1. Ensure that work pays and families meet their basic needs.

A. Make work pay.
   • Increase the state minimum wage and state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) so that working families have a livable income.
   • Eliminate public benefits barriers that reduce incomes when earnings increase.
   • Expand short-term compensation programs to help employers avoid layoffs.

B. Ensure family economic security.
   • Make high quality, affordable early care and education available to all who need it.
   • Open state-administered retirement plans to everyone.
   • Ensure that Reach Up fulfills its statutory purpose to serve the “well-being of children by providing for their immediate basic needs, including food, housing, and clothing.”

C. Advance cost containment and public funding of health care.


A. Improve Vermont’s education system.
   • Add two years to public education.
   • Improve adult education and workforce training.

B. Increase public investment in infrastructure.
   • Fund transportation in ways that are both financially and environmentally sustainable.
   • Ensure that state investment in high-speed Internet benefits the public.
   • Repair Vermont’s aging drinking water, waste water, and solid waste systems.
   • Invest in long-term improvements in affordable housing.

3. Restore public confidence in state government.

A. Restore government’s capacity to do its job.
   • Strengthen performance measurement and results-based accountability throughout state government.
   • Restore policy and planning staff.

B. Include long-range planning in the budget process.
   • Provide clear estimates of spending now and at least five years into the future, as is done with revenue.
   • Increase rainy day funds and make them easier to use.

C. Fund state services equitably.
   • Replace school property taxes on primary residences with an income based tax.
   • Avoid business tax incentive gimmicks.

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