



Survey of Candidates for the 2009-2010 Vermont Legislative Session

Thank you for your participation. Candidate responses to survey questions will be published in our candidate guide distributed to our members. Results will also be available on our web site.

Please feel free to expand on any answer that you feel needs elaboration (Limit 15 words per question). Additional written responses to questions will be made available on our web site.

Contact Cathy Davis at 863-3489 ext. 206 or cathy@vermont.org with any questions regarding this survey.

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Submit date: **Oct 6, 2008**

Candidate Information

Name: **Doug Racine**
 Address: **909 Wes White Hill Road, Richmond, VT 05477**
 Phone & Email: **802-434-2013 dougracine7@aol.com**
 Office Sought: **State Senator**
 Legislative District: **Chittenden County**
 Party Affiliation: **Democrat**
 Employment/Occupation: **Business Owner**
 List Public Service (10 words maximum): **State Senate - 6 terms, Lt. Governor - 3 terms, MMUHS School Board - 1 term**
 Please describe your top 3 priorities if elected (10 words maximum): **Jobs; Children, especially those in poverty; controlling health care costs**

Would you support placing wind power on ridgelines in your district?

- Yes
- No

Would you vote to support additional state investment in renewable electric generation? (examples: solar, wind, hydro power)

- Yes
- No

Please rank the following to describe your preference for ensuring the continuation of affordable electric service in Vermont: (Choose each category only once)

	Very Desirable	Desirable	Undesirable	Very Undesirable
In-state renewable power	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Out-of-state renewable power	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

In-state electric generation (gas-fired or nuclear generation plants)

Efficiency/Conservation

Do you support economic tax credit programs and other incentives to encourage the retention/expansion of existing Vermont companies?

- Yes
- No

Would you vote to support a dedicated fund to promote tourism?

- Yes
- No

Do you believe the state has an effective plan to spur economic development?

- Yes
- No

Would you vote to support reducing workers' compensation benefits to align them with national averages and reduce costs?

- Yes
- No

Would you vote to support the expansion of state programs that assist start-up companies to gain access to capital?

- Yes
- No

Do you favor allowing all Vermont municipalities to enact local option taxes such as local sales or rooms and meals taxes?

- Yes
- No

Should money raised from Local Option Taxes be shared with the state?

- Yes
- No

To address revenue shortfalls and balance the state budget would you first look to:

- Increase taxes and service fees
- Make across the board budget cuts
- Selectively cut budget items
- Reduce the size of the state workforce
- Reorganize state government in order to promote efficiency
- Other **Good management requires looking at all options, and not limiting government to just one.**

Which of the following areas of the state budget would you examine first in order to address revenue shortfall?

- Agriculture
- Economic development
- Education
- Human Services
- Natural Resources
- Transportation
- Other **See previous question's response about good management**

Do you support changing to an income tax-based system for education funding?

- Yes
- No

To build new transportation infrastructure, repair/maintain existing roads, bridges and culverts and increase access to public transit would you support:

- Increasing the per gallon tax on gasoline
- Increasing user fees (license, registration)
- Combination of the above
- None of the above/other

Do you support additional state fiscal investment in workforce training and education?

- Yes
- No

Do you support the investment of additional state funds to enhance child care subsidies?

- Yes
- No

Should Vermont elementary schools be required to offer free or reduced priced breakfast and lunch to income eligible children providing that the cost is not borne by the local property tax?

- Yes
- No

Do you believe that Vermont's health insurance regulations raise health insurance premiums in the state?

- Yes
- No

Do you believe that Vermont, without a national health care plan, can significantly affect the delivery and cost of health care?

- Yes
- No

Would you support making land use regulations in already developed areas less restrictive in order to encourage more growth in these areas?

- Yes
- No

Please feel free to expand on your answers to any of the previous questions. Be sure to include the section and question number with your comments.

ENERGY Question 1: I will have to wait to see all the outcomes of studies being conducted. Financial issues are also important. Question 2: This depends on our ability to meet future needs through efficiency, conservation, renewable and out of state sources. Question 3: After the usual regulatory and environmental reviews. Question 5: I would first want to evaluate the return on our current investments and the potential return on greater investments. Question 6: The solution lies in a mix of efforts. Gas-fired is desirable but Nuclear is very undesirable. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Question 1: Yes, so long as their efficacy can be measured. Question 4: I would evaluate benefits in terms of fairness to injured workers. There are other ways to reduce costs. TAX AND FISCAL POLICY Question 5: Don't know TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE Question 1: All of these options are important. Balance is important. EDUCATION Question 2: There is no evidence that larger school districts automatically result in improved efficiency or outcomes, so I cannot answer this question. Question 3: My district already has a district wide contract without state law. HEALTH CARE Question 1: There are other options, such as working to reduce health care costs and shifting priorities within the state budget. And "cuts to benefits" mean more free care and therefore more cost shifting. Question 2: Which employers? Those already providing health insurance or those who are not? Question 4: Insured's age: perhaps as a way to get young Vermonter into the insurance system. Health status: No HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT Question 1: I don't know what this means. I want to discourage strip development and loss of farm land, but I don't want to stop development. I prefer to encourage development in town centers. Question 3: They are both "most important" Question 4: I believe that a responsible legislator must treat all of these areas as most important. Question 5: ALL of these areas are important to Vermont and Vermonters. .

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