

# Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

September—October, 2019★ Vol. 29, Number 05

# Inside

## Have you Heard? Election season is Coming!

By  
Dick Trudell

### 2018 National Platform Positions

*A comparison of the current Democrat and Republican National platforms*

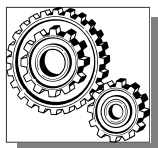
Page 2

### 2018 Vermont Platform Positions

*Excerpts from the Vermont platforms*

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**

### Vermont Constitutional Amendment to allow Infanticide

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.

**F**all is fast approaching and we are entering into a prolonged campaigning season before the November 2020 election. There are many issues that will be addressed, and undoubtedly others that will arise before we vote.

Over the past 30 years CAM has been actively involved in getting information to you on candidate positions. We have not finalized plans on how we will address the candidates in the 2020 election, but we want you to know how the process will work. In September of this year the political Town Committees will reorganize for the next two years. We are aware that most people aren't familiar with this process or what follows after that. Town Committees spearhead the political process in their respective towns. The major effort will be compiling lists of

voters that will likely vote for their party's candidates, and to plan what type of 'Get out the Vote' they will use and how can funds be raised for the candidates.



**VOTING IS PATRIOTIC**

If you are at all interested in getting involved and working to get people elected who share your views, you should seriously consider getting started with your Town Committee.

Each Town Committee elects delegates to their County Committee from those who are members of their Town Committee, and in due fashion the County Committees chose several delegates to the State Committee. The State Committees generally have a staff who does the bulk of the work with assistance of the Town and County Committees.

We have a responsibility as Christians to put people in office who share our Christian values. This involves more than a trip to the polls and checking a few boxes. It takes researching candidates and helping them with their campaigns. If you won't do it, who will?

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

**"[T]he duty imposed upon [the president] to take care, that the laws be faithfully executed, follows out the strong injunctions of his oath of office, that he will 'preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution. The great object of the executive department is to accomplish this purpose; and without it, be the form of government whatever it may, it will be utterly worthless."**

*Joseph Story, Supreme Court Justice*

## National Platform Positions - Democrats and Republicans

By  
Dick Trudell

Since the 2020 National Party Platforms will not be finalized until next year, we will compare the current platforms of both parties. The comparison below are taken from the website [Diffen.com](http://Diffen.com). The following page excerpts portions of the Vermont State platforms which more closely reflect those issues we will have to choose between in the upcoming 2020 election. Individual candidates may differ from their party's platform, so it is important to look at both the platform and the candidate's stand on the issues.

### DEMOCRAT

### REPUBLICAN

<b>Economic Issues</b>	<i>Minimum wages and progressive taxation, i.e., higher tax rates for higher income brackets. Born out of <u>anti-federalist</u> ideals but evolved over time to favor more government regulation.</i>	<i>Believe taxes shouldn't be increased for anyone (including the wealthy) and that wages should be set by the free market.</i>
<b>Social and Human ideas</b>	<i>Based on community and social responsibility</i>	<i>Based on individual rights and justice</i>
<b>Stance on Military issues</b>	<i>Decreased spending</i>	<i>Increased spending</i>
<b>Stance on Gay Marriage</b>	<i>Support (some Democrats disagree)</i>	<i>Oppose (some Republicans disagree)</i>
<b>Stance on Abortion</b>	<i>Should remain legal; support <u>Roe v. Wade</u></i>	<i>Should not be legal (with some exceptions); oppose <u>Roe v. Wade</u></i>
<b>Stance on Death Penalty</b>	<i>While support for the death penalty is strong among Democrats, opponents of the death penalty are a substantial fraction of the Democratic base.</i>	<i>A large majority of Republicans support the death penalty</i>
<b>Stance on Taxes</b>	<i>Progressive (high income earners should be taxed at a higher rate). Generally not opposed to raising taxes to fund government.</i>	<i>Tend to favor a "flat tax"(same tax rate regardless of income). Generally opposed to raising taxes.</i>
<b>Stance on Government Regulation</b>	<i>Government regulations are needed to protect consumers.</i>	<i>Government regulations hinder free market capitalism and job growth.</i>
<b>Healthcare Policy</b>	<i>Support universal healthcare; strong support of government involvement in healthcare, including Medicare and Medicaid. Generally support Obamacare.</i>	<i>Private companies can provide healthcare services more efficiently than government-run programs. Oppose Obamacare provisions like (1) requirement for individuals to buy health insurance or pay a fine, (2) required coverage of contraceptives.</i>
<b>Stance on Immigration</b>	<i>There is greater overall support in the Democratic party for a moratorium on deporting - or offering a pathway to citizenship to - certain undocumented immigrants. e.g. those with no criminal record, who have lived in the U.S. for 5+ years.</i>	<i>Republicans are generally against amnesty for any undocumented immigrants. They also oppose President Obama's executive order that put a moratorium on deporting certain workers. Republicans also fund stronger enforcement actions at the border.</i>

**“The government who robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul.”**

***George Bernard Shaw***

## Vermont Platform Positions - Democrats and Republicans

By  
Dick Trudell

On the previous page we looked at the difference between the 2018 National Platforms of the Democrat and Republican Parties. In this section we will look at some specific wording in the Vermont Party Platforms. The styles of the Platforms is different. The Democrat Platform is more of an essay on their philosophy and values, while the Republican Platform establishes the Declaration of Independence and the Vermont and United States Constitutions as their basis and outlines what they believe can be done within those guidelines. In this section, I excerpt portions of both platforms and offer comments from a conservative viewpoint.

**Democrat** “The mantra on lower taxes and less government does not contribute to just distribution of wealth. It is possible to create a fair taxation system where everyone benefits.”

*Apparently the belief is that higher taxes and more government is the key to just wealth distribution. Who defines just?*

**Republican** “Government should tax equitably, with transparency, and at rates never higher than necessary to provide essential services cost-effectively.”

*We need better definitions of what are essential services. In the State budget there are many non-essential items.*

**Democrat** “We understand that we can and must take the lead against the divisive policies of Republican officials here in Vermont and nationally, as well as an increasingly right-wing federal judiciary.”

*Democrats control both the VT House and Senate. The Supreme court is finally reaching a balance between liberal and conservative judges*

**Democrat** “Unchecked capitalism and corporate greed have left our nation in disrepair, with greater economic disparity than at any other time in our history. Workers’ rights have been gutted by deep-pocketed profiteers, who seek to dismantle labor unions and put employees at the mercy of bottom-line objectives.”

*The Great Depression comes to mind as being much worse. Workers are higher paid than ever before but their purchasing power has remained constant due to inflation.*

**Republican** “Government’s role is not to create jobs but to promote the conditions that make it possible for private enterprise to create jobs.”

*Perhaps it is time to relook at the gold standard for our money instead of constant inflation.*

**Democrat** “We believe in increasing the minimum wage to \$15 an hour or more and ensuring all workers have paid family leave and access to high-quality, affordable childcare so that they will never have to choose between a loved one’s health and a paycheck.”

*Don’t forget the taxpayer who will have to pay for it.*

**Republican** “Government should avoid excessive regulatory burdens, bureaucracy, and unfunded mandates because they stifle economic growth and opportunity. When regulations are necessary, they should be administered efficiently and predictably.”

*Hard to argue with this.*

**Democrat** “The Vermont Democratic Party also strongly supports efforts to replace reliance on property tax funding with a fair, income-based funding system. The Vermont Democratic Party supports more funding, grants, and borrower-friendly no or low-interest loans, for the

higher education system to make college affordable and accessible for all.

*And who pays for all of this in a State with a population of only 600,000 people? The favorite scapegoat—the rich, who have the ability to vote with their feet, leaving for low tax States. Not everyone needs college to earn a good income.*

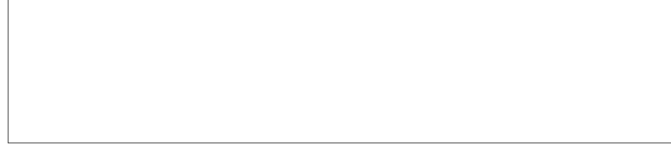
To be honest, as a conservative I found many more items I disagreed with in the Democrat Platform, perhaps because they were more wordy (six pages of planks vs. three pages of planks found in the Republican Platform).

I did appreciate the references to the Constitution found in the Republican Platform, as that should be the basis of everything done by the Legislature and our elected officials.

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

**“If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible , our country will go on prospering . . . but if we and our posterity neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity.”**

**Daniel Webster**



*What can I do?*



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

e-mail : [camnet@christianactionministry.com](mailto:camnet@christianactionministry.com)

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

**This issue was purposely focused on politics because that is what we will hearing through November 2020. It also must be important to God because of the many verses found in the Bible that are devoted to government. Too many Christians neglect their duty to select good leaders and pray for them; and don't forget that electing good leaders is more than just checking a box on election day.**

**We need more Godly people to run for elected office. Get involved and help those good candidates get elected. There is a lot of work involved, not just by the candidate, but also by his/her supporters.**

***“Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.” Exodus 18:21***

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.

✉ CAM Network, Inc.  
PO Box 1067  
Williston, VT 05495



☎ (802) 598-3202  
*Call to confirm date*  
**Next Meetings**  
September 10, 7:00 pm  
Vibrant Church  
South Burlington, Vt.  
October 8, 7:00 pm  
Parkinson home  
Hinesburg, Vt.

**Making A Difference  
In Vermont!**