

Vermont Governor

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THE ISSUES

**PHIL
SCOTT**



REPUBLICAN • INCUMBENT



**DAVID
ZUCKERMAN**

PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRAT

See Guides.vote for online guides with links and sources.	Volunteer for Phil Scott philscott.org	Volunteer for David Zuckerman zuckermanforvt.com
AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (ACA) Support Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare?	Yes. Opposed Republican effort to replace ACA. Says effort could undermine coverage or reduce funding for Medicaid expansion.	Yes. Now advocates moving to a single-payer, universal system.
CAMPAIGN FINANCE Require political ads to disclose their largest funders?	No position found.	Yes. Supports limits on campaign financing. Opposes current system that he says gives corporations too much power and makes it hard for people to run for office.
CLIMATE CHANGE Consider human-caused climate change a serious threat?	Yes. “I actually believe, myself, that climate change is real and it’s man-made.”	Yes. “We believe that it is important to do everything we can to ... step up to stop climate change.”
CLIMATE CHANGE Address as a top priority by taxing or limiting output of greenhouse gases?	Mixed. Has opposed a carbon tax and advocated cutting subsidies for solar power. But has invested in state-specific climate goals. Broke with Trump by arguing U.S. should stay in the Paris Climate Agreement.	Yes. Supports a carbon tax. Supports increased use of renewable-energy sources. Calls Scott’s climate approaches “incredibly incremental relative to the scale of the problem.”
COURT — SUPREME COURT Support picking Ginsburg replacement now versus letting Nov. winner choose?	No. Don’t rush. Wait till after inauguration. See CEEP Supreme Court guide.	No. Glad for Scott’s stand but says he should do more to oppose Trump. See CEEP Supreme Court guide.
COVID-19 Support Trump administration’s response to coronavirus pandemic.	No. Disagreed with Trump about who should decide when businesses should open or shut during the pandemic. Set cautious policy for pandemic approaches.	Commends Scott’s response but says he would have enacted mask mandate sooner and helped more with finances and education.
EDUCATION Use public funding for private and/or for-profit schools?	Yes. Has supported “school choice” at public events in the past.	No. Opposed vouchers for private schools. Wants income tax so everyone “pays their fair share for ... public education.”
ENVIRONMENT Tighten or loosen environmental regulations?	Unclear. Opposed Trump administration’s replacement for the Clean Power Plan. “This is simply the wrong approach.”	Tighten. Supports government regulation of greenhouse-gas emissions.
FINANCIAL REGULATION Tighten financial regulations?	Tighten. Intervened in a court case to defend “an independent and effective CFPB.”	No position found.
GUN LAWS Enact more restrictive legislation on guns?	Mostly. Historically against restrictions, but signed gun-violence-prevention legislation after the 2018 Parkland school shooting.	Yes. Supports restrictions on purchase and possession, and requiring background checks at gun shows.

ISSUES	SCOTT (R)	ZUCKERMAN (P/D)
IMMIGRATION Create path to citizenship for “DACA” residents brought to U.S. as children? Support or oppose expanding border walls?	Yes. Worked with a bipartisan group of governors to urge protections for DREAMers. Vermont joined a multi-state lawsuit opposing border-wall spending. Scott has opposed Trump restrictions on immigrants.	No position found. Supported state helping immigrant families excluded by federal COVID relief programs.
LABOR Support “right to work” laws, eliminating the ability of unions to mandate dues for workers they represent?	Mixed. Has supported a right-to-work law and vetoed a family medical leave bill. But has also supported teachers’ right to strike.	No. Such laws “harm union and non-union workers ... by depressing union membership and limiting [their] effectiveness.”
LEGAL ABORTION Keep legal or ban?	Legal. Has “always been pro-choice.” Signed a 2019 abortion-rights bill that prohibits public entities from restricting an individual’s right to terminate a pregnancy.	Legal. “Protecting women’s choice is integral for women to have the power over their own lives.”
LGBTQ RIGHTS Support LGBTQ rights?	Unclear. Previously opposed civil unions and was concerned about gay marriage. Voted for state’s same-sex marriage bill in 2009, though said would have supported submitting as referendum.	Yes. “A longtime supporter of LGBTQIA rights. [I] co-sponsored the bill that codified marriage equality in Vermont.”
MARIJUANA Keep illegal or decriminalize?	Yes. Signed the bill to legalize marijuana in the state in 2018.	Yes. “Has been championing marijuana reform” since he was first elected to the legislature. Now advocates for a “legal marketplace” for it.
MINIMUM WAGE Raise federal hourly minimum wage above current \$7.25?	No. Vetoed bill that would have raised state minimum wage in 2020, predicting “overall negative impact on economic growth.”	Yes. “Ensuring that the minimum wage keeps pace with the cost of living ... will help those working full time.”
PLANNED PARENTHOOD Support Planned Parenthood’s receiving public funds for non-abortion-related care?	Yes. “I think they do great work for women’s health.”	Yes. “We will do all in our power to protect funding for Planned Parenthood to ensure they can continue to provide general health services.”
POLICE/COMMUNITY ISSUES Restrict police use of force and increase public oversight?	Yes. Signed a bill in July aimed at addressing excessive use of force by police. “This is a pivotal moment for meaningful change.”	Yes. “Limiting the use of force and holding our public safety officers accountable is required to rebuild trust in the system.”
STUDENT FINANCIAL AID Support free or subsidized tuition for lower-income people?	No. “Nothing is free.” But will work on ways to provide more affordable student loans.	Yes. Supports “free in-state tuition for Vermonters.”
TARIFFS Support administration tariffs on steel and other products?	No. Opposed tariffs on Canadian products. “They’re our largest trading partner. It has an effect on everything we do.”	No position found.
TAXES Support administration’s \$1.9 trillion (2017) tax cuts?	No. Expressed concerns about the long-term impact and its rushed and partisan enactment.	No. Has focused his attention on how to recapture a portion of the cuts that went to wealthy taxpayers to address state needs.
VOTING RULES Support efforts to make it easier to vote?	Mixed. Reluctantly let a vote-by-mail bill become law without his signature.	Yes. Has urged citizens and the governor to ensure that mail-in voting is available for everyone.

[Campus Election Engagement Project](#) is a nonpartisan effort to help colleges engage students in elections. Sources include [Votesmart.org](#), [FactCheck.org](#), [Politifact.com](#) and candidate statements. [Vote411.org](#) and [Ballotready.org](#) offer guides to local races.