



# The 2nd Vermont Republic @ 2VR.org

## 21st century Principles and Platform

- POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE.** ¶ Our primary objective for our once-and-future Vermont republic, through the legitimate constitutional process of nonviolent secession from the United States.
- COMMONS CREATION.** ¶ We advocate the creation and maintenance, through legislation and oversight, of a Vermont “Commons”—environmental, cultural, social, educational, informational—to value and protect all that we Vermonters share in common: our air, our water, our land, and our property, both private and communal.
- HUMAN SCALE.** ¶ We believe that life is best lived on a human scale, in face-to-face contacts with neighbors and friends, in communities that are decentralized in structure. Small is still Beautiful.
- FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE.** ¶ We support the creation and use of a publicly-owned Bank of Vermont that would issue low-interest loans and foster a peer-to-peer mutual credit system, and the creation and use of an alternative currency system.
- FOOD SOVEREIGNTY.** ¶ We support our family-owned farms and small businesses that produce innovative, premium-quality, healthy locally grown and manufactured products, and we encourage the legalization of both hemp and cannabis in a way consistent with Vermont’s “small is beautiful” entrepreneurial values.
- ELECTION INTEGRITY.** ¶ We recommend that Vermont, in conducting elections, replace all corporately-owned electronic voting machines with the time-honored traditional hand counting procedure used by each Vermont town’s board of civil authority, encouraging an electoral process that is open, public and transparent.
- ENERGY INDEPENDENCE.** ¶ We encourage 21st century renewable energy approaches that move Vermont away from our reliance on imported fossil fuels and centralized electrical generation, and towards policies that encourage import substitution and a more local and diversified energy portfolio. Given the realities of Peak Oil and climate change, we emphasize decentralized, networked, self-sufficient home, school, and business-generated energy.

#### HOMESTEAD SECURITY.

¶ We celebrate Vermont's small, clean, green, sustainable, socially responsible homes, farms, businesses, schools, towns, and places of worship. We encourage the diversification of our 21st century Vermont working landscape, and the creation of more opportunities for Vermonters to produce their own food, energy, and value-added products.

#### EDUCATION FOR SELF-IMPROVEMENT AND DEMOCRACY.

¶ All Vermonters should have open access to learning opportunities that enable them to realize their own unique potentials and to participate actively and responsibly in their communities and society at large. Drawing on the "Vermont Design For Education," we advocate the replacement of federally-mandated and corporately-controlled standardized testing and rigid rote learning with "hands on" community centered education, and the creation of a "communiversity" in every Vermont town's public school.

#### ECONOMIC SOLIDARITY.

¶ We encourage Vermonters to buy locally produced products from Vermont farmers and merchants, rather than purchase from giant transnational mega-corporations. We support fair and open trade with nearby states and provinces.

#### TOWN MEETING/ POWER SHARING.

¶ Vermont's strong democratic tradition is grounded in its town meetings. We favor devolution of political power from the state back to local communities, making the governing structure for towns, schools, hospitals, and social services much like that of small decentralized states such as Switzerland. Shared power also underlies our approach to international relations.

#### EQUAL OPPORTUNITY.

¶ We support equal access for all Vermont citizens to high quality education, affordable preventative and routine health care, housing, and employment.

#### SURVEILLANCE-FREE CITIZENRY.

¶ We call on the Vermont legislature and governor to pass and enforce legislation banning all forms of corporate and federal government surveillance from our Green Mountain communities, including the use of spy drones and the illegal monitoring of Vermont citizens' electronic communications, and to explore encryption options for the protection and privacy of all Vermont citizens' electronic information.

#### TENSION REDUCTION.

¶ We urge the Vermont legislature and governor to issue a call for the return of Vermont National Guard troops from Afghanistan, Iraq, and the other 700 plus U.S. military bases in more than 150 countries around the world. Consistent with both Vermont's long "live and let live" tradition and policies of nonviolence, we do not condone state-sponsored violence in Vermont either by military or law enforcement officials. We support Vermont's open and progressive firearm carrying policies and robust hunter safety programs, and call for each town's select board to create a voluntary citizen's brigade to reduce tension and restore order in the event of civil unrest, and to provide emergency assistance when natural disasters occur. We are opposed to any form of military conscription. Tension reduction is the bedrock principle on which all international conflicts are to be resolved.