

Linda Joy Sullivan

for Vermont Auditor of Accounts 2020

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Media Release: Representative Linda Joy Sullivan Announces Candidacy for State of Vermont Auditor

Linda Joy Sullivan, Democrat of Dorset, announced today her intention to enter the primary election for the office of Auditor of Accounts.

Sullivan has for the last four years served in the Vermont General Assembly, representing her Bennington and Rutland County constituents in the Towns of Dorset, Danby, Peru, Landgrove and Mount Tabor. She anticipates facing incumbent Doug Hoffer (Dem-Prog) in the primary election scheduled for August 11.

The Office of State Auditor was established under Article II of the Vermont Constitution. In addition to conducting the statewide audit, the State Auditor is the principal State authority responsible for ensuring against fraud, waste and abuse in the operation of government programs. The State Auditor is also tasked by the legislature with conducting special purpose reviews and program oversight.

Sullivan, beyond serving in the Vermont House of Representatives, is a Certified Public Accountant and the founder of a Vermont-based public audit and consulting firm, MaughanSullivan LLC. In addition to being a CPA, Sullivan holds an MBA as well a Masters of Law focused in Finance and International Taxation. In connection with her law degree, Sullivan was awarded a Certificate of Expertise in U.S. Taxation. Sullivan has been court appointed to act as a receiver and turnaround specialist and she has been qualified by the courts to testify in various litigation matters as a forensic investigations expert.

“The State Auditor is one of our very most important offices. While we in Vermont are rich in so many ways, we need to be especially vigilant given our size to protect our public resources against waste and abuse,” said Sullivan. “My experience as a legislator has taught me that many of our State programs are inefficient and wasteful. I hope to share my decades of experience as a public auditor and CPA to ensure not only that our programs bring real value to Vermonters but that we are protecting the substantial investments in those programs by our tax payers and communities.”

Sullivan has served on the House Commerce and Economic Development Committee and currently sits on House Institutions and Corrections. She has acted as principal sponsor of a number of important bills, including proposed legislation focused on climate change,

Act 250, the opioid crisis, sex trafficking, the State's unfunded pension liability and education. She currently serves as the Northeast Regional Director of the *National Foundation of Women's Legislators* as well as the Vermont State Director for another national women's leadership caucus, *Women in Government*.

"Although I appreciate the sincerity and hard work of my colleagues in the Legislature, I know first hand that we need to conduct more rigorous oversight over how we spend our scarce resources," Sullivan added. "The absence of a robust ethics function in the State also makes me uneasy. We need to work on all fronts to bring true accountability and integrity to how our government is run. The State Auditor obviously plays a critical role in that effort."

A frequent op-ed contributor, Sullivan believes the hallmarks of any good legislator and public official are accountability, advocacy and accessibility. "I see little sense in serving passively in elected positions. Public officials are given a special trust, and we need passionately to repay that trust — by firmly calling out things that don't work, by strongly advocating for change when necessary and by working every day to make ourselves accessible to those we serve."

Sullivan lives in Dorset with her husband, Allan, a Vermont attorney practicing in Manchester.

Prior to holding public office, Sullivan was the founder and Executive Director of a national anti-human trafficking not-for-profit that served over 3,000 victims of sex trafficking offenses. In that capacity, she helped train judges, members of the law enforcement community, first responders and concerned citizens.

In addition, she was in 2015 appointed to the Vermont *Children and Family Council Program* and chaired its Judicial Committee. She was also appointed to an *Unlicensed Practice of Law Committee* by the Florida Supreme Court.

Sullivan's business, MaughanSullivan LLC, is one of the few female-owned PCAOB registered audit firms in the country. Her firm operates nationally through three offices, to include an office in Manchester, Vermont. The PCAOB is the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board established under the federal Sarbanes Oxley financial accountability law.

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