

Linda Joy Sullivan

for Vermont Auditor of Accounts 2020

Help Improve the Way Montpelier Works ... Vote for a State Auditor Who Will Look Out for You!

Although we have all appropriately been focused these last many months on the unique challenges presented by our COVID-19 crisis, I feel we need during this election season to ask why Montpelier has failed to address problems that have been literally decades in the making. Let's highlight just a few of them.



Earlier this year we all saw the headlines around the near failure of the **State College System**, a victim of many years of fiscal neglect. And just last December many Vermonters were likewise surprised to learn of the **profound crisis existing in our State prison system**.

There are still other issues that haven't made the headlines.

Our fellow citizens are only beginning to hear about the massive **\$4.7 BILLION hole** that Vermont taxpayers will need to fill to cover our public employee pension and retiree healthcare obligations. Few Vermonters are aware as well that we rank **next to last in the U.S. for our government ethics programs**.

Our representatives in Montpelier have a shared responsibility to pay attention to the basics, such as educating our students, securing health and retirement benefits and providing adequate government infrastructure – **and that goes for our State Auditor**.

Consider this. In his 8 years in office, the incumbent State Auditor has:

- **not attended 22 of 23 State College System audit committee meetings and has never addressed the system's chronic underfunding**
- **chosen to ignore our public pension and retiree healthcare shortfalls**
- **missed important opportunities to take a significant leadership role as to government ethics, to include looking into questions of government complicity in the EB-5 scandal**
- **not addressed our inadequate prison system and how we have consistently underserved our female prison population**

The current Auditor seems to have selected for audit and examination issues of ideological interest to him or issues that have relatively small impact on the lives and well-being of Vermonters. The State Auditor must always be a **true fiduciary** for the people. That means that the Auditor's attention has to remain on the most intractable, difficult and practically "unfixable" of our issues – not issues that match the Auditor's personal interests given his background as a career political consultant.

It takes a certain fearlessness to take on the biggest of our challenges. As a CPA and a public auditor by profession, I know what it takes to do the job. I pledge that as your Auditor I will be tenacious. I will not be a "one-and-done" Auditor. I will do the work. If deficiencies aren't fixed, I will stay on them no matter the challenge.

It's time for a change. It's time to improve the way Montpelier works.

**On August 11, Vote for an Auditor in Montpelier with
the Courage to Take on the Most Difficult of Our Public Challenges**

Linda Joy's Campaign
Website

Help us to get the word out. It's easy enough to do -- forward this email to friends and family or share on your favorite social media site!

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