

# Linda Joy Sullivan

for Vermont Auditor of Accounts 2020

**In times like these, Vermont deserves a *True Public Auditor***

For many weeks now, during every stop on my *Audit This!* virtual tour of Vermont, I have spoken to Vermonters about a little known but essential bit of public audit “inside baseball” — the critical need in times of unexpected crisis for a public auditor to develop immediately what we in my line of work call an “*Audit Plan*.”

Make no mistake — these emergency federal monies we have been receiving need to be spent quickly and efficiently to those in need. But as I wrote in an article published last week in the [Manchester Journal](#), they also need to be spent legally, to make sure that the bill for our public emergency measures aren’t taxed back by the Feds to individual Vermonters. That’s where a well designed *audit plan* comes in.

Our incumbent State Auditor on Friday finally acted, not by announcing an industry standard *audit plan* but by announcing a creation of an incomplete informational *web page* through which *Vermonters could largely do the work themselves*.

An informational web page is not an *Audit Plan*. What’s an Audit Plan? In my line of work, as a CPA and nationally-registered Public Auditor, we use *Audit Plans* to reduce risk by coming up with front-end strategies and action plans to permit realtime oversight over the disbursement of monies. Without a strong audit plan Vermont is at risk that monies given to us today will be demanded back by the federal government — demanded back after the monies have already been spent.

I have spoken to State Auditors in other states who have been engaged in *audit planning* since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, knowing that emergency relief funding — with strings attached — would be arriving.

Where is the Vermont audit plan? Apparently, we get an informational web page instead. It’s incomplete too – it doesn’t even address the federal CARES money.

Transparency about how other people work is good. But doing the work assigned to you is better. In times like these, we need a State Auditor who will do the work, not one who opts — [like he did with our State College System debacle](#) — to simply act as a bystander.

Where’s Vermont’s plan?

When I announced my candidacy to become your next Vermont State Auditor, Douglas Hoffer downplayed my extensive public audit credentials by telling the Vermont Digger, “I’m not the guy who does the work.”

On August 11, vote for someone who will actually “do the work” of the People, vote for a True Public Auditor, Vote for Linda Joy.