

## ***Campaign Statement of Rosemarie Jackowski, Liberty Union Candidate for Vermont Attorney General***

**1. At the top of the list is the protection of the most vulnerable.** Elder abuse and financial exploitation of the elderly is a hidden epidemic.

Every case of reported abuse of the disabled or elderly must be investigated in a timely manner – and prosecuted if the facts support prosecution.

**2. The health care system in Vermont needs immediate reform.**

\* Review/rescind the state policy which prohibits doctors/dentists, licensed in other states, from rendering compassionate, no-cost medical care in Vermont .

\* Every Vermonter needs access to a primary care physician. A clinic cannot provide the same quality of care as a personal family physician.

Improve the quality of care. End “assembly line” medical care.

\* Access to dental care is an essential part of health care and should be included for every child and every adult.

\* Allow doctors and patients to opt-out of the digitized health record system. Digitized medical records cannot guarantee privacy.

There have been many reports of death because of inaccuracies in the records. The cost of the EMR (electronic medical record) system is a big part of the problem.

\* Hospitals should be required to fund local offices of independent patient advocates. Advocates should not be in the chain of command of the institution.

No Vermont hospital has an independent patient advocate. We used to be patients. Then we became customers. Now we are algorithms.

\* Health care costs should be controlled by capping the compensation of hospital CEOs. Control IT costs. No more no-bid contracts.

**3. Increase focus on consumer protection.** Labeling of food products is not enough. Labeling must be clear and not digitized.

Other products also should be labeled.

Example:

• Most pre-finished wood flooring on the market contains aluminum oxide nano particles. Some experts believe that this presents a serious health/environmental risk.

• Dietary supplements should be accurately labeled. The New York attorney general recently sued on behalf of New York consumers on that issue.

• New and used automobiles should be labeled identifying any/all safety related defective components. We must end the complicity of NHTSA and the auto

Manufacturers. The data exists. There is no justification in waiting until there are dead bodies on the highway and a recall is ordered.

Consumers need access to a data base that lists VIN numbers and defective parts before deaths occur.

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**4. Increase monitoring of all public utilities.** Many Vermonters have had on-going problems with Comcast, Consolidated Communications,

Green Mountain Power, etc. This can sometimes result in a life threatening medical emergency. Eliminate PSB Rule 7.609 which allows companies to bill for a full day even if service was provided for only one minute in that 24-hour period.

**5. The current PFOA crisis is not only a health issue, but it is also an economic disaster for towns and home owners.** Victim home owners should not be burdened with the cost of municipal water. Home owners have already paid for wells which are now contaminated.

The responsible companies should pay for the water for the first 20 years.

**6. Restore the First Amendment in Vermont.** Political speech in public tax supported facilities should never be censored.

Peter Diamondstone was arrested at a debate at the Vermont Law School. Some political books are banned by public tax-supported libraries.

The chipping away of Constitutional Rights should never be trivialized. Academic freedom in high schools and colleges must be supported.

**7. Every Vermonter needs access to justice.** Funding should be increased for the Office of Legal Aid.

**The bottom line is this: The Office of Attorney General should never be used as a political tool. The power of the office is a sacred trust that must insure justice for all. The Office of Attorney General should set the ethical standard for Vermont .**

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