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

1 Make work pay and ensure that all Vermonters can meet basic needs.

A. Make work pay.
   • Ensure that working families have a livable income by raising the minimum wage and expanding the state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).
   • Take concrete steps to reduce barriers to public benefits that discourage workers from seeking advancement or longer hours.
   • Expand short-term compensation programs to help employers avoid layoffs.

B. Ensure family economic security.
   • Meet the state’s guidelines for funding the Child Care Financial Assistance Program.
   • Promote state-administered retirement savings plans.
   • Provide Reach Up benefits that are adequate to meet the immediate basic needs of eligible children.

C. Hold the line on health care.

2 Build for the future by making smart, evidence-based investments in programs and infrastructure.

A. Improve Vermont’s education system.
   • Make sure that all young children can take advantage of pre-K education.
   • Improve adult education and workforce training.

B. Increase public investment in infrastructure, including roads, public transportation, clean water, telecommunications, and housing.
   • Fund transportation in ways that are both financially and environmentally sustainable.
   • Make needed repairs to Vermont’s aging drinking water, wastewater, and solid waste systems.
   • Fully fund the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board and increase the Vermont Rental Subsidy Program.

3 Make state government more effective by increasing public engagement, fairness, and transparency.

A. Create an infrastructure for public engagement on the state budget.

B. Include long-range planning in the budget process to weather volatility.
   • 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.
   • Eliminate school property taxes on primary residences.
   • Increase transparency by refining current services budgets to provide the fullest picture of Vermont’s current obligations.

PUBLIC ASSETS INSTITUTE

PO Box 942, Montpelier, Vermont 05601 | 802-223-6677 | publicassets.org

View full report at: publicassets.org