

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
3/15	Public Art Committee	3:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Link
3/15	Police Review Committee Subcommittee Meeting	11:30 AM	Zoom	Agenda and Link
3/15	Cemetery Commission	12:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Link
3/15	Design Review Committee Meeting	5:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Link
3/15	Development Review Board	7:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Link
3/16	Parks Commission	6:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Link
3/17	Social and Economic Justice Advisory Committee	8:30 AM	Zoom	Agenda and Link
3/17	Homelessness Task Force	11:30 AM	Zoom	Agenda and Link
3/17	Conservation Commission	6:30	Zoom	Agenda and Link



Public Health and Safety

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Weekly Report: As of March 12, 2021

This week, at the Tuesday press conference, Dr. Levine addressing the higher hospitalization rates, higher outbreak rates and higher contraction rates of COVID-19 for the Vermont BIPOC (black, indigenous, and people of color) community. A breakdown of this data can be found [here](#). Dr. Levine made a point to discuss that the State is working with BIPOC community organizations to rebuild trust in the public health system- but stated that Vermont is still "seeing significant disparities" in the rate of vaccination from BIPOC Vermonters to non-BIPOC Vermonters. He acknowledged that the State "can and must do better, not only in engagement...but in realizing better health outcomes." Starting next week, the state will expand vaccine priority to Vermonters of color in multi-generational households.

As of today: 138,700 people have been vaccinated in VT, 1 in every 4 Vermonters. 64,900 have gotten their 1st dose. 73k have gotten both doses. However, even this week we've lost another Vermonter to COVID-19- bringing the total to 212 deaths in our state. We all need to continue to wear masks, stay distant, wash our hands, and avoid crowded spaces.

Overall State Updates:

- Update: Gathering Guidance
 - Governor Phil Scott announced further loosening of gathering restrictions for individuals and households that are fully vaccinated- **as of today: 2 unvaccinated households may get together at any given time. Families will not be limited to one household total, just one other household at a time.**
 - More information and the specific order can be found [via the ACCD Be Smart, Stay Safe Order memo.](#)
 - Effective today, Vermont restaurants will be able to seat 6 people at one table and these guests can be from different families. There is no change in policy for bars.
- Federal Stimulus Legislation Update:
 - Senator Sanders was present at the March 12th State press conference, and highlighted the following important impacts from the just-passed Federal COVID-19 relief legislation:
 - Most folks will be receiving \$1,400 for all individuals in a household, including dependents and children. The President's staff has said that direct deposits could start being deposited into bank accounts as soon as this weekend.
 - Unemployment benefits will be extended until September, with an additional \$300 weekly supplement to the normal Unemployment Benefits. There will also be a tax deduction for these benefits, up to a set amount, that people received in 2020.
 - The child tax credit will be increased to \$3,000 for kids over the age of 6 and \$3,600 for kids under the age of 6.
- Vaccine Updates
 - People 55 years and older with certain high-risk health conditions were able to make appointments. It was announced today that the State will be **opening vaccinations up earlier for Phase 5b — Vermonters ages 16 and older with certain high-risk health conditions. This group will now be eligible starting this Thursday, March 11th.**
 - An outline of eligible health conditions and more information can be found [here on the Health Department website.](#)
 - COVID-19 vaccine registration is available through both the website and the phone number (links below):
 - Sign up for COVID-19 vaccine appointments at HealthVermont.gov/MyVaccine or by calling (855) 722-7878
 - Appointments are needed, no walk-ins will be accepted.
 - There is a new call center for home-bound Vermonters to call to get an appointment for a vaccine via a home-visit. The number is: **833-722-0860**
 - Teachers, school staff, and public safety personnel are also now able to book appointments. Eligible teachers and school staff can begin getting vaccinated next Monday, March 8th. Eligible child care providers will begin getting vaccinated the week of March 15th. Designated vaccine clinics will be utilizing both the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and the Pfizer vaccine.

- Governor Scott says he believes Vermont can meet the President Biden's timeline for getting adults scheduled for vaccinations by May- but identifies that the barrier will be getting a reliable supply of doses, which come from the federal government.
- Vaccination updates can be found via the [COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard](#)
- Regional Health Update & VT Case Modeling Response Updates:
 - Commissioner Pieciak says case counts in Vermont are increasing, even without the cases attributed to the outbreak at the state prison in the Newport area. Hospital rates have gone down and the state expects deaths to continue to decrease significantly this spring. Forecast is for Vermont to see an overall decline in cases.
 - Case count and outbreak information can be found on the [VT Health Department dashboard](#).
 - Vermont Modeling Updates [most recent presentation can be found here](#).
 - The weekly summary report on cases can be found [here](#), which this week focuses on Workplace Outbreaks
- Business/Economic Updates:
 - You can find the archived webinar from January 6th for Vermont's businesses regarding updates to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) [here](#).
- Reminder: Mental Health Support & Food Access
 - The State shared some resources to assist folks in seeking help for any mental distress, or in need of mental health care. Resources can be accessed through calling 2-1-1 or via the [State's website for COVID-19 support](#).
 - If you or someone you know is in crisis or needs emotional support, help is available 24/7:
 - Call your [local mental health crisis line](#).
 - Text VT to 741741 to talk with someone at the [Crisis Text Line](#).
 - Call the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) at 1-800-273-8255. For more info, visit [healthvermont.gov/suicide](#).
 - Get connected to Alcohol and Drug Support Services at [VT Helplink](#).
 - Get self-help tips and connect to mental health services at [COVID Support VT](#).
 - If you need help accessing food, there are also many resources on the State and Local level. Please call 2-1-1 or access [WIC](#), [Hunger Free Vermont](#), [3SquaresVT](#), or other resources outlined via Hunger Free Vermont [COVID-19 response](#).
 - There are also local agencies hosting food access programs such as: the [Vermont Foodbank](#), [Everyone Eats](#), and the [Montpelier Food Pantry](#).
- Reminder: VTAlert:
 - VTAlert is now offering COVID-19 updates. Folks can sign up at the [VTAlert website](#).
- Reminder: Travel and Quarantine Guidelines

- Effective February 23rd, those who are fully vaccinated (meaning two weeks after their second dose), will not need to quarantine after traveling. This also means those who come to Vermont from other states will not need to quarantine if they can prove they have been fully vaccinated. More information can be found here: <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/restart/cross-state-travel>
- New Quarantine requirements have been outlined in [this updated chart](#).

City Updates:

- The City has updated internal policies regarding staff travel to echo the State's guidance regarding vaccinations and quarantine requirements.
- No facility updates: the City continues compliance with State requirements by closing City Hall to the public until further guidance is issued by the State. Appointments can still be accommodated with Departments on a case-by-case basis.

COVID Testing Availability:

- **Testing dates/locations and preregistration found here or call 2-1-1 for registration assistance:** <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/testing/where-get-tested>
 - Upcoming Montpelier Testing Dates:
 - 03/18 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. 134 State St. (parking lot)
 - 03/25 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. 134 State St. (parking lot)



Sustainable Infrastructure

WATER TREATMENT PLANT:

Our crew at the City's Water Treatment Plant are working with a contractor on rebuilding the finished water pumps at the Facility.

WATER RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY:

The Phase 1 upgrade is scheduled to be completed at the end of this month. The City is working with our consultant to increase gas production through the receipt of High Strength Waste.

TRASH RECEPTACLES:

As a resident of Montpelier, are you wondering about the best area to place a trash receptacle for trash pickup?

Please, always, place trash receptacles for pick up at the corner of the driveway, behind the sidewalk. If you do not have a sidewalk on your street, please place receptacles on the corner of the drive, in the street closest to the curb. (Not obstructing traffic).

Please do not place receptacles within the sidewalk.

Questions? Please contact Jasmine Benson with DPW at 802-223-9508.

PARKING GARAGE/HOTEL PROJECT

This project remains in litigation. Motions have been filed about the Hotel Act 250 appeal.

Discovery will proceed soon. Trial is expected for the fall. The project budget is being updated.

Council will be briefed on the budget, design, and litigation on April 14th.



Legislative Updates

Legislative Testimony

The City is sometimes asked to provide testimony on certain bills or topics for the legislature. The most recent testimony information can be found below:

*For more detail on what pending bills the City is monitoring, please see the attached Legislative Agenda and Tracking Document at the end of this report

City Staff Providing Testimony	Bill or Testimony Topic	Description	Notes
Chief Peete, MPD	H. 133	In summarizing the Bill, it has already been passed in previous sessions for police to take firearms for emergency relief from abuse orders from a judge. The addition to the law looks to only clarify the language that judges can order a defendant to relinquish weapons if it is found to be necessary.	Written feedback given. -PDs will enforce the laws as they are already on the books -Concerns I have for storing and maintaining the weapons (space and money)
Chief Peete, MPD	H. 183 Section 4	It will be Section 4: Data Collection efforts for sexual violence cases throughout the state.	
Chief Peete, MPD	US Legislature regarding Crisis response in law enforcement	there is proposed legislation to implement community resources to respond to mental health crisis calls with police as a secondary. The legislation is through: U.S. Congresswoman Cheri Bustos (IL) U.S. Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (NV)	It is not confirmed if he'll be chosen to testify, but his name has been forwarded up.
Chief Peete, MPD	Senate Institutions in regards to MOU Capital Grounds Policing		
Mike Miller, Planning	Request for Legislative Support	Looking for support from VPA members who are making recommendations regarding affordable and efficient housing for Vermonters at or below median household income	Consistent with our strategic plan with more housing, thoughtfully planned built environment and environmental stewardship.
Jana Clar, MSAC	Request for testimony and support	Support for Vermont Association of Area Agencies on Aging (V4A) legislative priorities	Priorities: - Older Vermonters - Nutrition and Meals - Home and community –based provider - increases/workforce development - Long-term care policies



Parklets

The City Council has enacted the temporary parklet ordinance which was in place last summer and expired on October 25, 2020. This will allow restaurants and merchants to take advantage of the same relaxed standards this summer as it appears that COVID restrictions will continue. The second, and final reading took place at the March 10, 2021 City Council Meeting. The new ordinance will be effective from April 1, 2021 through November 2, 2021. The application process will begin shortly.

Montpelier Development Corporation

The City Manager has been in discussions with the Montpelier Development Corporation about the future direction of the organization and city funding. More information is expected by the March 24th meeting.



Inclusive, Equitable and Engaged Community

Social Equity & Justice Advisory Committee

The Committee is working with consulting firm Creative Discourses, Inc. to develop information about the community. Creative Discourses is holding a series of meetings with city staff to learn more about the work environment, unintentional biases, etc.

Montpelier Community Justice Center

The Montpelier Community Justice Center provides Restorative Justice services for Montpelier residents including Restorative Justice Panels, Reentry services, Circles of Support and Accountability and Victim Outreach. Additionally, the Conflict Assistance Program provides mediation and consultation for Montpelier residents in need of help resolving disputes. Volunteer opportunities exist in all of our programs and with the Community Advisory Board where members help guide our work. For more information contact us at mcjc@montpelier-vt.org or call 802.522.5566.

COMMUNITY SERVICES UPDATES

Capital Kids Day Camp Now Accepting Online Registrations

Summer Day Camp Registrations can now be paid for online for families that have a household account in our system. We will still need the paperwork to be filled out by parents and returned to us before children can start camp. New households will have establish an account through our office by calling 225-8699. Registration forms can be downloaded off our website: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/843/Capital-Kids-Day-Camp>.

LAST CHANCE TO RESERVE: Family-Style Curbside Meal Pickup - Thursday, March 25th

Need a break from cooking? Hungry for something delicious? Looking for a meal to give to someone else? Then don't miss out on this easy, yummy way to support MSAC's FEAST Senior Meals Program! Reserve your meal for pick-up between 5:00 and 6:30pm on Thursday, March 25th at the side door of MSAC: 58 Barre St, Montpelier.

Cost: \$10 per person or \$35 for family size (serves up to four)

Menu: Home-cooked Lasagna, Salad and Dessert

Lovingly prepared by local professional Chef Andre Burnier

Vegetarian and gluten free options available upon request

Reserve a meal for you, your family, or a neighbor-in-need! Purchase your meal by visiting: www.montpelier-vt.org/marchformeals or call (802) 262-6288.

Reservations CLOSE Tuesday, March 16th.

Curbside Meal Pickup Celebrates St. Patty's Day

Since we can't gather for festivities together inside, join us for a delicious St. Patty's Day Curbside Pickup meal on Tuesday, March 16th - we'll bring the festivity to YOU with Chef Mike's delicious Corned Beef Boiled Dinner and Irish Soda Bread, and a surprise from volunteer Kathi Apgar.

Curbside Pickup Meals are offered to seniors 60+ from anywhere (not just Montpelier residents) twice weekly. Call to register and simply drive up to the side door of MSAC on Tuesdays and Fridays between 12-12:30pm to receive a delicious, hot takeout meal. If you are new to the program, you will be asked to fill out a short nutritional survey. You can see our [monthly menu on our website](#). Donations are \$7-\$10. Please call to make your reservation: 262-6288

Fundraising for Meal Containers

Thank you tremendously to all the family and friends who have already stepped forward to contribute to our ten March for Meals events - you are proving to us that the COMMUNITY SUPPORT is REAL!! You are showing us that you know, as much as we do, that serving delicious, nutritious meals to our older adults is an essential service. To learn more: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/marchformeals>.

We have one last favor to ask: can you help us cover the cost of the 200 to-go containers and other supplies for our March 25th Curbside Lasagna Dinner? Any donation amount will help us, and you can make a donation online or by sending a check to 58 Barre Street, Montpelier VT, 05602. Checks should be made out to MSAC, with March for Meals supplies in the memo. There is also a lock-box in the side entrance. Website to donate online is <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/donate-to-FEAST>. THANK YOU!!!

MSAC was featured on VPR's "Vermont Edition" show March 4; Link to listen!

On Thursday, March 4, Director Janna Clar, Andrew Gribbin (Aging in Place AmeriCorps member), and several MSAC members participated in Vermont Public Radio's "Vermont Edition" show with host Bob Kinzel, right on the heels of a talk he had with Senator Leahy about federal relief bill status. The discussion about MSAC covered the impacts of our pandemic closure, our early and current strategies for supporting the community, and the future outlook. Several callers shared personal stories of how they've coped with isolation, and the discussion highlighted the importance of all VT's senior centers, technology learning to stay connected at times like this, and more. We encourage others to check out the recording available on VPR's website at <https://www.vpr.org/post/how-one-vt-senior-activity-center-has-adapted-covid-19>.

MSAC's March for Meals Benefit Series is underway: Six more events to come, with four in the coming week or so (including RSVP deadline for 3/25 meal!)

March is National Meals on Wheels Awareness Month! To raise awareness and funds for our essential FEAST Senior Meals Program, which operates Meals on Wheels and Curbside Meals for Seniors, we have cooked up an enticing menu of TEN diverse, affordable, and pandemic-safe offerings. **Six more are still ahead!** We invite you to click here to [browse our event menu, learn more and register here](#) for health & wellness events, family-friendly performances and events about film and music appreciation with some of your favorite MSAC instructors and friends. Online events are by donation; lasagna meal on March 25 is \$10/pp or \$35/4.

“Treasure Hunt” Marionette Show & Chat with No Strings Marionette Company

Friday, March 12, 6:00-7:30pm | Zoom video or phone

All aboard a swashbuckling hunt for treasure! Jim is lured out to sea in search of adventure. Little does he realize the unusual experience ahead as he sets sail aboard the Golden Nugget with Captain Timbershin. A wild storm throws Jim overboard for an underwater odyssey and peculiar difficulties, including a giant clam, a fish that swallows him whole and an angry octopus guarding treasure. Jewel and Jim encounter King Neptune and discover that underwater inhabitants are threatened by pollution. Jim must find what is lost and convince his people to take better care of their waters so that creatures above and below can live in harmony. [Register here.](#)

Food Movies to Savor with Rick Winston

Tuesday, March 16, 2021, 7:00—8:30pm | Zoom video or phone

Rick Winston, co-founder of Savoy Theater and longtime instructor of film appreciation at MSAC, will present a program, featuring twelve film clips, that feature magnificent meals and the people who prepare them. The films will highlight the cuisines of France, Italy, China, and Mexico for starters. Total program length: 90 minutes including an opportunity for Q&A. [Register here.](#)

Spring Equinox Yoga & Meditation with Sarah Parker-Givens

Saturday, March 20, 2021, 9:00 –10:15 am | Zoom video or phone

We will welcome the first day of spring with gentle movement, breath work and meditation. No experience is necessary...open to all. Please have a comfortable chair, a yoga/exercise mat (or practice on a carpeted floor) and a blanket/towel. [Register here.](#)

“How to Use Zoom” Free Trainings

Thursday, March 18 | 1—2 pm,

Tuesday, April 13 | 1—2 pm; Thursday, April 29 | 10—11 am

Have you heard about Zoom but felt nervous or resistant to try it out? Have you had a frustrating time with it, or been using it and want to learn tips to improve your experience? MSAC AmeriCorps member, Andrew Gribbin, will cover: turning your video and microphone on and off, changing your views and user-name, using the Chat function, Zoom etiquette and more. There will be time to practice and ask questions. To register for either, or learn about Zooming with your phone only, call Andrew at 262-6287 or email msac-ameriacorps@montpelier-vt.org. Don't need to be trained on Zoom but have other technological questions? Andrew, in partnership with CVCOA, is working on offering more trainings on a variety of topics in the coming months—stay tuned!

Spring Class Registration for Adults of all ages starts March 15

Spring class materials -- Registration Forms and Program Guides -- are on MSAC's [Classes page](#) now, and hard copies are available in our side door vestibule. Registration for April start classes begins March 15 for residents of all towns, and we have 31 classes in ARTS, HUMANITIES and MOVEMENT to offer, with most open to younger people, too. Payment is required to hold a space and late fees apply after 4/9/21. Financial Aid is available to all members! Register by dropping off a completed form to the lock-box at the side entrance of 58 Barre Street, mailing it to us, or online (user-id / password required) at: <https://web1.vermontsystems.com/wbwsc/vtmontpelierwt.wsc/>.

FEAST Curbside TO-GO: Tuesdays & Fridays, 12-12:30 pm, served at 58 Barre St.

Seniors 60+, drive up to the side door of MSAC every Tuesday and Friday to receive your delicious, hot FEAST To-Go takeout meal. We have shifted to Curbside Pickup for your safety and ease. We'll have signs to remind you where to go. You can see our menu on our website. Please call to make your reservation: 262-6288 or email us at: feast@montpelier-vt.org.

FEAST To Go March Menu for Tuesdays/Fridays, [click here](#).

FEAST at Home (Meals on Wheels): Do you have an older adult in your life who needs more access to delicious, healthy food? Is there someone in your life who is struggling to eat more nutritionally? Let us know because we can help! Have them call the office to be connected to our robust (and yummy!) program. Call 262-6288 or email feast@montpelier-vt.org.



Reminders

Montpelier, Vermont, Partners with ParkMobile to Offer Contactless Parking Payments

Residents and visitors can now easily pay for parking from their mobile device through ParkMobile! ParkMobile is the #1 parking app in the U.S., and has a new partnership going live with our City, enabling residents and visitors to pay for parking on their mobile device. The ParkMobile app is now available at more than 600 on and off-street spaces throughout the city.

ParkMobile is available for both iPhone and Android devices. To pay for parking with the ParkMobile app, a user enters the zone number posted on the stickers and signs around the meters. The user then selects the amount of time needed and touches the "Start Parking" button to begin the session. The user can then extend the time of the parking session right from the app without having to go back to the meter. We are excited to add this to our parking options!

Other payment options, such as coins and credit cards, will still be accepted.

Alternate Side Parking:

Getting the Message Out! Public Works has been posting messages on social media and on our web page informing residents of key changes, and directing readers to go the City website to look up specifics for where they typically park, whether that be during the daytime, evenings or both. These winter parking regulations remain in place through April 1st. Please feel free to email any questions or comments to Jasmine Benson @ jbenson@montpelier-vt.org.

Police Department Lobby Currently Locked

Due to COVID 19 the Police Department's front lobby is currently locked. We ask that anyone needing police assistance to please contact MPD by telephone at 802-223-3445. If you are in person at the police department, please ring the front intercom and a dispatcher will speak directly to you. If you need an officer, an officer will come to the front of the police department to meet with you and assist you.

Social Worker Available to Residents

The Montpelier Police Department, the Barre City Police Department and Washington County Mental Health have partnered in providing an onsite social worker to help residents in crisis or needing an extra hand during the pandemic. Susan Lemere has been a friendly and effective presence in town for the last several month, but COVID has slowed our outreach efforts down. If you would like to speak to Susan please contact her through email at susan.lemere@wcmhs.org or

contact MPD and we can assist with connecting you to Susan.

City Hall Outdoor Wi-Fi Hotspot

The City of Montpelier, through the Department of Public Service (PSD) Wi-Fi Hot Spot Program has installed a public Wi-Fi outside the City Hall Building (39 Main Street Montpelier).

This PSD sponsored project is in response to the widespread closure of facilities due to the COVID-19 outbreak, which has significantly limited folks' ability to access free and reliable internet. The need for access to a reliable internet connections for healthcare, education, and government services has grown exponentially while existing public access points have become suddenly unavailable due to social distancing requirements. Vermont PSD has assisted the City in addressing this emergency gap in available public Wi-Fi by contracting for the rapid installation of a commercial-grade outdoor Wireless Access Point. They have installed 190 hotspots throughout the State as part of this program. Montpelier is pleased to have been included.

The City Hall Wi-Fi site is accessible at all hours from a parked vehicle on the road or in-person in the courtyard in front of City Hall and the parking lot to the immediate right of the building. As a COVID-19 safety precaution, the City discourages users from congregating outside. The Wi-Fi name is "**Montpelier Hotspot**" and you should be able to connect without a password.

You can track all the State Vermont Public Wi-Fi sites here: [Wi-Fi Hotspot Map](#)

ORCA MEDIA

ORCA Media supports the City of Montpelier by live streaming videos to local TV and on YouTube. Recently, Comcast changed the government channel to 1085.

- Click here to access City Council Meetings: <https://www.orcamedia.net/series/montpelier-city-council>
- Click here for Live Stream Events: <https://www.orcamedia.net/series/live-stream-events>

Thank you,



William Fraser, City Manager

Upcoming Agenda Items (**TENTATIVE**)

3/24	Congressman Welch re: federal funding Home Energy Labeling Ordinance 1 st reading E-911 Road Naming 1 st Reading Strategic Planning Process Homelessness Task Force Presentation Committee Assignments	4/14	3 rd quarter financials Hotel/Garage Project update Home Energy Labeling Ordinance 2 nd reading E-911 Road Namig 2 nd reading Update on Summer pool use
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	Park Land purchase – Executive Session		
4/28	3 rd quarter Strategic Plan update Strategic Planning Update Work Winter Operations Review “Build Back” List ?	5/12	FY23 Budget Process Summer Meeting Schedule
5/26		6/9	Utility Rates Stormwater Utility Water/Sewer Master Plan
6/23	Tax Rate Fund Reserves	7/14	Police Committee Report?

PENDING ITEMS

CVPSA Report

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA GUIDING PRINCIPLES

On the whole, the City of Montpelier requests that policymakers:

- Support legislation that grants cities and towns greater flexibility.
- Support legislation that provides funding to cities and towns.
- Oppose legislation that removes authority from cities and towns.
- Oppose legislation that creates unfunded mandates or directly or indirectly shifts costs to cities and towns.

2021 CITY OF MONTPELIER LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

In order to help fulfill its commitments to its residents, the City of Montpelier calls on the legislative delegation to support the following policies:

COVID-19 RESPONSE

- Advocate for the safe return to work of State employees in local office buildings
- Advocate and support direct municipal funding that protects Cities and Towns from financial disaster during the COVID crisis
- Allow a delay in reappraisal requirements or a return to the 80% threshold

<p><u>H.48</u></p>	<p>The General Assembly finds that the continued spread of COVID-19 in the State of Vermont has the potential to jeopardize the health, safety, and welfare of Vermonters voting in their 2021 annual municipal meetings. These meetings include annual town meetings, which are required by general law to be held on the first Tuesday of March; annual school district meetings, which are generally required to be held between the months of February and June; and other municipal annual meetings with meeting dates controlled by charter</p>
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<u>S.9</u>	An act relating to extending certain workers' compensation amendments related to COVID-19
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COMMUNITY PROSPERITY

- Support the general statutory authority to adopt local option taxes
- Support programs and initiatives that spur locally driven, right-sized economic growth, especially programs like TIF, that provide infrastructure improvements to support that growth

<u>H.152</u>	Would establish an education property tax yield for homesteads and the non-homestead property tax rate
<u>H.159</u>	Would create a Better Places Program to support projects that create, activate, or revitalize communities and public spaces.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

- Continue funding Microtransit opportunities
- Advocate for global warming solutions and for any opportunities that support ecological protection, the reduction of PFAS, net zero goals, and conservation of our natural resources
- Support expanding the Net Metering limit for municipalities or Montpelier specifically

<u>H.100</u>	An act relating to electric bicycles
<u>H.123</u>	Would create a vehicle miles traveled tax applicable plug-in electric Vehicles
<u>H.144</u>	An Act relating to requiring inspection of wastewater systems
<u>H.94</u>	An act relating to transportation initiatives to reduce carbon emissions
<u>S.44</u>	Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create a Vermont Green New Deal to invest in actions that curb climate change. The Vermont Climate Council would implement and oversee the Vermont Green New Deal to fund energy conservation programs, prioritizing weatherization, renewable energy, regenerative agriculture, and the use of electric vehicles. This bill would also create a new income tax surcharge on high incomes that would be deposited into a Vermont Green New Deal Fund to be administered by the State Treasurer

INCLUSIVE, EQUITABLE, & WELCOMING CITY

- Advocate for any opportunity for additional Human Services funding for

supporting those experiencing homelessness

- Support funding for public restrooms to serve all people using State and City facilities

<u>H.134</u>	An act relating to paid family and medical leave insurance
<u>H.139</u>	Would include employer contributions to health insurance in the amount of wages used to determine an injured worker's weekly benefit and to prohibit an employer from terminating an employee because the employee is absent from work while the employee is receiving temporary total disability benefits
<u>S.55</u>	An Act relating to paid vacation leave
<u>H.93</u>	An act relating to establishing a homeless bill of rights and prohibiting discrimination against people without homes

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

- Continue funding for a Social Worker to support Barre City and Montpelier's Police Departments
- Focus on moving towards a regional public safety model and look critically at public safety cellular provider coverage

<u>H.1</u>	An act relating to mental health insurance benefits
<u>H. 109</u>	An act relating to parking ticket enforcement
<u>H.126</u>	Would establish a pedestrian safety pilot program, allow municipalities to seasonally install pedestrian crossing signs in crosswalks, allow municipalities to lower certain speed limits on state highways, and express the intent that the Traffic Committee should not increase the speed limit on a state highway in response to a municipality's request that it be lowered
<u>H.145</u>	Would amend the standards for law enforcement use of force to make clarifying changes and prevent the use of hindsight in evaluating law enforcement conduct and narrow the definition of prohibited restraints
<u>S.19</u>	An act relating to a climate change response plan and regional planning commission involvement in identifying health care-related needs
<u>S.30</u>	An act relating to prohibiting possession of firearms at childcare facilities, hospitals, and certain public buildings
<u>S.40</u>	An act relating to the use of colored signal lamps on fire department and emergency medical service vehicles

<u>EO-01-21</u>	<p>This Executive Order creates the Agency of Public Safety, effective April 15, 2021. The executive order cites the Department of Public Safety's ten-point strategy, which includes accelerating the organization of state law enforcement operations, modernizing data collection, expanding crisis response, enhancing the development of model policies and community oversight models, and addressing issues in training and dispatch. The new agency, headed by a secretary and deputy secretary, would include a Department of Fire Safety and Emergency Management, a Department of Law Enforcement, and a Division of Support Services. The Criminal Justice Council, Motor Vehicle Enforcement Division, and the Vermont Enhanced 911 Board would be added to the agency in July.</p> <p>VLCT fully supports EO-01-21, an order that will affect local governments and law enforcement agencies. Last November, the VLCT Board of Directors voted unanimously to support the proposal to move the Vermont Police Academy to the Department of Public Safety.</p>
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RESPONSIVE & RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

- Support decision-making at the local level that recognizes the capacity of local officials and voters to govern themselves on issues of local import, including streamlined adoption and full implementation of municipal charters
- Approve any pending and future recommended charter changes
- Support legislation allowing removal of "red line" deed restrictions
- Support legislation consistent with the City's Adopted Strategic Plan
<https://www.montpelier-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/7156/2020-2021-Strategic-Plan-Brochure-with-full-Work-Plans?bidId=>

<u>H.82</u>	An act relating to allowing municipal and cooperative utilities to offer innovative rates and services
<u>H.154</u>	Would deem a municipal office vacant whenever a municipal officer fails to take a required oath of office within one week of election or appointment.
<u>H.164</u>	Would require a town to vote to allow the operation of any type of licensed cannabis establishment prior to such an establishment operating within the town.
<u>S.14</u>	An act relating to deed restrictions and housing density
<u>S.15</u>	An act relating to correcting defective ballots
<u>S.25</u>	An act relating to miscellaneous cannabis regulation procedures
<u>S.50</u>	An act relating to ranked choice voting

STAFF LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Police Department:

- Monitor the implementation of S. 124 and S. 119 to ensure any mandates are implemented in ways that do not adversely affect MPD policies. MPD policies based on National, evidence-based best practices, and 21st Century Policing recommendations.
- Monitor amendments made to H.133 An act relating to emergency relief from abuse orders and relinquishment of 11 firearms
- Work with the Vermont Police Association and Vermont Chiefs of Police to represent the Montpelier Police Department interests. These interests include advocating for policies that reflect community partnerships, accountability and transparency, officer safety and wellness. It also includes expressing concern for policies and procedures that may compromise officer safety.

Montpelier Senior Activity Center:

- Support legislation promoting investment in technology and broadband equity and access for all Vermonters, especially Older Vermonters, during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, with the goal of encouraging Telehealth and Social Connection.
- Support legislation consistent with priorities and principles of the Older Vermonters Act: Act 156 (passed in 2020)
- Support legislation that provides direct and robust funding to senior centers and senior meal sites as they fulfill important state and federal priorities and goals for increasing socialization, reducing isolation, providing evidence-based exercise and Fall Prevention programs, and more.
- Support legislation that allocates part of VT's federal Older Americans Act funding (especially Title 3B funds) directly to senior centers and community organizations who provide services such as wellness programs, exercise classes, tax clinics, foot care clinics and more.
- Support legislation for Long Term Care Medicaid Waiver coverage for meals on wheels funding
- Support legislation advancing affordable housing for older adults and people with disabilities
- Support legislation protecting and promoting renters' rights
- Attend the Older Vermonters Caucus when scheduled again
- Enhance communication with advocates representing organizations that support older adults, including VT Association for Senior Centers and Meal Providers, Community of VT Elders, and VT Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Planning & Development:

- Track Act 250 exemptions for designated areas and tracking any proposed housing bills.

Community Justice Center:

- The Justice Reinvestment II (S.338, Act 148) may result in increased referrals without

increased funding.

- Update statutory language so it reflects the reality of the programs and services CJs provide.

Clerk: Continue to participate in the process of developing and supporting a broad election procedures bill (no bill number yet available)