa</b> Independent US Senate	<b>Edward Gilbert</b> Independent US Senate	<b>Lawrence Zupan</b> Republican US Senate	<b>Cris Ericson</b> Independent US House & Governor	<b>Emily Peyton</b> Liberty Union Governor
1. Do you BELIEVE that human life begins at conception and should be protected, and will you vote accordingly?	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES Qualified</b>	<b>YES Qualified</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>Unclear</b>
2. Do you SUPPORT the right of Americans to bear arms as defined in the Second Amendment, and will you vote to protect that right?	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>Unclear</b>
3. Would you SUPPORT efforts to secure our borders and enforce legal immigration laws, and vote accordingly?	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>Unclear</b>
4. Despite current law, do you AGREE that marriage should be defined as the union of one man and one woman only?	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES Qualified</b>	<b>YES Qualified</b>	<b>Undecided</b>	<b>Unclear</b>
5. Despite current law, do you OPPOSE the legalization of recreational marijuana?	<b>YES Qualified</b>	<b>YES Qualified</b>	<b>YES Qualified</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>NO Qualified</b>
6. Would you SUPPORT legislation requiring proof of Vermont residence (if at the state level) or proof of U.S. citizenship (if at the federal level) for a citizen to be added to the voter checklist?	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES Qualified</b>	<b>Undecided</b>



What can I do?



*Faith without  
works is dead*  
*James 2:17*

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**2018 has been an eventful year with moving our embassy to Jerusalem, legalization of recreational marijuana, a hotly debated Supreme Court nomination, amazing growth of the economy, , tearing down Civil War statues, mass shootings by people with mental problems, opening a dialog with North Korea, the growth of civil disobedience, massive hurricanes, sanctuary cities (Vermont included), infringement of the Second Amendment, the election season, and bathroom battles to name a few issues.**

**We appear to living in “the times and seasons”. Despite this, it is time to reflect, thank God for the many blessings He has so generously bestowed on us, and prepare for the Christmas season. remembering that Jesus is the Reason for the Season.**

**The Christian Action Ministry wishes you a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a Joyous New Year.**

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**Next Meetings**  
*November 13, 7:00 pm*  
*Roadside Assembly*  
*Rutland, Vt.*  
*December 11, 7:00 pm*  
*Parkinson home*  
*Hinesburg, Vt.*

**Making A Difference  
In  
Vermont!**