

For State Treasurer

Candidate Name: BETH PEARCE

Party Affiliation: Democratic



Contact Information:

PO Box 731
Montpelier VT 05601



Contact for Additional Candidate Information: For more information about Beth's candidacy please visit Beth's website at www.bethpearce.com.

Biographical Sketch

Prior to becoming your State Treasurer in January 2011, I was the Vermont's Deputy Treasurer for 7 ½ years. My entire professional life has been in treasury and government finance. I have received both local and national recognition for my work. Bond Buyer Magazine, a national finance publication, named me one of ten "trailblazing women in public finance." I serve on the Executive Committee of the National Association of State Treasurers and National Association of Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers. I am the immediate past president of the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators.

Position Statements:

Protecting Taxpayer Dollars

My number one priority as your State Treasurer is to protect and safeguard taxpayer dollars. Whether it is maximizing return on investments, refinancing bonds, or finding savings to firm up Vermont's fiscal future, proactive management makes for the best public policy. Protecting taxpayer dollars is about identifying problems, searching for solutions, and working collaboratively with our partners. I pledge to continue the good work of the Treasurer's Office to benefit all Vermonters.

Strengthening our Bond Rating

Vermont has the best bond rating in New England. Two of the nation's three major credit rating agencies, Moody's and Fitch, have awarded Vermont their highest rating, Aaa, and AAA, while S&P has awarded its second highest rating, AA+. Our bond rating lowers the cost of borrowing and saves taxpayer dollars. It also lowers the cost of financing affordable housing, economic development, post-secondary education, and municipal financing by providing credit support to various agencies. It is my top priority as State Treasurer to partner with the Administration and the General Assembly to maintain and improve Vermont's bond rating.

Retirement Security and Post-Employment Benefits

All Vermont citizens are entitled to financial independence and dignity in retirement. I support defined benefit plans that are fair, affordable to public employees and our taxpayers, and provide a solid foundation for retirement security after a long career. I have promoted a balanced approach to pension reform that preserves retirement security while saving taxpayers over \$20 million per year. We recently implemented two separate reforms in retiree health benefits that will save taxpayers approximately \$700 million over the next 25 years. I pledge to continue this good work.

Local Investments Strategies

The Treasurer's Office has implemented strategies to increase our local investment in energy efficiency, renewable energy and affordable housing. In addition to contributing to our energy and housing goals, these initiatives help grow the Vermont economy by creating good paying, local jobs. Vermont's local economy is vital to the total health of the state. As your State Treasurer, I pledge to continue my work to promote local investment that will benefit the state by working collaboratively with regional planning committees, economic development agencies, non-profits and our local banking and finance community.

Consumer Protection

I worked on model legislation at the national level to assure that beneficiaries of life insurance policies receive the benefits they are entitled to. Working with the Legislature, Vermont was one of the first states to adopt these consumer protections. Thanks to our collaboration with AARP, the Attorney General, the Department of Financial Regulation and members of the General Assembly, we became the first state in the nation prohibit predatory pension lenders from preying on Vermont seniors. I serve as an advisor to the national Uniform Law Commission and continue to advocate for consumer protection provisions in the unclaimed property act.