

Updates for the Windham - 2 District
Dover | Jamaica | Somerset | Stratton | Wardsboro

August 16th, 2023

VERMONT STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Laura Sibilía



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**Follow my work in the Vermont
House of Representatives:**

[Vermont Legislature Website](#)
[My Voting Record](#)



Good evening,

A few updates on flood recovery and debris removal opportunities. Tomorrow night, Thursday August 17th, I will be at the Wardsboro Library from 6-7 for monthly



Updated Office Hours for Laura

Dover: On the 1st
Saturday of the month at
the Dover Free Library
from 11-noon.

Wardsboro: On the 3rd
Thursday of the month
join Laura at the
Wardsboro Community
Library from 6-7. January
- May Laura will join
these sessions from
Montpelier **via Zoom**

These times are open to
the public and
Vermonters are welcome
to come ask questions or
share insights.



*I have been assigned by the Speaker
of the House to the
House **Environment and Energy
Committee** this year – the bills
above the committee is either
working on or I am preparing for in
case they are taken up.*

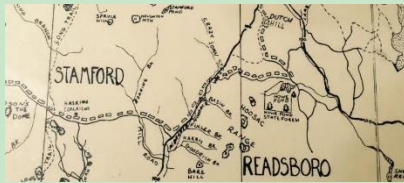
office hours. This is a great
time for voters from Jamaica,
Dover, Wardsboro or Stratton
to chat in person about your
questions or ideas. Next office
hours are September 2nd at 11
am at the Dover Free Library.

In addition to work on flood
recovery, this summer I have
been working to better
understand the conditions
which led to multi year delays
permitting for rural electric
line infrastructure in parts of
East Dover, Wardsboro and
Jamaica and adjacent
communities. As changes in
weather patterns increase the
stress on our electric
infrastructure, it's imperative
to encourage/help/insist our
utilities move lines out of the
woods or floodplains into the
right of way or underground.
With the temporary exemption
to the Act 250 permitting
process the legislature passed
this year, our utility, Green
Mountain Power, has been
working to move lines that
have seen frequent outages.
This is great news. But I'm also
concerned with how long these
projects were delayed by state
permitting and the Act 250
process. I'm digging in to
ensure we appropriately
consider the critical
infrastructure needs of
humans in our land use
planning processes. Stay
tuned.

Office of Governor Phil Scott Website



Watch legislative committees



Town Websites

Dover
Jamaica
Stratton
Wardsboro



Regional Resources

Windham County
BDCC - Regional
Development
WRC - Regional Planning

The Speaker has appointed me to a committee that will be looking at Vermont's Renewable Energy Standard and the review that the Vermont Department of Public Service is undertaking and considering what if any changes are necessary to update that program.

Follow the public process and technical proceedings for the development of the Clean Heat Standard at the Vermont PUC.

I've also had the pleasure of continuing to work with my colleagues on the legislative Rural Caucus, including attending the Council on Rural Development's Conference in Randolph and explaining the work we led with support from the Speaker and the Governor to increase our smallest communities capacity to access one time federal funds. We also discussed the ongoing issues with telecommunications repair time. If your land line OR internet service is down, contact your service provider. If they are telling you it will be more than 48 hours, consider contacting me and filing a complaint with the Vermont Department of Public Service at 800-622-4496 Toll Free – Consumer Affairs Hotline.



State Resources

[Department of Health](#)

[Department of Labor](#)

[Agency of Commerce](#)

[Department of Motor Vehicles](#)

[Department of Taxes](#)

[Department of Public Service](#)

[Secretary of State](#)

[Veterans Affairs](#)

[Department of Children & Families](#)



If you're a Veteran in crisis or concerned about one, there are caring, qualified VA responders standing by to help 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



You aren't
alone <https://vthelplink.org/>

The word "Vermonger" does not describe
a political party, a religion, a race or a gender.

We're all in this together.

Printed for by Lauren Stebbins for VT POST Box 2022 West Dover, VT 05356

DV Fiber's latest Newsletter

STATEWIDE CLEAN UP DAY

On Saturday, August 26, Green Up Vermont, with support from the State and other partners, will hold a statewide Clean Up Day, which will operate very similarly to the annual May Green Up Day. Additionally, the State is finalizing a plan to assist those living in mobile homes that were destroyed by flooding to safely deconstruct and remove the condemned structures, at no cost to the flood victim. Support of these efforts is being made possible in part from a \$250,000 contribution from Subaru of New England, which has a long history of philanthropic support in Vermont.

For Clean Up Day, orange bags instead of the iconic Green will be distributed around Vermont for this Recovery Clean Up. A special webpage has been set up on greenupvermont.org to help towns communicate their needs and for volunteers to find various efforts around the state. Green Up Vermont is also encouraging the use of their app so that coordinators can communicate broadly the specific details and needs for each area. The Green Up

Vermont House sessions

The public can also watch the Vermont House legislative sessions live (Jan-May) or recorded videos – information below
Tuesday at 10:00 AM; Wednesday at 1:15 PM; Thursday at 1:15 PM; Friday at 9:30 AM (All times subject to change)

MORE HOUSE INFORMATION

[Listen to VPR House Live Audio](#)

[Watch House Live Video](#)

[See what bills I have sponsored and voting record](#), or watch my **[committee hearings](#)** or **[Listen to VPR House Live Audio](#)** or **[Watch House Live Video](#)**



[Pride Center of Vermont, Outright Vermont](#) and **[Out in the Open](#)** are sites with accurate and useful LGBTQ+ information and resources to Vermonters.

Vermont app can be downloaded on iPhone and Android platforms.

BEGAP Application is Now Live

The Department of Economic Development (DED) officially opened the application for the Business Emergency Gap Assistance Program (BEGAP). The \$20M BEGAP grant program is to help Vermont businesses, nonprofits, and landlords that suffered physical damage in the flood that began July 7, 2023. The money is to be used to help businesses reopen their doors, bring employees back, and help displaced Vermonters return to their rental housing.

The program website includes a recorded webinar (that includes screenshots of a sample application) and program FAQs. There are also additional resources for non-English speakers and technical assistance advisors for those needing help in applying. **[Learn More About BEGAP](#)**



Veteran's Care Starting Jan. 17, Veterans in suicidal crisis can go to any VA or non-VA health care facility for free emergency health care at no cost – including inpatient or crisis residential care for up to 30 days and outpatient care for up to 90 days. Veterans do not need to be enrolled



[ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com)

Phish | Aug 25 + 26

ON SALE NOW: Phish will play two special shows at the Broadview Stage at SPAC (Saratoga Performing Arts Center) in Saratoga Springs, New York on August 25 and 26, 2023. The concerts will benefit Vermont and Upstate New York flood recovery efforts.

Work in Vermont. Lose Some of Your Student Loans.

The State of Vermont, in collaboration with UVM and VSAC, is offering a \$5000 loan repayment program to incentivize and retain new graduates from Vermont colleges and universities. Any

graduate during the spring 2023 academic year with a Bachelor's degree can apply! Recipients will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis based on regional, employer, and institutional distribution criteria, as long as funding is available. Applicants must submit proof of employment when applying. Employment will need to be verified with a required submission of an HR letter. Click [HERE](#) to find out more and apply.



SoVT Get on Board
October 2023 - January 2024

Local Training for Local Leaders
Gain practical skills to become an effective and active participant in the civic life of your Southern Vermont community.

Course Schedule

In-Person Classes: Four Saturdays, October 2023

- Sat, 10/21, 10am-3pm (tentatively Townshend)
- Sat, 11/4, 10am-3pm (tentatively Manchester)
- Sat, 12/2, 10am-3pm (tentatively Wilmington)
- Sat, 1/6, 10am-1pm (location TBD)

Additional Virtual Classes

- Wed, 10/11, 6pm-7:15pm
- Wed, 11/15, 6pm-7:15pm
- Wed, 12/13, 6pm-7:15pm

Course Topics

- Unit 1: Civic Capital & Ways to Participate
- Unit 2: Local Government in Vermont
- Unit 3: Working Together as a Community
- Unit 4: Taking Action

sovermontzone.com/get-on-board

BRATTLEBORO DEVELOPMENT CREDIT CORPORATION | SOVERMONT | with funding from: USF

As always, if you have suggestions, concerns or critiques please be in touch

so we can schedule time to discuss.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need assistance navigating government services at (802) 384-0233 or **lsibilia@leg.state.vt.us**. Follow my regular posts online at **http://www.laurasibilia.vt.com**

Rep. Laura Sibilia – Dover, Jamaica, Somerset, Stratton, Wardsboro

This summer I had the honor of watching the Vermont National Guard swear in it's first female General, Tracey Poirier. Photo below from the Camp Johnson ceremony.

