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# THIRD ACT VT

## MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER

“I think of voting as a chess move, not a valentine.”

—Third Act board member Rebecca Solnit,  
from “The 2000 Election Unleashed Disaster on the World.  
We Can’t Let that Happen Again in 2016”  
in *The Nation*, November 2016

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Hello Third Actors,

It seems as if each presidential election has higher and higher stakes. **Third Act has unequivocally endorsed Joe Biden.** “We will do all that we can to insure he has another term to restore the country, and the planet, to a place of reason, balance, and decency. A place where all are welcomed and all belong,” according to the Third Act website.

Learn more in this powerful [essay](#). It explains our organization’s reasoning in ways rarely discussed in the media.

If you want to contribute to ensure that our democracy remains strong, see page 2 of this newsletter for how Third Actors of Vermont are helping to battle voter suppression and to register high school seniors to vote. We are making a big difference at home and in other states!

If you feel energized by spring and want to help in other ways, read on. Third Act Vermont offers numerous opportunities to help our planet and our democracy through activities that draw on members’ unique skills and availability.

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## Postcard Writing throughout Election Season

In partnership with nonprofit [Activate America](#), Third Act VT members joined with Third Actors from Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Washington D.C. to write postcards to Pennsylvania voters encouraging them to request mail-in ballots for this year's elections. Pennsylvania recently enacted a requirement that voters re-register annually in a not-too-veiled attempt at voter suppression.

Third Act VT organized an in-person gathering for Vermonters on March 3 and provided a Zoom link so that postcard writers in other locales, whether attending postcard-writing parties or writing individually, could share in the camaraderie. Third Act members wrote more than 2,000 postcards! Our goal is to mail more than 25,000 cards during this election season. Yeah, us!

Third Act VT is leading a monthly effort to address key voting issues in battleground states across the country, leading up to the November elections. We will continue to host events on the first Sunday of each month, from 2 to 4 p.m. A reminder will go out before the event, including the Zoom link. Meanwhile, common questions are answered here: <https://thirdactvt.org/postcards-for-democracy/>

Questions? please contact Shaun Deane at [shaun@thirdactvt.org](mailto:shaun@thirdactvt.org).

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## Senior to Senior Voter Registration and Upcoming Training

Third Act Vermonters working on the Senior to Senior project registering high school seniors to vote have a lot to be proud of. Currently, we are in one-third of Vermont high schools (out of 90 total schools). Our allies in the League of Women Voters are working in another 10 percent of the schools.

**A big shout-out to our members in Addison, Franklin, and Washington counties, who are working with every high school in their counties!** Every one of these members has overcome the discomfort of reaching out to good people in schools that they don't know yet in order to help young voters launch their lifelong habit of voting. Many report having fun, feeling satisfied with their work, and feeling pleased to promote this key action for democracy.

“Being part of the team that facilitated the voter registration drive at Middlebury Union High School was a totally ENERGIZING experience for ME also!,” wrote Walt Koenig. “Just being a part of the energy that both the students and faculty brought to this project brought me hope that we will be leaving our democracy in good hands for the next two generations! I also had the good fortune to get to do this with two other ‘well seasoned’ Third Actors...[and] I feel I now have new friends in the community.”

This work is so important. Young voters care about climate and vote accordingly.

Want to get involved? Come to the online **Senior-to-Senior Spring 2024: Voter Registration Ambassador Training on Thursday, April 4, at 4 p.m.** Here's the [link](#) to register. We hope to see many of you there!

Contact Suzie McCoy at [suziemccoy1@gmail.com](mailto:suziemccoy1@gmail.com) or 802-343-4076 for more information and with any questions about approaching Vermont high schools.

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## Divestment Action Team Update

On February 20, 2023, David McColgin, Mari Miceli, Hank Prenskey, Beth Sachs, and Michael Bosworth from the Divestment Action Team spent the day at the statehouse at the Third Act Vermont table. We met legislators and explained Third Act VT and Bill S.42, which would divest state pensions from fossil fuel funds. Vermont State Treasurer Mike Pieciak supports Bill S.42. All of us had a great time meeting the legislators in person and explaining why Bill S.42 is so important to phasing out fossil fuels in Vermont. We've sent thank you notes to the legislators who stopped by our table.

### Take Action

Show your support for Bill S.42: Please consider signing [this letter](#) if you, a family member, or a friend are a member of the Vermont Retirement Systems (for state educators, state employees, and some municipal employees). We will send the letter to our Vermont legislators and perhaps to the governor, as well as to the Vermont Pension Investment Commission.

Please share the link for the letter with other folks who have pensions in the Vermont Retirement Systems. Here is a [sample introductory letter](#) that you can personalize when contacting family and friends.

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## Low-Income Electricity Ratepayer Act

Third Act VT is one of 25 Vermont organizations requesting a hearing on bill H.668, the [Low-Income Electricity Ratepayer Act](#). Third Act VT has signed a [letter](#) to Vermont House Committee on Environment and Energy members to request a hearing on H.668. As an organization of people over 60, we have a significant reason to protect people on fixed, low incomes.

Please contact Third Act VT Legislative Action Team member Laura Zakaras for more information at [zakaras@gmail.com](mailto:zakaras@gmail.com).

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## Leaders of Third Act VT Regional Groups, Let's Gather

Wednesday, March 27, 5-6 p.m. One of the best things happening in Third Act Vermont is that regional groups are forming around the state and meeting in person locally. Folks are building good relationships, taking action together, and having fun doing so.

We'll be meeting together to share our successes, good ideas, answer any questions and offer support to each other.

If you are interested in organizing or taking part in a Regional Group please contact Laurel Green at [laurellplanet@gmail.com](mailto:laurellplanet@gmail.com).

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## February Statewide Meeting Flop

We want to take a second opportunity to apologize to anyone who tried unsuccessfully to access the February Statewide Meeting. A confluence of circumstances caused the problem. It also highlighted some unrecognized problems with how we communicate. We have made changes and will continue to do so.

The zoom link for the February Meeting was created in the usual way. A combination of events, including a family emergency, left us with no one available to open the meeting. This was compounded by limits on who and how quickly we can get emails out to our general membership list.

For the Coordinating Committee, this snafu highlighted the need for redundancy in a group run by seniors. The March meeting will have several designated cohosts to make sure someone will be able to open the Zoom meeting. This problem also highlighted the need to fill the currently vacant Communications Coordinator position. Any volunteers?

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## Next Statewide Meeting

Please join us for our next statewide meeting on **Thursday, March 21, from 4:30 to 6 p.m.** During the first half hour we'll talk about the basics of Third Act Vermont and answer questions. During the main meeting, from 5 to 6 p.m., we'll hear how to partake in TA VT activities, learn how to volunteer to keep TA VT moving ahead, and share our hopes for TA VT.

Here is the meeting [link](#).

Meeting ID: 839 2382 1289

Passcode: 089568

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## Third Act Vermont Handout

This is the latest [TA VT handout](#) in PDF form. Feel free to print it and share it with friends, distribute it at community events, post it on grocery store bulletin boards, etc.

Print it on 8.5 by 11-inch paper on both sides. You may have good luck with a local print shop that can print the sheets double-sided, then cut them into four quarters. We recommend using light card stock, not plain paper. You may want to print 10 sheets and cut them into quarters, which gives you 40 handouts and should be relatively inexpensive. If you have any questions, please contact Jud at [judlawrie@mindspring.com](mailto:judlawrie@mindspring.com).

**Thank you for being a member of Third Act Vermont!**