

What should the Legislature do to help you grow your business?

- Lower taxes
- Make it easier for companies to relocate here
- lower taxes
- Pay more attention to unintended consequences of laws; reduce government spending to ensure taxes do not increase (note this is different than decreasing taxes); focus on legislation that will convey to the world that VT values business investment
- nothing
- Work with GBIC, etc. to invite high end, clean industry here. Keep pushing for very "green" practices everywhere. In the home and in the business.
- Reduce taxes and make sure there are reasonably priced, long term power contracts with suppliers.
- Repeal H. 783 and increase funding for tourism.
- Less regulation and lower taxes
- support development of telecommunications infrastructure and public access to networks
- Focus on creating jobs rather than growing social programs
- Tax incentives for growth and hiring. A better attitude if at least I felt they were pro business I would feel better about doing business in this state, right now I am considering how to get out and take my 10 jobs with me.
- Make access to healthcare easier with less pre-existing conditions.
- Value and support integrated community-based services for vulnerable Vermonters as the most efficient and effective way to serve Vermonters. Recognize that efficiency and innovation are more likely to be achieved by building the capacity of by independent private non-profit businesses than by increasing the size of the State of Vermont bureaucracy.
- Strongly support high-speed passenger rail service Boston-Montreal and NY-Montreal. Improve CCTA service. Continue to develop good public health care. Focus on cost control for health care. Improve math and science education at all levels. Continue to support VTSBDC. Position VT for the future. Tax fuel (carbon), subsidize solar and wind. Support concentrated growth in town centers, discourage sprawl. Support Efficiency VT; give them support and resources to create incentives to move to more efficiency in many ways (lighting, heat, cooling, computing, etc.). Build more bike paths that link to commuter routes. Shift the tax burden off low and moderate income and off land use that is important to maintain (farms and forest) and onto wealth. More progressive income tax. Land and property used to be THE place to store wealth, now wealth is stored in other investments; tax these investments. Support Burlington Telecom; allow Burlington to levy a special tax on Comcast, Fairpoint, Sovernet and other BT competitors, use these funds to allow BT to continue to offer great service but at more competitive prices. City monopolies on water, sewer, and electricity are reasonable; if BT and the city management get their act together, a monopoly on fiber communications could serve the community well.
- Lower personal and business taxes.
- Improve reimbursement for our services

- This is more of what the legislature should NOT do: It should NOT consider taxing professional services. The issue has come up many times in the past. Our business competes throughout the USA and the world in providing specialized legal services. Any tax that would be charged on the provision of these services could NOT be passed on to clients where > 95% of them are outside the State of Vermont and would just be yet another tax that I would end up having to pay.
- Reduce taxes. Provide better infrastructure (internet, roads, airport service)
- Be an advocate for businesses and make it less of a challenge to remain profitable
- *Work on Tax Policy in three areas: start up, ongoing and exiting. *Work on a better Transportation system from I-89 to I-87. *Provide incentives for startup companies to enable them to get "legs" in the community.
- Focus on infrastructure support - growth centers, broadband, support for alternative transportation from additional car parks, ride shares, to bus and train service between centers. Promote the working landscape not just the tourist landscape.
- Push Yankee to buy local!
- 1. Implement an SBIR matching program. 2. Create a meaningful state-wide high-speed fiber optic broadband infrastructure
- Provide access to low cost loans for small businesses and medium sized businesses.
- Larger investment in Higher Education
- Reduce taxes, but that's not likely to happen! Otherwise, VT government accessibility is really helpful when we have questions.
- We will grow our business...the Legislature needs to make sure Vermont is a place that people can live and make an affordable living in. The State of Vermont needs to streamline how it works as does every company in Vermont
- mandate mediation in more legal matters
- Make Fairpoint keep their promises. Continue to build our Vermont brand through greater marketing presence nationally.
- More favorable business taxes (unemployment insurance, etc.) Permit reform that allows engineers to certify conformance with criteria to expedite permit reviews/approvals.
- Provide high-speed internet access to every Vermonter. Provide reliable cell service to every Vermonter.
- • assist with loan guarantees • maintain a strong environmental stance • favorable tax legislation to spur on growth & jobs
- Allow attrition and retirements to REDUCE the number of state employees over time to 2/3 the current levels then cap state employment at a % of state population. Set a plan to reduce taxes slowly over time in a very public way to enable selling Vermont as getting its Government/budgets under control for the long term. Create a rainy day fund that in good tax revenue years REQUIRES most overages to be SAVED. Reward state department heads financially for cutting costs in their departments while improving services. Use "best practice" idea sharing between state and the private tax generating sector. Support other states in their suit against the US Govt. in support of the 28th amendment banning unlawful government burdens placed on the states.
- incentivize business growth in the state by reducing taxes and cost to employ, improving technology foundation,

- Provide additional support for emerging companies in terms of seed capital, grants, and access to state programs that can benefit from new technology. Additional clean energy programs that assist with financing projects (PACE, etc.)
- cut taxes
- Hiring incentives and less regulation
- Consider the needs of businesses and employers when siding with employees - we terminate individuals for cause and still must pay for their unemployment. This does not seem fair and hits our bottom line considerably!
- promote tourism in Vermont
- Business incentives. VT has a reputation for being very business Unfriendly.
- Provide appropriate infrastructure throughout the state...roads, communication, energy costs. Access tax rates to be fair to allow growth. Give incentives to encourage good neighbor behavior such as "green" construction, proper waste disposal, protect the lake, volunteerism, etc.
- Set a flat rate tax structure, which would get rid of tax loopholes and rid the system of inconsistencies and/or mistakes in interpreting the tax code. Also, root out fraud and waste in the welfare and disability systems and get people job re-training, to empower them to want to do better for themselves and their children.
- Cost of living down, health care options, lower sales tax on recreation/exercise programs.
- Agree on a balanced approach to solving the UI trust fund issue, continue to focus on prevention and safety program incentives to reduce experiences, reduce H.C mandates and open competition in an effort to build competition for members.
- Business incentives for small businesses
- offer incentives to keep seeing Medicaid patients at a more reasonable payment for service
- Again by tax policy, the Legislature needs to define what industries its wants to foster and attract to the State. WE are non competitive with surrounding states and "green pastures" will not bring twenty-first century business to Vermont. We should look to Quebec for leadership and expertise in developing long range goals to create a self sustaining State.
- Keep focus on the Vermont economy.
- Stop being on the side of big business insurance companies and compel them to pay providers a decent wage for the services.
- 1. Increase the amount of funding for EPSCOR Phase 0 awards. 2. Dramatically reduce state spending and taxes. 3. End all unearned entitlements and subsidies.
- Legislature AND GOVERNOR need to realize that economic studies link housing scarcity with low job growth. Why would an out of state firm relocate here when the housing model for their employees is less house for more money? Low job opportunity means low wages for those who do live and attempt to work here. VT, with all its open space, with all its craftspeople, has managed to take a relatively simple commodity (housing) and regulate it to the point of scarcity and high costs. Blaming the statutes is half the game, the other half are the people who interpret these statutes. The appointment of their department heads rests solely with the Guv - and we have the same zealots in place today as under Dean and Kunin. That is not the legislature's fault - it is the

administrations!!! Jim Douglas is a nice guy, totally unwilling to make the tough decisions. Do not see anyone in the wings who is up to the challenge.

- Non profits are often dependent on funding from the State, and although I am all for efficiencies, blanket cuts are not productive.
- Control taxes.
- Reduce the foregoing and provide incentives for small business owners.
- Cut Government/educations overhead & lower property & Income taxes
- Listen to business owners; understand the economic development and future revenue generating value of incentives such as tax credits; carrots for doing things right, sticks for those who don't;
- Demonstrate in their words and actions that they are pro business/job creation. Need to encourage high value export companies to come, stay and grow in Vermont. No new taxes.
- Stop over regulation. Stop increasing business costs of all kinds (energy, taxes, regulation)
- Change tax structure; make permitting process less time consuming; generally be more business friendly & savvy. Business should not be seen as the "evil enemy". Without businesses, there would be no tax base.
- Health care, Climate change
- Support Vermont Training Program and Workforce Education and Training Fund and other funding sources for workforce development training and education.
- Drop the 6% Sales Tax Imposed on people and business. Originally the sales tax was not supposed to remain in effect as it has. Drop the school, property, etc. tax for people over 50-60 years of age with no children in school. Drop the burden of people having to pick up the cost for all the welfare programs that have come about in this State. Especially when you have generations of welfare recipients very capable of working and paying for their life style. Welfare recipients do not want to work because it is all handed out free. I am not advocating dropping everyone. I realize there are people who genuinely need help. I have heard them speak and they can't get help. A 20 year old male or female perfectly healthy does not need a welfare check they need to get up and go to work.
- we need to bring in more business and jobs
- Ongoing base support for prevention coalitions through the Vermont Department of Health
- Business incentives and control school taxes.
- Market VT as a technology hub. Help grow the technology sector.
- Work on health insurance --continue to support Farm to School programming
- Invest in their State Buildings. Bring in new large businesses. Cut down on time for processing permits & stimulus funding.
- Get out of the way and stop passing laws
- strengthen commitment to efficiency and renewable energy so that VT is once again the national leader in cutting edge policies on that front
- Put pressure on banks to come up with a loan program for small, local businesses that are already successful! The SBA is of no use.
- Cut expenses and lower all taxes.
- Reduce income and property taxes; Streamline permitting; Enhance growth incentives.

- The better the climate is for business the more work we would have; Vermont is never going to be over-industrialized in my view - our environment and small scale is a part of our charm and draw. I do not mean to suggest that business growth is the only thing that should be focused on, but I do think it cannot be focused on too much.
- Increase the budget for Marketing and Tourism. Reduce the size of government and social services programs which should reduce the pressure to continually raise taxes.
- Grow capital opportunities, improve VEDA, and other incentive programs...VEPC etc Permit reform...fix appeal time, transparency, predictability -Tell CLF to go back to Boston :)
- make it more affordable and easier to do business
- I would appreciate a change in the funding for education formula
- Bring into Vermont people with sophisticated skills and education who will mesh naturally with the culture as it already is. Specifically, Vermont is a perfect environment for the economy of this century...green-high-tech (GHT) The green businesses are the future as the future was once related to iron, sailing ships, steam engine, internal combustion engines, the railroad, electricity, flight, etc...And now energy from sun, wind, and ocean. And geothermal. Jump on it and take the lead.
- Don't discourage other bigger businesses coming to Vermont....more business coming here to conduct business means more employment for the locals and more economic growth
- Lower tax rates, less regulation. Insurance costs at all levels are severely hurting VT businesses.
- Don't take my tax dollars to "give" it to others to build their business. Help everyone by lowering taxes and the cost of doing business in VT
- Reduce personal & corporate tax burdens
- Keep cost of business under control. Fund projects that do long term good, like college educations
- Maintain programs such as the micro business program that help us build networking with other small businesses as well as marketing meetings with other businesses
- Promote universal health care
- Tax incentives to reward growth i.e. hiring, expansion of facilities. A focus on keeping business expenses to the state in line.
- Get out of the way; stop looking for solutions to budget problems by taxing businesses yet again.
- Improve the economy of the state
- Protect our environment and our permitting laws - increase rail passenger travel and focus on being renewable and self-sufficient.
- Encourage more alternative health issues
- More infrastructure spending.
- Support VtSBDC & CVOEO's Micro Business Development Program
- Start welcoming business to Vermont
- Do more to make state attractive to small business and promoting telecommuting type businesses
- Listen and react to the needs of the small businesses.
- Be more business friendly

- Continue to invest in our social capital, as well as our physical infrastructure.
- make it easier to do business in VT
- Get serious about helping VT's small business owners. Too much effort is spent keeping GE, Gen Dynamics, and IBM happy.
- Create a business climate that will help businesses grow here.
- greater support for small non-profits
- Be more small business friendly
- funding and support
- First of all they to responsible for their actions, loose the personal agenda, use some common sense, and get rid of the bull and that might mean some of the legislature.
- Get out of the way. Simplify tax codes, town bull, state bull. Have we learned nothing from this last economic meltdown?
- Make affordable permits to be able to use State fishing Accesses
- Back off!
- Stop wasting time on Pete the Moose nonsense and actively look for ways to cut our tax burden.
- Property tax reform.
- STOP SPENDING MY MONEY LIKE THERE IS NO END! GIVE THE PRODUCERS INCENTIVES WITH TAX BREAKS THAT MAKE IT WORTH THE HIGH RISK OF TRYING TO RUN A BUSINESS IN VT.GET THE UNIONS OUT OF THE GOVERNMENT! LOOK WHAT UNIONS DID TO THE AUTO INDUSTRY ETC....
- Tax incentives, tax credits based on particular types of businesses. For example, if you're a renewable energy type of business then taking away those recent tax incentives/credits hurts those businesses. Permit reform also needs to be accomplished to help those types of businesses as well.
- Reduce the tax burden placed upon individuals and small business owners. Encourage additional funding for business start-up and growth to encourage job creation and higher paying wages.
- Listen to small business needs, especially regarding taxes and the burden of providing health care insurance. Personally, I want to be able to shop for health insurance as an individual; it's as important as or more so than home and auto insurance, which I have control over. I would support state legislation that provided individuals with the buying power of a group/state rate.
- Consolidate schools to alleviate the growing property tax. Eliminate many government jobs and cut social programs which enable many Vermonters not to seek employment.
- Create incentives for creating jobs
- Promote small business growth reduce income and property taxes
- Reduce taxes and regulations.
- offer greater incentives for small businesses, including tax incentives and low interest loans
- Incentivize existing businesses with tax breaks. Stop the insane energy policy including insisting on shutting down Vt Yankee.
- Continue the good job they are currently doing
- Leave health care alone.
- Lower taxes, reduce debt, and spend less.

- Require less regulation and create meaningful incentive programs. Require school consolidation and reduce spending throughout government to allow for a sustainable budget
- Nothing. What can I do to help grow the legislature?
- Prioritize business development that encourages current businesses to grow and encourages business relocation to Vermont, as reflected in tax and government benefit policies. Arm ACCD with greater incentives and staff adequately to represent VT aggressively.
- Offer new job incentives.
- The legislature needs to work with whoever is Governor to make sure that we protect our environment and character while at the same time growing our economy so that we can provide good paying jobs to all Vermonters.
- Standardize the RFP process across all state agencies and not make the application a one-size fits all. The fee structure of a sole proprietor and a major corporation differ significantly. Being told to "fill it out as best you can" is not an appropriate response or request.
- Increase operating and budget support (not likely).
- There are many things. First thing they need to do is reduce the cost of doing business in the state for small business owners. With all of the talks of raising taxes, and workman's comp and insurance many small businesses that are all ready suffering will go under.
- Help small business with incentives and lower taxes, workman's comp, payroll, etc.
- Streamline the ability to hire employees
- Finance environmental infrastructure.
- I don't believe we need help from the Legislature growing our business, what we need is that the Legislature needs to listen and understand all aspects prior to making decisions and passing regulations.
- Properly fund the VT Department of Tourism, State Schools and cultural/historical entities.
- Provide incentives to small businesses, not just large businesses.
- They have nothing to do with it.
- Maybe some good ideas from your marketing dept looking at where we are, and how to promote our self better with the tools we have.
- Legislate a business friendly economy. Attract business by reducing taxes and giving incentives to business to locate or stay here.
- Marketing and promotion support; grants; etc.
- Provide business with real and substantial tax benefits. Tax benefits that translate into bottom line profits so they can be used.
- Lower income and property taxes
- Showcase and network Vermont to key industries. Aerospace or Medical Devices
- I am in real estate. I'd like to see some focus on property tax reform, permit reform, and some additional incentives for home ownership.
- Lower my taxes a bit.
- High-speed Internet statewide. I could do a lot of my admin. work from home via remote access to my work server. With only a satellite connection the response time is to slow.

- Decrease the number of employees in the Environmental Agency and increase the number in the Business Development area. Keep energy rates down by keeping VT Yankee in business. Build the Circ Highway. Bring sewer capacity to lake shoreline commercial areas.
- Fund tourism promotion
- Unemployment tax growth is too high. The state should clamp down on seasonal employees who use Unemployment as a retirement supplement.
- 1. Look beyond standard "green" initiatives when thinking about incentives etc. We build a product that saves a lot of energy, but because they are not in the solar, geothermal, wind realm they are rarely considered in energy conservation policy. 2. Help make housing more affordable. If Vermonters weren't spending such a huge percentage of their income on housing they would have more expendable income to spend on goods.
- Create more tax breaks for the small businesses. Minimum wage is simply too high right now which makes the difference between small time manager and laborer minute (in terms of pay)-thus creating issues across the board.
- Support donor privacy
- Minimize regulations to promote growth/investment
- Deal with health care costs. Universal, single payer system would be most effective in serving everyone and controlling costs.
- Relax development rules and regs.
- Change the laws regarding of taxation of materials used in the process of manufacturing and shipping. Cost of health care coverage. The recent tightening of the unemployment fund has made it harder for us to flex our work force when necessary. It was easier in 2009; much harder in 2010.
- Support all small businesses, have more food shows!
- Cut the budget of every department of the state, across the board including the legislature budget by at least 10%
- Low cost business loans for capital investments. Incubator incentives for biotech and medical related industries.
- Hire Vermont businesses as contractors for state-funded procurements.
- Support neutrality in technology procurement policies. Mandates might seem appropriate at a particular point in time, but they handcuff the state going forward in ways that limit choice and eventually hamper innovation over the long term.
- simplify health care; promote primary care especially employees' access to primary and preventive care without barriers
- Stop spending money on social programs and get the property tax structure under control. This state spends way too much money for the size of its population.
- Quit looking at "creating jobs" as only important in the field of manufacturing
- Lower taxes, fewer regulations and bureaucratic requirements, and infrastructure improvements.
- PLEASE do not try to help, if you help anymore there will be no business left!!!
- Makes Reg process more predictable
- Simplify permit process, support VEGI, hold lid on energy costs and invest in alternatives.

- The legislature should take a hands off approach to business. Remove the impediments to growth; i.e. easier permit process, improving the business climate, encourage immigration with favorable income tax rates for high wage earners.
- balance budget sustainably work then to lower taxes Improve education to create more talented and skilled students
- DO NOT BEGIN THE 6% TAX ON PERFORMANCES FROM NON-PROFIT THEATERS.
- Make Vermont a more business friendly environment
- Reduce cost of education and health care by ELIMINATING regulations, mandates, act 60 etc. Get rid of the layers of regulations and expense. Get back to basics!
- Find a way to get an objective view of the needs of Vermonters and not the few who have loud voices. State and Federal funding for unique, creative, innovative, efficient, effective services for Vermonters.
- Stay out of the way. Keep taxes where they are or lower.
- Protect environment; Promote tourism
- We are dependent upon state grants, private grants and donations. We have received flat funding from the State of Vermont in the past four years. We are experiencing an increasing demand for services from the families we serve. More funding from the state would be helpful to meet the needs of families.
- Let's be real. Everyone wants lower taxes and more service. You can't have both. Our Legislature is doing a great job! It is Gov. Douglas' negative rhetoric that keeps people from wanting to move to VT or be content with what we already have. Once we have a new Governor maybe we will have more positive attitude that will bring more business to our beautiful state that has a great business climate and relatively low unemployment rates compared to the rest of our nation. We rank high in education and could have a great work force from our graduating students if we don't keep telling them there is nothing here for them. Legislature could help businesses/and more importantly the people who live here have better access to affordable health care. Their focus on energy alternatives will help create more jobs and help keep our environment safe. They need to close the nuclear plant immediately and require them to set aside enough money to clean up their mess. Vermonters cannot afford to be burdened with their incompetence. We need to repair our roads and bridges to keep us safe and increase tourism. But there is no money and we cannot require Legislature to spend what is not available. This deferred maintenance of our highways has created our present situation and we need to work with the Federal government to get assistance.
- Help business get capital and lower taxes on people.
- Ensure the quality of the environment and invest in initiatives with proven success in closing the achievement gap for poor children.
- The usual - insurance costs.
- health care / tax rate / energy costs
- Reduce taxes. Run the state like a business.
- Education benefits to take courses on how to run and grow your business
- a real low interest loan program with a 90% or better approval rate
- Allow more incentives for workforce housing, ease up on the permit requirements. Very much a disincentive for young employee's

- Better Networking venues
- Invest in marketing tourism which will return conservatively 4 times in tax revenues
- Keep college graduates in state. Provide incentives to keep them from leaving after they graduate.
- Cut back taxes and don't make place the health care burden on employers. Work on lowering the medical cost and not the blind funding for health care.
- Follow the Chamber's government sustainability and effectiveness recommendations.
- Tax breaks for micro-businesses - to help us stay in business or grow our business.....don't just concentrate on brand-new start-up/hopeful businesses.....it should be easier to keep the ones you've got
- 1 Allocate support for the tourism industry 2 Expand support of science and technology education in the K-12 schools
- Relieve some of the tax burden, Vermont seems to be becoming a "nanny" state where entitlements are exploding and we pay for them!!!!!!!!!!
- Give preference to Vermont business in state RFP bidding. Keep the dollars in state as much as possible. Expand the brand of Vermont to tell the market's success story of entrepreneurial innovation. Position Vermont as a thought leader in global community-based business.
- Provide more funding of the Recovery Centers in Vermont
- Encourage other businesses to come to or stay in Vermont via incentives - within reason.
- Lower workers comp rates. Universal Health Care.
- Help create jobs, market Vermont more as a business friendly state as well as a tourist destination
- Work on reducing costs across the board. Employment taxes, corporate taxes, utilities, health insurance, etc...
- They are already working on re-vamping health care, but I think they are going in the wrong direction. People are happy with their plans/coverage; we just need to see lower rates. They should be working on that.
- Health insurance reform, ease permitting for development.
- Foster additional funding for planning and community development activity that can be targeted toward consulting firms, especially small, Vermont-based ones.
- Encourage large Vermont businesses to work locally. Buy local should translate to all aspects of business and be more than an emblem we post on our front door.
- Reduce taxes, cut school spending, reduce regulatory burdens, and reduce regulatory uncertainty. Uncertainty is the worst. A business must plan ahead. In Vermont, this is almost impossible. Sadly, my advice to young people is to build a life elsewhere.
- Focus more on business relief rather than individual relief. This will in the long run help the individuals in a better fashion!
- Cut social service spending, promote entrepreneurship, reform the school property tax
- Reduce the unemployment tax by reducing benefits. Control the increases in healthcare premiums.
- Cut taxes and keep their nose out of private business
- Cut taxes and cut spending - run the state like a business not an entitlement system
- Fund student aid for higher education

- Increase protection of the environment; ensure broadband access throughout the State; improve public transportation options; address health care quality issues, particularly wellness and non-medical health care options; continue to provide incentives for energy conservation; encourage and permit wind, solar, and other renewable energy projects; decrease reliance on primary residence property taxes.
- Technology funding for k-12 schools
- Help farms survive and develop markets to promote states largest asset. Vermont farms.
- Resign!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
- bring down health care costs
- Look into tax issues I have alerted them to.
- Anything which will draw people from other states and countries to visit Vermont.
- maintain/improve incentives for charitable giving for people and businesses; do not add estate tax; work to keep wealthy individuals instate rather than moving to FL and other tax advantaged states
- Increased incentives for those who sign up for health insurance or other insurance through the LCRCC.
- smaller government, less mandates, more business friendly
- Health Insurance via taxes
- Lower taxes, encourage people to be less dependent on govt.,
- decrease the cost of insurance and taxes
- recruit more jobs and grow the population
- Lower taxes; give incentives to small businesses and/or keep nudist friendly laws.
- Deliver incentives to keep businesses growing - such as low taxes on asset sales (software), good investments into infrastructure and a focus on emerging industries (tech/software)
- Find ways to support locally owned businesses that keep jobs and profits in Vermont.
- Lower unemployment taxes, reduce health insurance mandates, lower personal income tax rates
- Create a referral network for small business through state agencies such as ANR/DEC
- Create better environment for business growth - tax incentives, better health care options.
- tax breaks for small businesses; help with health insurance for small businesses
- bring criminal (Federal RICO) charges against the "old-boy" network of lawyers in Chittenden County (though the powers that can bring RICO-charges were put in power by this same old-boy network).
- Support sustainable growth in both the private and government sectors. Aggressively push for a greener economy, seek local green power sources. Roll out cheap sources for money, so homeowners and small business can invest in green energy solutions such as solar, wind, and geo-thermal.
- Repeal the 2009 Pharmaceutical manufacturer's gift ban (as Massachusetts is currently considering as part of its economic development bill). This bill interferes with the normal course of business in the healthcare industry, and has also had an impact on the hospitality industry in VT (restaurants, meeting spaces, etc).
- Business incentives

- Reconsider using property taxes as a way to pay for our schools. As a realtor, I have seen many folks on a fixed income who own their homes; but have difficulty paying their taxes. The high cost of property taxes prevents others from purchasing a home.
- Cut business tax rate, streamline permitting process.
- Avoid unnecessary added regulation
- Work to gain a better understanding that business success truly does lead to additional employment which is good for the state.
- Stop imposing new & increasing taxes for small business, cost of insurances are killing us. Promote tourism because they don't help industry. Many companies are leaving the state.
- Institute universal single payer healthcare
- Work on the banks to free up cash for proven Vermont businesses
- Better and less expensive health care options
- reduce tax burden
- Revamp the education system and the way it is managed and taxed Streamline the regulatory process. STOP making businesses pay for everything like education. Transfer the burden to individuals. Make welfare and public funding harder to obtain. Renew VT Yankee and stop making people pay for the liberals' view of the perfect world.
- Balance the budget using non partisan, logical fiscal judgment.
- Don't treat business as second class citizens. Understand economic and business success means opportunity for everyone.
- remain supportive of industry
- Keep up the friendly common sense approach to improving the legislation that regulates our business
- Stay out of the way
- Legislature should have much more conservative spending habits and promote more personal responsibility in the citizenry.
- reduce taxes
- Fight for online retailers to charge sales tax...
- Reduce high tax burden on Vermonters
- Gain an awareness of what a state this size can actually afford, and make spending decisions based on that knowledge.
- reduce all the regulations and taxes - all the health insurance reporting and benefit guidelines - often feels that more is done for the employees than the business creating the jobs
- Reduce cost of government and lower tax rates. Consolidate school districts and bring down the administrative costs of education thereby lowering property taxes. Offer incentives to invest in Vermont and stay in Vermont. Stop raising hidden taxes (fees). Promote tourism more. Encourage more taxpayers to move to Vermont.
- Act reasonably on fiscal/tax issues, avoid high cost programs that are not sustainable, prioritize the most important programs for state to sustain.
- Lower overall taxes, develop and prioritize budgets that are sustainable, stop wasting time and efforts on issues that are being addressed nationally, develop a culture that is pro-business by developing a regulatory environment that is efficient, fair and has a "can-do" attitude.

What are the Vermont-specific business issues that might make you consider relocating your business, choose to grow it elsewhere or that prevent you from starting another business in Vermont?

- small size of market limits expansion
- I don't plan on relocating, but I do feel that we need to grow and develop more good-paying manufacturing jobs with companies that want to do business in VT. I think we have lost just too many and the economy is very poor.
- permitting and taxes
- Landlord rights; construction permitting; taxes
- company sizes not needing our services
- not much money in the entire market to support my work profitably
- Taxes and availability of power at a reasonable price.
- Geographic isolation coupled with overdependence on out of state revenue and an inadequately funded tourism department.
- Sales tax on professional services or VAT
- inadequate telecommunications infrastructure
- higher taxes (sales and payroll)
- I am actually considering slowing growth of my business, the state only sees successful business as tax revenue so instead of going over 10 employees I am slowing it down. If they think what they do to a small business has no effect, they are very wrong. Time to start making people accountable and stop spending money they don't have.
- I wouldn't make that choice, but with higher taxes and less access to contacts, I would be less successful.
- access to markets
- My business exists to serve my Vermont community. Relocation is not a relevant issue.
- Lack of good public transportation to/from Boston. Small size of VT biotech community.
- Personal and business taxes too high in Vermont compared with other states.
- none
- Contrary to popular belief, Vermont is an easy place to do business. There are just as many, if not more challenges of developing businesses elsewhere. What makes Vermont special is that it is small, and we have access to our government. By constantly thinking that growth is good, and needs to be pursued, we should embrace smallness and embrace small business instead of trying to compete for big businesses to come here. In comparison, a 300 person business is still small in the scheme of big business. We should focus our energies on developing 10 businesses with 10 people and allow that size business to grow organically.
- lack of reliable high speed internet access, cost of health insurance, direct flights to Toronto and Florida
- Cost of living doesn't match up with compensation available to most people
- As a CPA Firm, my market is here in Vermont. My growth is in the overall market growth.
- Attitude expressed that Vermont is bad for business (e.g., Governor's statements) which prevent those of us who think Vermont is great for business to effectively sell it to synergistic businesses we want to have come and work with us.

- I've thought about going to a state that has more electronics business.
- Many other states (Kentucky, North Carolina) have SBIR matching programs. I've successfully raised 1 million through SBIR, but there is no matching program in VT. Broadband is moribund. Many states and towns have implemented fiber to the home programs (municipal or state-wide).
- Public Service Board, taxes, lack of incentives
- Taxes are way too high on personal income which is where the business income lands for many small businesses as 1120S or LLC formats. Also, the unemployment program is too lenient and workers' compensation insurance is too expensive...all the stuff you already know!
- We live in Vermont, we will not be relocating. Increasing taxes is the biggest concern at this time with regard to expansion. As a general contractor, we are at the mercy of the market...so we strive to be diverse in what we can offer. Constantly changing tax issues will always be an uncomfortable unknown.
- reduction in quality of life here
- Create incentives for businesses to source raw materials from Vermont for Vermont products.
- High taxes; punitive and negative attitude toward business in the legislature
- Increases to taxes.
- Taxes, health insurance costs
- Taxation levels (counting all taxes, fees etc.) and lack of confidence in our legislature regarding the ability/desire to control the size of state government!! State Pension obligations are a mathematical time bomb.
- high taxes, transportation, workforce
- Lack of access to capital (seed & growth) Lack of meaningful state support (grants, loans, etc) for emerging companies and renewable energy
- too many taxes
- Unfriendly business environment
- Unemployment tax issues and workers compensation costs make us reconsider every hiring decision we currently make in Vermont. It is easier to hire at one of our other locations in other states.
- Taxes are too high. The work force is not educated enough. Air transportation is difficult and unreliable.
- The issues I see in Vermont are the issues in surrounding states so I do not feel drawn to relocate.
- Forced Unionism, Progressive/Liberal Agenda in the State, High Taxes, Labor Costs
- health care costs
- Employment costs related to Unemployment, Worker's Comp insurance, health care mandates that continue to increase premiums
- Health Care costs
- taxes/payroll taxes and workers' compensation fees
- We need broadband soon.
- 1) The Act 250 process and district commissions are destroying the capacity for change and/or growth. District personnel have been allowed to become "czars" - exercising very arbitrary authority and (2) State/municipal tax policies and authority needs to be re-examined to foster better/improved services for less money and redundancy.

- High taxes, Opposition from obstructionist organizations masquerading as environmental champions.
- Rent prices, health care costs
- I am concerned about being able to continue in my practice in Vermont due to the low rate of reimbursement by insurance companies who pay me for providing services to their subscribers (while their executives get huge salaries, bonuses and retirement packages) as operating costs continue to go up. Also, the high property taxes cause me to consider moving out of state now, before I retire.
- Increased Tax burden, Out of control unsustainable state spending, the proposed 12% payroll tax to pay for Vermont health care, decreasing property rights, increased state regulation
- I will not be relocating - that is not to say that VT does not have serious issues! The "let's make this into a museum crowd" and at the Legislature and Governor end it is "let's not fix anything that will upset potential voters, so this scandalous property tax rebate system with checks to 2 out of 3 residential taxpayers and Current Use payments to out of state or wealthy owners of large tracks of land continue to the tune of more than \$200,000,000 a year in taxes that other people have to pay, is stifling any chance of economic development. We are parents of 3 college educated kids, locating in VT means a pay cut and a cost of living bump. Not a good equation for a strong future. So when retirement comes we will relocate to where the kids are, keeping a smaller residence here for vacations etc ...
- I work for a non-profit, so nothing.
- We moved here two years ago to be closer to our family and our home. Our business was in Plattsburgh, NY for over 30 years.
- Excessive state regulatory oversight, licensing requirements and high level of taxation/fees.
- High Taxes
- Better opportunities and more predictable permitting and incentives for redevelopment, renewable energy elsewhere; VT legislature and many VT communities do not seem to value business as a tool for the greater good; limited opportunity in VT; risk for investors is too great in comparison with potential return; too much uncertainty in legislative efforts (state business solar tax credit is good example... concept put out there, business models developed, cap placed on quantity of available tax credits by legislature, investors walk away)
- Total taxes burden is too high (Income, Capital Gains, estate, property) Access to the talent we need to remain competitive.
- Cost of energy, overly restrictive environmental and other regulation, lack of housing and affordable lifestyle for employees.
- Tax structure & high taxes (property, income, estate)
- Heavy imposed taxation on existing businesses. Very little commercial financial breaks. In fact if you are commercial in Vermont everything is higher. Electric/Telephone Rates, just for an example.
- Gov. Douglas passing into law taxing non-profit ticket sales...This is ridiculous and should be stopped
- Decreasing grant support from state government
- Vermont is losing too many businesses and not gaining any. Taxes,taxes,taxes.

- Inability to get trained staff, taxes
- none
- N/A we are here to stay no matter what....
- None
- potential erosion in Vermont's national leadership role in clean energy (CA, MA and others are surpassing our commitments to efficiency and renewables)
- Banks unwillingness to make loans to small, existing businesses. Our business could be double in size right now if we had access to low interest capital.
- High tax rate on Vermonters. Highest taxed state in the country. Not very business friendly
- Rising unemployment tax. Rising electricity expense. High income and property taxes. Risk of single payer health insurance program. Workers compensation mandates = high premiums. Unreasonably strict pollution and emission standards compared to many other states.
- 1. Lack of Single Payer health care. 2. The lack of digital infrastructure similar to Burlington Telecom statewide. I recently moved my business and Fairpoint is the provider. With BT our upload speeds were 5 minutes per gig, and here in the center of Burlington on Fairpoint (only option) it is 4 hours per gig. We cannot sustain this for many months.
- Lack of appropriate workers and lack of business client base (service industry - law firm)
- Taxes in all forms! Specifically: Social service programs while good in theory are excessive in number and need to be regulated and managed in a sustainable way and concern about estate taxes as retirement becomes a reality for the large demographic segment of Baby Boomers. Catamount Health is a bureaucratic burden and ineffective in reaching/benefiting our eligible part-time employees. Excessive Burlington regulations for building. Concern about high increases in utility prices, especially electricity and water.
- high taxes, no state incentives for small businesses, continued development of Vermont's green areas which are turning tourists and visitors away, no budget for marketing the state
- too many regulations, too high taxes and insurances
- Degradation of environment
- The lack of educated people who have a felt-need for the sophisticated services of the 21st century.
- Licensing of Contractors, although overall it is a great concept being a project manager like myself I would no longer qualify as a "Contractor"
- Tax rates. Hindrances to starting a new business both at the local and state level - involvement by state government which makes it almost impossible to succeed in VT with a business.
- Taxes and cost of living
- unable to keep good people in-state due to high taxes and lower wages than other locations outside of VT/NE
- Small scale limits the number of potential clients and size of projects
- Not enough support for small businesses and too narrow a focus on what businesses need to grow

- No business issues presently. However, I would consider relocating outside of Vermont if, for example, Internet access were hindered.
- Act 250, high taxes, anti business climate
- reticence to any change - attitude
- I would never be anywhere but Vermont - it's a beautiful state with a great environment and a strong local community base from which to grow a local business
- Lack of work.
- If business counseling services were to be cut (i.e. VtSBDC & CVOEO's Micro Business Development Program), it would make starting/running a business in VT less feasible and less desirable.
- High cost of living makes it expensive to recruit and retain quality employees of which there is a declining base from which to choose suitable candidates from, high health care costs for business and employees, extremely high tax rates, limited financing and capital options for software development companies, an apparent lack of focus on insuring local Vermont companies gain from statewide initiatives such as the VITL group.
- The general business environment in Vermont is not good. Business taxes are too high, young people leave the state to find jobs elsewhere because VT is such hostile environment for business; regulations like ACT 250 are so cumbersome that I would not consider buying another building in VT that fell under ACT 250; Health insurance costs are too high because competition has been driven out of the state because insurance companies are required to cover any and all care including chiropractic therefore major insurers have departed the state leaving our costs of health insurance too high
- Continued tax increases Lack of broadband and cell phone coverage High cost of travel from BTV
- Taxes, excessive fees, excessive social services payments lack of "caring" and understanding by local and state government. A general entitlement "you owe me" attitude from many in the workforce.
- High taxes unfriendly business mentality
- Lack of walk/bike paths and public transportation; lack of broadband and cellular coverage.
- lack of credit
- N/A - I choose to be in Vermont and as a professional have flexibility to work with people all over the country.
- The difficult business environment does not allow for business growth of existing businesses or getting new businesses to relocate here.
- Employment regulations skewed unfairly in favor of employees; Commercial property taxes; Limited access to healthcare plans; Onerous mandated coverage as part of healthcare plans; General cost of living
- none whatsoever
- Taxes and Act 250 regulations
- challenge of funding and support
- Vermont is not business friendly, too many hurdles to clear and they keep moving them.
- Taxes, both real estate and employment, and the burden of health insurance on small seasonal employers
- Ridiculous micromanagement; cost of health care; lack of a real voice in government.

- Inability to use State Fishing Accesses and the high cost of maintaining/having employees.
- Burdensome regulation, High taxes
- Lack of a business minded, pro-active Legislature. Underfunded and unsustainable social programs. Universal health care mandate with no regard for cost containment
- Property taxes. Act 60 / 68 is killing resort residential real estate, killing our education system, and killing entrepreneurs who want to work and live in this state.
- Death TAXES, Income TAXES, Unemployment TAXES, Property TAXES, HEALTHCARE TAXES,
- Access to affordable housing for employees. Housing costs and availability are a huge consideration to employees and the unemployed looking for work. Also, more tax incentives for the smaller businesses/sole proprietors.
- The high tax burden placed upon small business owners. Business expenses towards utilities. Lack of population base with middle to high income.
- Vermont has a reputation of being unfriendly to incoming business, property taxes are high, and regulations are strict on existing small businesses.
- We are a one of a kind resort. If property taxes, unemployment taxes (ours went up to 7.2 % yesterday) and other overhead cost continue to rise we will not be able to continue our operation. We will downsize or sell.
- Harassment from the census and high taxes
- Taxes; Work force availability
- punishing taxes... regulations.... inability to find leadership in state government
- lack of state support for commercial growth
- Tax law complexity relating to personnel.
- Legislature is out of control. They are spending us into oblivion and aren't dealing with our inherent union issues. We need Act 250 reform and serious fiscal responsibility. I see neither from the legislature. Our education financing is a disaster.
- There are no issues that affect us in that way at this time
- Demand for services.
- I believe there are better markets and more opportunity outside of Vermont
- Lack of growth in high-tech businesses, e.g., product development, light manufacturing and consulting.
- There is no empathy or focus on employers and job creation.
- Vermont is very hospitable to small businesses. We have expanded into other states, but we have no intention of making our base anywhere but Vermont.
- None.
- I feel that the cost of business in Vermont is very high and that there are very few state incentives to do business in Vermont.
- High taxes, utilities and limited client base
- Red-tape required to hire employees
- NONE
- None- It is a service business.
- I wish I was a little closer to the skiing locations, to pick up more winter business that is our down fall in the winter months.

- Taxes, unemployment rates, amount of industry here. Cost of housing/ living. Taxes on business. Basically other states are looking more appealing. More potential accounts and little or no taxes.
- If the legislature decided to require licenses for designers
- Limited cost effective resources for non-profits; lack of state support/incentives; lack of local philanthropic support; increasing cost burdens on smalls business through taxes, HR, etc.
- Taxes.
- High income and property taxes
- Lower Taxes- Funding for new equipment (clunker swap-out). Access to domestic and government customers. Educated work force in math and sciences
- High property taxes; High cost of living; Increased regulations and high cost of permitting for new construction and development
- South Burlington has been very difficult to deal with. It seems like they go out of their way to harass our company.
- none
- Environmental interference; Lack of sewer allocation; out of control State Budget; Property Taxes.
- It's been here since 18** so it's unlikely it'll go anywhere soon
- Relocating is not going to happen
- Taxes, cost of living vs. wages
- Proximity to major market like Burlington-may have to close more rural office. I have no qualms of starting a business in Vermont.
- Non-profit organization regulations
- Vermont is not business friendly
- Too many laws that impede my business
- Staggering, unreasonable interpretation of tax law; and the cost of warehouse square footage; other states are much more competitive.
- Access to more foodies stores and shows.
- The paper work is crazy, and taxes and tax forms, especially since we have offices in different states, are incomprehensible. I am, and have been for the last year, pulling 5/8 pay just so I don't have to lay anybody off and yet my unemployment contribution rate has gone up 62.5% in the last 3 years - and I have never had a claim against it! I did a small job for the state last year and they decided to hold back most of the payment as they said we owed a back tax. I would swear under oath in court that we owed no taxes, and that we never received any notice that we did. When I called the tax department I was told they could not produce any documentation of what we owed and we just had to take their word for it.
- None
- I would not relocate, but am worried about the length of time of the permit process for businesses that are considering moving to Vermont.
- Heavy-handed tax auditing initiatives by the State to try to capture under-reported income or sales tax. We are experiencing this from NY State Dept of Taxation.
- Way too expensive to operate in VT. Everything is tilting away from the employer. I have no desire to grow my business any bigger than it is because of the new health care bill. My employee count keeps me under the magic number.

- Vermont has never helped me with start up money. Start micro financing or something like that.
- We need more employers moving to the area. I'm a Realtor and we need companies to stay here and grow.
- My business is unique in that I only offer a specific service and my business only succeeds when the real estate market and interest rates are favorable to home buyers and current owners. At this time I have no desire to relocate out of the state or wish to operate another business.
- lack of, and inconsistent, coordinated state regulation
- Inadequate technology and telecommunications, or increasingly excessive taxes.
- tax structure
- Cost of doing business and lengthy permit process inhibits growth of our members. Also access to capital for growth.
- Unfortunately, we are tied to our geographic market and could not relocate our business. The issue that hurts us the most is propensity of the state legislature to tax or regulate any source of revenue we that we have.
- high taxes
- The cost of renting or buying an appropriate warehouse space.
- Lack of Market for my specialty
- The permitting process is way out of control in Vermont. Stop regulating everyone out of business.
- None.
- Taxes, availability and education of the workforce.
- More taxes. More government paperwork.
- We are a not for profit business, providing social services.
- This is my home and this is where I do business. I feel I would face the same issues I face now no matter where I am. It is important to me to face my problems and make things work.
- Taxes too high in this state.
- None
- None
- None, haven't considered expanding.
- Tax rate / energy costs
- high taxes
- Start-up fees. Licensing and zoning fees.
- Health insurance being affordable so that I may offer it as a benefit
- I am a little concerned about the high tax rate. I suppose that is something you have to deal with no matter where you live.
- lack of skilled trades people penalized for paying a living wage (workers comp) too much government oversight/agencies to deal with
- The taxes, the environmental and local permits are overbearing
- none
- nothing
- Tax environment. Lack of legislative support for tourism - or understanding of the \$\$ tourism investment brings to VT
- Small available workforce.

- The taxes and unwillingness to help businesses with permitting and regulations
- I don't want to even think about relocating or growing elsewhere.
- Too many "socialist"-type regulations...taxes too high for small businesses, mandate to provide health insurance and other insurances, workers' comp., etc. etc.....and INCOME AND PROPERTY TAXES too high - too much of my take-home is taxed! The middle-class is squeezed out of having incentive to work hard and grow businesses....you have to be either rich or poor to access anything!
- Need for greater focus and resources to expand the tourism industry
- Tax burden
- Taxes
- None.
- Incentives for corporate responsibility, accountability for environmental protection, investment in innovation, commitment to better quality of life for ALL people in our community.
- The workmen's compensation laws. Health insurance laws that require small businesses to offer it or contribute to state fund.
- None.
- None.
- As a Vermont based non-profit, there is nothing that would cause us to relocate outside Vermont.
- Vermont is not very "small business friendly". Too many taxes, too much onus put on the business owner. Too many restrictions. The permitting/development is so difficult and time consuming...why grow? I want to attract a strong, high quality workforce. I don't mind offering benefits, they should have good business, but the cost of benefits makes it hard to offer.
- Taxes and cost of doing business (housing, insurance).
- Lack of large scale businesses
- High taxes, soaring property taxes, onerous and highly unpredictable regulations.
- Cost of doing business continues to create an excessive burden forcing many businesses in our area to go out of business!
- High income and property taxes.
- Increased tax burdens
- Taxes and fees (that are taxes in disguise)
- Over-development of communities; lax or lack of regulation, especially on building, air quality, water quality
- None
- small market
- developmental pressure
- Onerous, punitive ongoing tax policy which wants to exploit exactly those individuals who generate tax-generating activities. Incentive packages do not make up for the financial exploitation of those who are self-motivated/self starters.
- health care costs
- Continued raising of taxes, and more interference from state authorities in determining how my business is to be run.
- Burlington's city hall staff are, to me, not supportive of my running my business. "We are not in business to keep you in business"= a direct quote.

- none
- none
- tax burden too high, work comp rates much higher than surrounding states, government not understanding burdens placed on business
- None
- High taxes, excess regulations, nanny state, customer base that has a job
- cost of insurance; cost of unemployment taxes
- VT is not a business friendly State. Graying of the State, lack of opportunity for students graduating from our colleges which causes a brain drain, restricted taxes, laws, quality of work force - get the point. Now just look across the border at NH and you will see a State that has no sales or State income tax. Our representatives in our State government just don't get it. They are more interested in the welfare of moose than the citizens of the State!!! What we need is to engage a world-class consulting firm such as the Boston Consulting Group to take stock of our competitive advantages and develop a Strategic Economic Development Plan. That would be a good investment of our tax dollars - fat chance they would consider it and even a fatter chance they would take ownership and implement such a plan.
- The tax burden on a small business is too high.
- Return on Taxes (ROT) - I don't mind higher taxes if the infrastructure is good, education is great and safety is strong.
- Wouldn't.
- Cost of employment (wages, taxes, health insurance, unemployment, etc) compared to the other state we have an office in.
- None that I can think of, it's all here.
- Economic factors - limited growth potential.
- would not consider moving my business
- Good question: Thank YOU!! (1) The main problem (and it's a big one) is that VT laws do not allow civil claims to be filed if the damages are "anticipatory". A business must, under the present laws, wait until there is "real" harm, and then file a complaint. Under these present laws, ideally, a business should wait until it is bankrupt, and then file claims against the other side. These existing laws expose business to too much uncertainty and risk. (2) The "old-boy" network of lawyers in Chittenden County must be broken-up by anti-trust laws and in many cases, criminal charges should be brought against them. They have been operating w/o real checks & balances (they comprise the PCB-board) way too long. They are oppressive to any business that is "outside" of their multi-generational network.
- Cost of living in Vermont; Cost of energy in Vermont
- Policies that prohibit a company from operating freely, collaborating appropriately, or marketing our products in the state.
- Costs, Taxes
- We are looking to move our in-home office to a public building. The high cost of leasing and stricter terms in may make it difficult to purchase a commercial building.
- land permitting and property taxes
- Added regulation
- Inheritance tax

- Can't relocate as we are a Vermont based financial organization serving Vermont individuals and businesses, however, we are growing outside of Vermont
- the cost of doing business is increasing faster than profitability
- lack of capitol
- I love Vermont.
- taxes, regulatory structure
- Taxes. More business friendly for regulations. Provide incentives for business to grow.
- Taxes driving my client base to other states.
- Taxes, economy, workforce...
- We love Vermont and plan to stay.
- geographic/travel inconvenience
- Our business is tied to the land here in VT
- High cost of living and small market
- High taxes, high cost of living, health insurance has no competition - expensive.
- high taxes
- None really.....
- Parking costs in downtown Burlington might make us consider relocation to different location. High cost of living and high tax burden in VT makes attracting new hires difficult unless they have VT connections.
- The general sentiment that the private sector can absorb any and all tax burdens is problematic.
- Ours is a service industry for local businesses so it is very difficult to relocate. I do not intend to retire in Vermont though due to the high taxes
- Biggest challenge is the regulatory environment in Burlington. CEDO and the Mayor say one thing and the professional city workers disagree.
- I can't relocate, but I would sell the business or stop investing in it if my energy, employee benefit costs, development costs and delays and the state infrastructure makes it unappealing to continue investing in the business
- Vermont continues to be an "unfriendly" business climate
- Would not consider leaving the state
- Very difficult business environment as a result it does not attract other business of scale and size to grow or locate here, which as a professional service provider we need to be successful.

**answers were edited for spelling and grammar. Identifying comments were removed or edited.*