

## Call 211 with questions about COVID-19

News & Updates for the Windham - Bennington Vermont House District  
Dover | Readsboro | Searsburg | Somerset | Stamford | Wardsboro | Whitingham

August 16th 2020

## VERMONT STATE REPRESENTATIVE

*Laura Sibilila*



### Bookmark for updates:

Vermont Department of Health [2019 Novel Coronavirus Current Status in Vermont Webpage](#) for updates.

U.S. Centers for Disease Control [Coronavirus Disease page](#)

World Health Organization [Coronavirus Disease 2019](#)

### Department of Labor

[FAQ for Employers and Employees](#)

### Government Operation

Governor Phil Scott  
[Executive Orders](#)

#### [Number 01-20](#)

declaring a State of Emergency in Vermont & National Guard Call Out

#### [Amendment to 01-02](#)

Declaration of State of Emergency in Response to COVID-19 and National Guard Call-Out - Amended and Restated

#### [ADDENDUM 1 to 01-20](#)

prohibits all non-essential mass gatherings to the lesser of fifty (50) people or fifty percent (50%) of the occupancy of a facility

#### [ADDENDUM 2 to 01-20](#)

Prohibits on-premises consumption of food or drink

#### [ADDENDUM 3 to 01-20](#)



Good evening,

This week my family was lucky enough to celebrate two major life moments – my husband and number one supporter TJ turned 50 and my oldest daughter and her longtime beau who we love got engaged. It was so sweet to have these beautiful life moments in our lives – I hope you all are finding giant and tiny reasons for joy through these times.

In this update includes information on an extension of the Vermont State of Emergency, continuing developments for students and teachers in the fast approaching school year, the results of our local primary elections and an invitation after a new symbol of ethnic and religious hatred painted on the roadway.



First, with more hate speech being spray painted on Windham County roads, this week in Dover, I am looking for ideas and partners to publicly

welcome the many new residents and visitors we have to our towns. We are better than this and we are kinder

Suspension of all Non-Essential Adult Elective Surgery and Medical and Surgical Procedures

[ADDENDUM 4 to 01-20](#)

Closure of Close-Contact Businesses and Further Restrictions of the Size of Mass Gatherings

[ADDENDUM 5 to 01-20](#)

Work from Home Order

[ADDENDUM 6 to 01-20](#)

Stay Home to Stay Safe Order

[ADDENDUM 7 to 01-20](#) Requirement to quarantine

[ADDENDUM 8 to 01-20](#)

Non-Congregate Sheltering in Vermont; Extension of Certain Deadlines Relating to Closures of DMV and Bars and Restaurants

[ADDENDUM 9 to 01-20](#) Extension of State of Emergency Declared March 13, 2020; Other COVID-19 Related Directives and Clarifications

[ADDENDUM 10 to 01-20](#)

Work Smart & Stay Safe - Restart VT: Phase I

[ADDENDUM 11 to 01-20](#)

Work Smart & Stay Safe --Restart VT: Phase II

[ADDENDUM 12 to 01-20](#)

Work Smart & Stay Safe -Restart VT: Phase III

[ADDENDUM 13 to 01-20](#)

Play Smart and Play Safe: Restart Phase V

[ADDENDUM 14 to 01-20](#)

Be Smart, Stay Safe

[ADDENDUM 15 to 01-20](#)

Outdoor Restaurants, Bars and Other Establishments that Offer Food and Drink

[ADDENDUM 16 to 01-20](#)

Close Contact Businesses; Large Social Gatherings

[Addendum 17 to 01-20](#)

Modified Quarantine Restrictions on Travelers Arriving in Vermont; Municipal Regulation of Bars and Restaurants

[Racial Equity Task Force \(Executive Order 02-20\)](#)

[Amended and Restated Executive Order No. 01-20](#)

more welcoming communities than these incidents infer. If you are interested in a working on a public welcome outreach campaign for our towns, or if you have a great idea on how to publicly welcome ALL new residents, second homeowners and visitors – send me an email at [Ihsibilia@gmail.com](mailto:Ihsibilia@gmail.com). I am also looking into state policies on defacing public property.



[Read more about the history of the Women's suffrage movement](#) which began pre-civil war

This year is the 100th anniversary of women being granted the right to vote. I was asked to expand on what the next step was for women's politics. While I would agree with many folks that the [Equal Rights Amendment](#) is the next step, an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would prevent discrimination based on gender, the way we are going about it's passage highlights why there is a step that must happen before before the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) - democratic reforms that can help our government regularly function.

The ERA is [supported by close to 75% of Americans](#), but time, technical and legal details have prevented its passage. If the process of passage by Congress and ratification by the states were restarted – and our government systems were functioning – the ERA could be passed in a few short years. The lack of function in our government means that it makes more sense to try and rewrite precedent and push for questionable legal precedent law in the courts to get passage on the effort from the 1970's. This is what is happening today. And honestly it feels like a big waste of time and energy. How can we get our government to function with more support and get action on rights and reforms supported by most Americans?

The way our current system is set up, power belongs to the far left and far right fringes of our two party duopoly. The moderates on the right and left, though larger in number than the fringes of the parties, are squeezed out through democratic electoral systems that favor extremism in the two parties. [Ranked Choice Voting, Independent Redistricting](#)

Declaration of State of Emergency in Response to COVID-19 and National Guard Call-Out - Amended and Restated

**ADDENDUM 1 TO AMENDED AND RESTATED 01-20**

Extension of State of Emergency Declared March 13, 2020

**ADDENDUM 2 TO AMENDED AND RESTATED EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 01-20**

Strengthening the Use of Facial Covering

**ADDENDUM 3 TO AMENDED AND RESTATED EXECUTIVE ORDER 01-20**

Extension of State of Emergency

**Directives**

[Directive 1 - Continuity of Education Planning.pdf](#)

[Directive 2 - Childcare For Essential Service Providers.pdf](#)

[Directive 3 - Department of Motor Vehicles Suspension of In-Person Transactions.pdf](#)

**AMENDMENT TO DIRECTIVE 3**

[Directive 4 - Department of Liquor and Lottery - Delivery and Take-Out of Beverage Alcohol - Amended March 20, 2020.pdf](#)

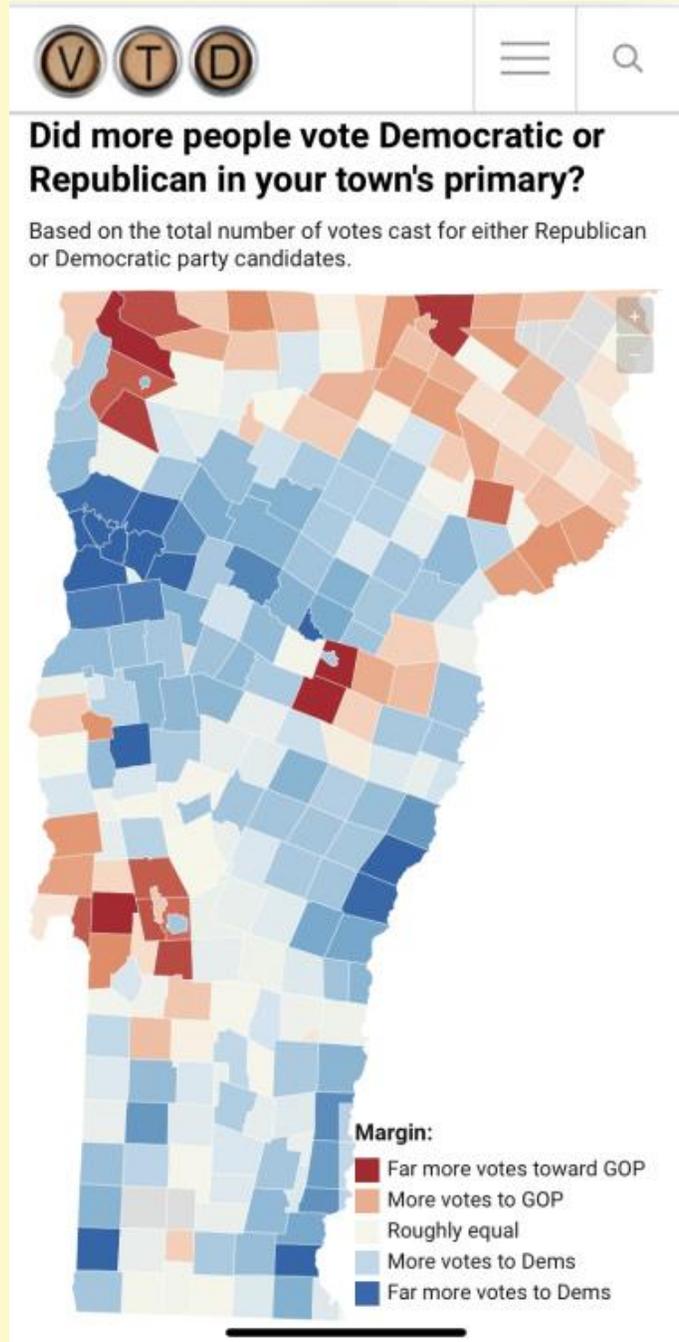
[Directive 5 – Continuity of Learning Planning .pdf](#)

[Directive No. 6 - Uniform School Reopening](#)



[Watch legislative committees](#)

[Commissions](#) and [Open “Jungle” Primaries](#) are three electoral reforms we could enact that would require a majority vote for election and penalize personal attacks and reward discussion of issues and solutions.



How did [Breakdown in voter turnout this week party by party and town by town](#)? For a full review of the results from the Vermont Primary [click here](#)



**How to contact me:**

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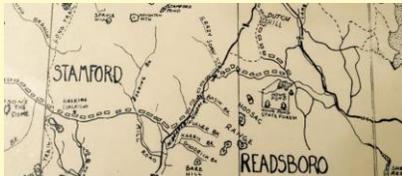
**Website:**

[www.laurasibiliavt.com](http://www.laurasibiliavt.com)

**Mail:** Rep. Laura Sibilia  
PO Box 2052  
West Dover, VT 05356

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

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



**Town Websites**

- [Dover](#)
- [Readsboro](#)
- [Searsburg](#)
- [Stamford](#)
- [Wardsboro](#)
- [Whitingham](#)

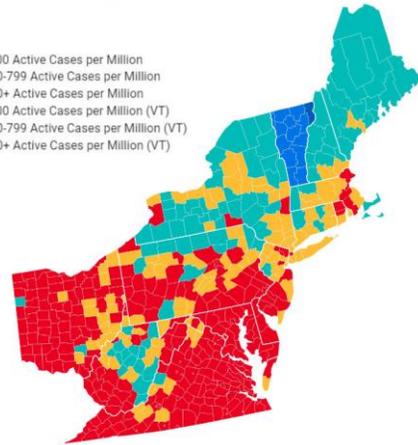
**Regional Resources**

Bennington County  
[BCIC - Regional Development](#)  
[BCRC - Regional Planning](#)

Windham County  
[BDCC - Regional Development](#)

**Updated Travel Map**

- <400 Active Cases per Million
- 400-799 Active Cases per Million
- 800+ Active Cases per Million
- <400 Active Cases per Million (VT)
- 400-799 Active Cases per Million (VT)
- 800+ Active Cases per Million (VT)



Source: Raw data from Johns Hopkins University—August 14, 2020 (dynamic map available at Vermont ACCD site)

[From the Vermont COVID-19 briefing August 14th](#)

**New guidance from the Vermont Agency of Education:**

**A STRONG AND HEALTHY START: SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS DURING COVID-19**

**GOVERNOR PHIL SCOTT EXTENDS STATE OF EMERGENCY TO SEPTEMBER 15**

Montpelier, Vt. – Governor Phil Scott today announced that the COVID-19 [State of Emergency has been extended to September 15, 2020](#), as well as additional local discretion for gathering size limits and liquor sales.

“We’ve made tremendous progress since this pandemic started and have suppressed the virus even as we’ve reopened much of the economy,” said Governor Scott. “We should be proud of what we’ve done but given what the rest of the country is facing, every one of us must stay vigilant to protect the gains we’ve made. This means wearing a mask when around those you don’t live with, staying six feet apart, washing your hands a lot, staying home when you’re sick and following our travel guidance.”

The latest order enables cities and towns to enact stricter local limits for gathering sizes than [those established by the State](#). Municipalities may also mandate shorter hours for the sale of alcohol by bars and clubs than [those set forth by the Department of Liquor and Lottery](#).

“As college students begin to return to Vermont, I believe giving our towns – especially the college towns – some

## [WRC - Regional Planning](#)

Businesses are invited to join BDCC for this week's Resiliency Webinar Friday at 2:15.

Please send questions in advance by emailing [bdcc-covid-questions@brattleborodevelopment.com](mailto:bdcc-covid-questions@brattleborodevelopment.com) Direct link: <https://zoom.us/j/781064798>



State Resources for COVID-19  
[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](#)



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



Need help paying your Medicare premiums?  
Need help paying for prescription drugs? If you have lost income you may get more help with Medicare costs and drug costs. Contact the Vermont Legal Aid Health Care Advocate at 800-917-7787 or [HCA@vtlegalaid.org](mailto:HCA@vtlegalaid.org) for free help. More info here: [www.vtlawhelp.org/health](http://www.vtlawhelp.org/health)

[Windham Regional Commission Resource Guide for Individuals](#)

additional mitigation measures to work with is the right thing to do," said Governor Scott.

Additionally, the Department of Motor Vehicles will develop processes for temporary electronic plates and permits that will be valid for up to 60 days.

"Our response has been one of the most comprehensive and effective in the U.S., and while we know we may see additional cases in the fall, we'll continue to adapt our approach based on new facts, the data we track in real time, and the input of our world-class health experts," added Governor Scott.

[Click here to view the Addendum to the State of Emergency.](#)

[Click here to view the August 14 COVID press conference](#), covering this extension.

For more information on:

- COVID-19 health information, guidance and case data, visit [www.healthvermont.gov/covid19](http://www.healthvermont.gov/covid19).
- The Governor's actions, visit <https://governor.vermont.gov/covid19response>.
- The state's modeling, visit <https://dfr.vermont.gov/about-us/covid-19/modeling>.

School and Fall Sports Guidance Released  
A [Strong and Healthy Start: Safety and Health Guidance for Vermont Schools](#) has been updated. In addition, guidance for [Fall Sports Programs for the 2020-2021 School Year](#) has been published.

[New guidance from the CDC](#) suggests immunity following infection lasts approximately three months. This is based on studies in patients who had antibodies after developing Covid-19.

## **LOCAL CONTACT FOR CLOTH FACE COVERINGS**

[New guidance from the CDC](#) suggests immunity following infection lasts approximately three months. This is based on studies in patients who had antibodies after developing Covid-19.

The state of Vermont has made 300,000 donated cloth face masks available to all municipalities throughout the state. These masks are available to the public subject to the distribution strategy of each municipality.

The face masks will be distributed directly to municipalities that have requested them. The list



### Have you taken the Census?

If you have not completed your census yet, now is a great time. You can complete it without leaving home or coming in contact with another person. There are three simple ways to complete the Census:

- Online: Go to [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov). Can't find your 12-digit code that you received in the mail? No problem. Just follow the instructions and you will still be able to complete the questionnaire on-line.
- By Phone: Call 844-330-2020 to get started in English. The 2020 Census can be completed by phone in 14 different languages.

### PPP Forgiveness Webinar

A daily webinar hosted by the SBA Vermont District Office to discuss Paycheck Protection Program forgiveness

- Monday – Friday, 9:00am – 10:00am
- [Join online](#)
- Join by phone: (202) 765-1264; Code: 237511921#

### PPP & EIDL Webinar

A twice-weekly webinar hosted by the SBA Vermont District Office to discuss the Paycheck Protection Program, the Economic Injury Disaster Loan and Advance, and information about updates to these programs

- Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00am – 10:00am
- [Join online](#)
- Join by phone: (202) 765-1264; Code: 470177937#

### “PPP: There’s Still Money Available”

#### Archived Webinar

The Department of Economic Development hosted a [virtual town hall](#) to share updates about the Paycheck Protection Program.

of [towns and points of contacts are listed here](#). The list will be updated as more towns request their allotment of masks. If your community is not listed, that indicates they did not request their allotment, or did not provide a contact. Vermonters looking to obtain cloth face masks may do so by getting in touch with the point of contact listed and requesting more info.



[‘Phenomenal Uncertainty’ Clouds Vermont’s Fiscal Outlook, State Economists Say](#) The Vermont Legislature will be back in session August 25th for the purposes of passing the remaining 3/4 of year budget for FY 21. The process is Gov. Scott’s administration proposes a budget, then the House Appropriations Committee takes testimony on governor’s budget and proposes a budget to pass the legislature, then the Senate takes testimony and passed its own budget. The Senate and House then work out their differences – hopefully with the governor’s input – then the gov signs. Then the legislature goes home – until January.

### [How Vermont And New Hampshire Are Keeping Coronavirus At Bay](#)

## Municipal Grants

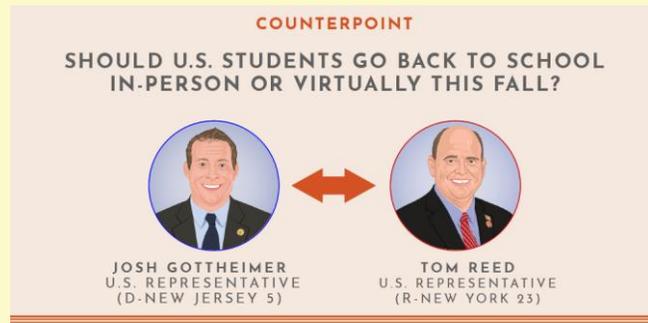
The State of Vermont Tax Department announced two grant programs for municipalities, supported by Act 137 using federal Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF):

- \$2 million under the [Coronavirus Municipal Records Digitization Grant Program](#)
- \$13 million under the [Local Government Expense Reimbursement \(LGER\) Grant Program](#)



- [Archived webinar](#) (from June 5th at 2:00pm)
- [Download presentation \(“PPP Loans for Self Employed Individuals”\)](#)

## Seven Days: [Lawmakers Hope to Take Up Retail Weed Bill Before Session’s Close](#)



Washington, D.C. – As U.S. states debate school safety in the midst of COVID-19, [the Problem Solvers Caucus](#) Co-Chairs Reps. [Josh Gottheimer \(D-NJ\)](#) and [Tom Reed \(R-NY\)](#) explore whether students should learn in-person or virtually this fall. Hear the Democrat and Republican viewpoints in this week’s six-minute [Counterpoint](#), exclusively on [A Starting Point](#) (ASP).



### [\\*Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) child care resources for families, employers, early educators\\*](#)

The Child Development Division of the Department for Children and Families would like to meet with Vermont’s employers to learn more about any child care concerns that employers may anticipate going into the fall. This sort of listening session will be helpful to the Child Development Division as we continue to develop policies to support the needs of families. We would also like to take the opportunity to open lines of communication with employers about how families can make use of the state’s existing services to match with available child care, how to learn more about child care subsidies, and other ways that the state is working to support families during this challenging time. The RDCs of Vermont are encouraging businesses to attend these meetings.

Southern Region: Bennington County, Windham County, Windsor County Friday August 21, 2:00-3:00 PM

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#) or call +1 802-828-7667 United States, Montpelier (Toll), Conference ID: 482 483 442#

For more information:  
Emily Blistein  
Director of Business Strategy  
Let's Grow Kids  
Phone: 802.391.9801

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**[Sibilia: 2020 reelection announcement](#)**

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions, or if you need assistance navigating government services at (802) 384-0233 or [lsibilia@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:lsibilia@leg.state.vt.us). Follow my regular posts online at <http://www.laurasibiliavt.com>

**Kind regards,**

**Rep. Laura Sibilia  
Dover, Readsboro, Searsburg, Somerset, Stamford,  
Wardsboro, Whitingham**

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