A Framework for Progress:
Investing in Vermont's people, infrastructure, and good government

2018 Report Card

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

- **Make work pay.**
  - Increase the state minimum wage and state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).
  - Eliminate benefit cliffs.
  - Expand short-term compensation programs to help employers avoid layoffs.

- **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."

- **Advance cost containment and public funding of health care.**
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  - Include long-range planning in the budget process.


- **Improve Vermont's education system.**
  - Add two years to public education.
  - Improve adult education and workforce training.

- **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.

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

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

- **Fund state services equitably.**
  - Replace school property taxes on primary residences with an income based tax.
  - Avoid business tax incentive gimmicks.
  - Incentive funding remained unchanged for fiscal 2019, and a recent State Auditor report questioned their value.