



Fwd: rutland water bonds

1 message

Kendall Chamberlin <kchamberlin@richmondvt.gov>
To: Josh Arneson <jarneson@richmondvt.gov>

Mon, Sep 26, 2022 at 5:05 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kendall Chamberlin** <kchamberlin@richmondvt.gov>
Date: Wed, Mar 2, 2016 at 3:16 PM
Subject: Re: rutland water bonds
To: Hill, Bard <Bard.Hill@vermont.gov>

Welcome to the era of water spending....finally! Maybe Bridge Street isn't dead yet.....just kidding! I must say, not much question on public opinion on East Main. Lots of folks talking today how that will change the whole image of Richmond in a very positive way.

Fluoride is certainly a tricky issue, but once again, customers vote to keep it. These votes are why I always just tell the opponents to get a petition going and raise it as a public issue.

On Wed, Mar 2, 2016 at 3:08 PM, Hill, Bard <Bard.Hill@vermont.gov> wrote:

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GORDON DRITSCHILO

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"I think the results are hugely positive in that they show a commitment on the citizens' part to a better future," said Board of Aldermen President William Notte. "No one wants to pay more taxes. For the people of Rutland to collectively say, we will pay more money to have a pool, we will pay more money to replace our water infrastructure, we will pay more money to improve our library — this shows they will take on a larger burden to make Rutland a better place to live and work."

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The emphasis should be on why we do a job.

W. Edwards Deming

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From: Hutt, Monica
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 8:54 AM
To: AHS - DAIL Management Team <AHS.DAILManagementTeam@vermont.gov>
Subject: FW: MEDIA CLIPS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

Monica Caserta Hutt, Commissioner

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The mission of the Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living is to make Vermont the best state in which to grow old or to live with a disability - with dignity, respect and independence.

From: Dudley, Jahala
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 7:57 AM
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

TIMES ARGUS/RUTLAND HERALD

Vermonters get their say

Sanders takes state handily

NEAL P. GOSWAMI

Sen. Bernie Sanders scored a decisive victory in his home state Tuesday but his Democratic rival is expected to deliver a body blow to his presidential hopes with resounding victories in most Super Tuesday states.

The hometown hero easily won in Vermont, although his margin of victory remained in question. Polls ahead of the primary showed him leading by more than 50 percentage points. The race was called immediately as polls closed by the Associated Press and all the major networks. With 60 of the state's 246 voting districts reporting, Sanders had an 87 percent to 12 percent advantage.

But Hillary Clinton, the former secretary of state, U.S. senator and first lady won big in Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee and Virginia — races that were also called as polls closed.

Sanders' supporters, more than 5,000-strong, who gathered at the Champlain Valley Expo were unaware of the television coverage of Super Tuesday. The campaign provided no live feeds as they have at past election night events. Sanders, who took the stage and spoke for about 15 minutes, thanked them for the win but did not address results elsewhere.

"This is not a general election. It's not winner take all," Sanders said. "By the end of tonight, we are going to win many hundreds of delegates."

"We have come a very long way in 10 months. At the end of tonight 15 states will have voted, 35 states remain. Let me assure you that we are going to take our fight for economic justice, for social justice, for environmental sanity, for a world of peace, to every one of those states," he added as the crowd roared with approval.

The homecoming rally was the first major campaign event in Vermont for Sanders since he formally launched his White House bid on the Burlington waterfront last May. The friendly crowd could serve as a boost to Sanders, who faces longer and longer odds to win the Democratic nomination.

Despite expected heavy losses in several Super Tuesday states, Sanders is flush with cash and can continue on thanks to robust fundraising in February. The campaign announced it raised \$42 million last month, including \$6 million on the final day of the month. Campaign aides say Sanders plans to continue battling for the nomination right up to the national convention in Philadelphia at the end of July.

Still, Sanders' path to the nomination is narrowing as Clinton continues to pile up victories. Even with the Democratic Party's proportional system of awarding delegates, large margins of victory by Clinton mean she will amass more delegates to the national convention than Sanders.

Jeff Weaver, Sanders' campaign manager, and Tad Devine, his top strategist, said they were looking to tally at least 300 delegates from the 11 states voting on Super Tuesday.

"If we get over 300 delegates tonight we're well within striking distance of the secretary's margin," Weaver said in an interview ahead of Sanders' speech. "California has over 400 delegates alone. There's New York, there's Pennsylvania, there's Ohio. So, it's only 15 states after tonight. We've got 35 to go."

Weaver also predicted additional victories Tuesday as results around the country rolled in. Results were still pending as of 8 p.m. in, Arkansas, Colorado, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Oklahoma and Texas.

“We’re going to have more victories tonight than Vermont,” Weaver said in an interview ahead of Sanders’ speech. “It’s a delegate fight. If you’re within 20 points in most states you’re going to split the delegates. So, this is a long process.”

Devine was more direct, saying the campaign’s strategy going forward required at least 300 of the more than 800 delegates up for grabs Tuesday.

“If we don’t get 300 delegates tonight I think it’s going to be a very steep hill for us to climb,” he said.

But, Devine also promised that “the end of this race is going to be decided by supporters and voters, not by the establishment.”

“I can understand the Clinton campaign wants it to be over, the establishment wants it to be over. It’s not going to be over until we’re done. We’re done when voters say that they don’t want the competition anymore. Right now we think voters in California want a place in this and we’re going to give it to them and that’s in June,” Devine said.

Sanders’ truncated stump speech included all of the highlights his longtime supporters are accustomed to. He poked at Clinton for not supporting the same type of single payer health care system he does.

“I know that Secretary Clinton and many of the establishment people feel that I’m looking and thinking too big. I don’t think so. So let me go on the record and say, as you have heard me say for years, health care is a right for all people,” he said, to thunderous cheers.

He also reiterated his plan to expand access to higher education.

“It’s not just first grade through 12. That has got to be expanded to make public colleges and universities tuition free,” he said.

And Sanders called for the political revolution he is spearheading to continue.

“What I have said is that this campaign is not just about electing a president. It is about making a political revolution. What the revolution is about is bringing millions of people into the political process — working people who have been so disillusioned they no longer vote, young people who have never been involved. What the political revolution is about is bringing our people together — black and white and Latino, Asian American, gay and straight, people born in America and people who emigrated to America,” Sanders said.

It’s a message that Vermonters have known and loved for decades. But Sanders is not banking on a shrinking number of states to heed it as well.

“I think as we move through this country, it’s a bunch of different states. I think what you’re going to see is the more they get to know Bernie Sanders the more they like him, the more powerful his message is,” Devine said. “We think the longer this process goes, on the better for us. And that’s why we’re going to stay in all the way to the end.”

Sanders and his wife, Jane, cast their ballots Tuesday morning at the Robert Miller Community and Recreation Center. Sander joked that he decided to vote for himself after “a lot of thought.” He then took questions from the media outside the polling location before spending some time on Burlington’s Church Street, the site of his campaign’s headquarters.

The rally featured Jerry Greenfield, of Ben & Jerry’s fame, as well as musician Ben Folds and local favorites Democratic gubernatorial candidates Matt Dunne and Sue Minter also addressed the crowd.

Before joining the musicians on stage to sing “This land is your land,” Sanders flashed a bit of his softer side. He noted how proud he is “to bring Vermont values all across this country.”

“Our message is resonating and the people, when we stand together, will be victorious,” Sanders said. “On a personal note, I want to thank all of you for the love and the friendship that you have given our family. You have sustained me.”

Voters are all thumbs up

ERIC BLAISDELL

Everything came up roses in the Capital City as every item up for vote on the Town Meeting Day ballot passed.

Voters passed an article, 2,791-455, that would change the city’s charter, giving it authority to regulate Berlin Pond. The charter change needs to be approved by the Legislature.

Berlin Pond has been an issue for years as residents in Montpelier want to be able keep people out of their source of drinking water. In 2012, after Barre Town residents were cited for kayaking on the pond, the Vermont Supreme Court ruled that the state — not Montpelier — had the right to regulate recreational activity on Berlin Pond.

In 2014, a group called Citizens to Protect Pond was formed, and it petitioned the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources to restore the pond to Montpelier’s protection. That petition was backed by Montpelier Mayor John Hollar, the Montpelier City Council, Montpelier Conservation Commission and the Berlin Conservation Commission. Vermont Agency of Natural Resources rejected that petition to restrict access, because experts in the field concluded that recreation was safe for the drinking water source.

After learning of the charter change effort in Montpelier this year, Berlin Select Board Chairman Ture Nelson called it “bad public policy to allow one municipality to have control over another municipality.”

Voters also approved a 1 percent local options tax, 2,038-1,231. The idea originated in two public budget forums held in the fall of 2015, and was the most popular idea generated by the public at the forums. Mayor John Hollar and the City Council said most constituents they spoke to were all for the tax earlier this year. But on Feb. 3, 40 business owners in the Capital City stated that they were against the local options tax during a Montpelier Business Association meeting.

Both the city and school budgets passed. Residents voted 2,556-640 to allow the city to collect \$8,434,702 in property taxes, which is a decrease of 1.4 percent from the current budget, which required \$8,552,740 in property taxes.

Voters approved the School Board budget of \$18,578,965 to run Union Elementary, Main Street Middle School and Montpelier High School. This will result in education spending of \$15,023 per equalized pupil. That would be 1.08 percent higher than spending for the current year.

For the Central Vermont Public Safety Authority, voters approved \$100,000 — \$53,000 from Barre City and \$47,000 from Montpelier — for the safety authority's operating budget. Montpelier residents also elected Kimberley Cheney as the safety authority's member at large. Cheney ran unopposed.

There were no contested races this year. Mayor John Hollar, Councilwoman Dona Bate and Councilman Justin Turcotte were all re-elected. For the school board, Michele Braun was re-elected and Peter Sterling and Jim Murphy will replace Chairwoman Sue Aldrich and Lowell VanDerlip. Bridget Asay was elected to serve out the remaining year of the three-year term.

Sarah Swenson was elected park commissioner and Bill Johnson was re-elected as park commissioner. Darragh M. Ellerson was elected to the Green Mountain Cemetery commission.

In other articles, voters approved a measure asking if the City Council can borrow up to \$710,000 for a 20-year bond for construction on the One Taylor Street project. They also approved an article asking for \$180,000 for improvements to the city's wastewater treatment plant.

For the Kellogg-Hubbard Library, voters approved a measure asking for \$316,698. They also approved a measure asking for \$75,000 for the North Branch Nature Center's capital campaign.

Rutland Town runs out of ballots

DAN COLTON

Voters at Rutland Town School were leaving the polling station around 5:30 p.m. because of a lack of Town Meeting Day ballots.

Officials estimated a 30-minute wait for more ballots to arrive and said it was the largest voter turnout in recent memory.

A number of people could be heard saying they needed to work and could not wait to vote. They walked away.

"It's very disturbing," said Patty Dunchus. "I'm angry. I'm frustrated they're unable to accommodate people."

Two unsuccessful Select Board candidates, Don Chioffi and Philip Allen, stood outside the polling location and expressed disbelief.

Chioffi, an incumbent, was heard exclaiming, "How could this happen? How could this happen?"

Allen said, "It's unacceptable."

Inside the school, a crowd of about 25 people waited for more ballots to arrive.

“How do they run out of ballots?” Deborah Trombley said.

The town ran out of local town meeting ballots but still possessed a surplus of presidential primary ballots.

Will Senning, director of election and campaign finance for the Vermont secretary of state’s office, was reached Tuesday evening and said the state doesn’t oversee town meeting ballots, but he wasn’t surprised to hear about the shortage because of the extra voters lured in by the presidential primary.

He said local Select Boards and Boards of Civil Authority determine the local ballot count.

“There are no rules in state law or in our office about how many local ballots should be printed,” Senning said. “They probably based the number they ordered on prior usage and did the best they could ... and then got surprised by the turnout.”

The secretary of state’s office sends supplementary presidential primary ballots to towns. Predicting a large turnout, the office upped the number of ballots shipped out.

“We typically print 50 percent (of a town’s registered voters) for primary elections,” Senning said. “Because we thought there might be a lot of turnout this year, we actually did 60 percent ... to hopefully get a little cushion.”

Senning said several other towns around the state called in to report town meeting ballot shortages. He recommended photocopying extra sheets.

Town Clerk and Treasurer Donna Zeller, was not immediately available for comment Tuesday. She was en route to obtain extra ballots from the town office, officials said.

Zeller said she printed 1,500 town meeting ballots. That number is 500 ballots above the normal number and Zeller said they still ran out of ballots twice — once around 5:30 p.m. and again the next hour. The first time, Zeller said, extra ballots were collected from town hall. The second time, ballots were photocopied and hand counted.

“That’s more than we’ve ever had,” Zeller said. “I actually went way out on a limb (printing extra copies).”

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Editorials: Pollution scare

Vermont and New York are responding to health emergencies because of a hazardous chemical found in underground drinking water. New York took about a year and a half before warning residents. Vermont took about an hour and 15 minutes.

The crisis in the two states illustrates the dangers that exist from the presence of dangerous, unregulated chemicals in the environment and the difficulty in protecting the public.

The crisis in New York is taking place in Hoosick Falls, just across the state line from Bennington. There, residents are dealing with what has been called the worst environmental crisis of Gov. Andrew Cuomo's five-year tenure. They are undergoing blood tests, and they are testing their wells. They are worried about the state of their health and the value of their property.

The threat comes from perfluorooctanoic acid, or PFOA, a chemical linked to a heightened risk of cancer, thyroid disease and reproductive complications. PFOA is associated with the manufacture of Teflon, and was used at a factory in Hoosick Falls.

That factory is now owned by Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics, which is the target of a class-action lawsuit, as is the previous owner, Honeywell International.

Now alarms have been raised in North Bennington about private wells whose water is polluted with the same chemical. State officials believe the source of the PFOA in Vermont is the former ChemFab plant, which is now owned by Saint-Gobain.

The chemical was found in North Bennington last week in three private wells, a North Bennington business and in the town's wastewater treatment plant. Tests have found no contamination in the municipal water supplies of Bennington and North Bennington.

Alyssa Schuren, state commissioner of environmental conservation, was quick to act. State officials met with local residents on Friday, and expanded testing began this week in North Bennington within a radius of a mile and a half of

the ChemFab plant. Residents within that radius have been told not to drink their water, and Saint-Gobain has agreed to provide bottled water and filters.

Schuren's rapid response comes in an atmosphere of heightened apprehension about water pollution, owing not just to Hoosick Falls, but also to Flint, Mich., and revelations of widespread chemical pollution around the country. Public officials who fail to respond quickly to toxic pollution are now facing the wrath of the voters.

The extent of the chemical threat has been well chronicled by Nicholas Kristof, columnist for The New York Times, who wrote in November of warnings coming from major medical groups. "Widespread exposure to toxic environmental chemicals threatens healthy human reproduction," said the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics.

Also, the National Cancer Institute declared that "exposure to toxic chemicals during pregnancy and lactation is ubiquitous." It said that contamination by 43 different chemicals can be found in virtually every pregnant woman in America and that "to a disturbing extent babies are born 'pre-polluted.'"

Kristof notes that there are about 80,000 different chemicals in use today, but a minuscule fraction has been tested, and few are regulated. And yet the medical profession is combating an increase in conditions, including birth defects, infertility, a variety of cancers, diabetes and obesity thought to be linked to chemicals known as endocrine disrupters. These chemicals are found in common products, including pesticides, plastics, shampoo, cosmetics, food can linings, even cash register receipts.

PFOA is one of the many chemicals that is thought to be a cause of cancer. Yet industry resists the regulation of chemicals in the same way that the tobacco industry resisted regulation of tobacco. And Congress has been happy to protect the industry from oversight. A chemical safety bill now in Congress would require testing of 25 new chemicals over the next five years — out of 80,000.

No wonder state officials are trying to act quickly in North Bennington and to make sure the region does not face a wider problem. It is becoming less fashionable to badmouth government and the necessary role it plays in protecting public safety. Maybe in time government at the national level will summon the will to take on the larger problem caused by chemicals in the environment.

Opinion: Hands off, politicians

Carl Davison, Barre Town

I am a retired Barre Town school employee. I understand the governor and some legislators are pressuring our elected state treasurer to sell off fossil fuel investments in our pension fund. Here is what I think about that: let experts like Treasurer Beth Pearce pick the investments, not the politicians. Frankly, they haven't done such a good job paying the state's bills. I think the Treasurer can do a better job helping me pay mine.

And really: whose money is it, the state's or the pensioners'? It's ours of course, so hands off, politicians.

I wish to express my thanks and appreciation to my Barre Town representatives, Robert LaClair and Topper McFaun, for voting to protect the pension fund in a recent vote on this issue in the House of Representatives.

OPINION: Carbon tax is crucial

Jack Hanson, Burlington

Putting a price on the emission of carbon dioxide, the most important greenhouse gas in terms of accelerating climate change, should not be a radical idea. It should be common sense, straightforward economics. Each metric ton of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere contributes to the greatest threat of our time. Yet, in most places, including Vermont, companies release it free of charge, forcing society as a whole to absorb the damage.

There is tangible, quantifiable, economic damage being caused by climate change. Hurricane Irene alone cost Vermont \$733 million. That's just the costs that can be measured — the physical damage to our infrastructure. The emotional toll goes beyond numbers. The most effective way to reflect and fairly address this would be to place a tax on carbon emissions, and then distribute the revenue evenly to all citizens.

Under the proposed plan, backed by over 500 businesses and organizations, 90 percent of the revenue from the tax would be returned to all Vermonters (primarily through tax cuts), and the other 10 percent would be dedicated to an Energy Independence Fund, which would make efficiency and renewable energy alternatives cheaper, allowing more Vermonters to switch over and to save even more money.

A report conducted by Regional Economic Modeling Incorporated found that the proposed statewide carbon pollution tax would reduce emissions, grow jobs and increase personal income for the average Vermonter. The idea of a new tax is scary to many. But when looking at the proposed carbon pollution tax, it is not scary at all; it is extremely sensible and necessary. Let's lead the nation once again, and show other states that pricing this harmful pollution is a policy long overdue.

OPINION: Help for working parents

Vicki Kuskowski Montpelier

My name is Vicki Kuskowski and I am a working parent in Washington County with two children who are age 5 and under. I strongly believe every child deserves a strong start to life. I know that the first five years provide the best opportunity to support their healthy development, laying the foundation for their future.

But finding high-quality, affordable child care for Vermont's children can often be a struggle due to a lack of options and resources. Many parents in this county face this child care challenge every day.

A solution to this issue is Vermont's Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP). CCFAP provides tuition assistance to families who meet certain financial, work or education criteria, making child care and early learning programs more affordable. I would like to spread the word about this campaign to provide high-quality, affordable child care for all Vermont children who need it.

Join me and Let's Grow Kids by signing the pledge at www.lets-growkids.org today.