

---

# THIRD ACT VT

## SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

“We cannot afford to lose four more years to the climate crisis.”

—Actress and activist Jane Fonda

---

### In This Issue

- Senior-to-Senior Youth Voter Registration
- Postcards for Democracy
- Another Post-carding Opportunity
- 15 Minutes for Our Future!
- Divestment Action Team Update
- More Ways to Help Before Election Day
- Next Statewide Meeting, Thursday, Sep. 19
- Celebrity Activists Endorse VP Kamala Harris
- Third Act Vermont Handout
- Project 2025 Training
- Talk, Q&A, and Book Sale with Bill McKibben



---

## Hello from the New Third Act VT Co-Facilitators

We, David McColgin and Beth Sachs, have become co-facilitators for Third Act Vermont. We want to thank Laurel Green for filling this role heroically for the past three years, and we know we have some huge shoes to fill! We're excited about building on the work that has established Third Act VT as a presence in the state and to help it grow in many ways. Our first priorities will be to support the many great initiatives that are up and running in the state and to strengthen communications with all Third Act VT members. Here is a little about us.



David: "I am a semi-retired attorney who has been active with Third Act VT on the Legislative Action and the Divestment Action Teams. I'm also a member of the national Third Act Lawyers Working Group. I feel passionate about the mission of Third Act and its focus on tapping into the wisdom and experience of seniors to address democracy and climate crisis issues. Working collectively, each bringing to the table our unique combination of skills, knowledge, and abilities, we can contribute mightily to addressing these existential crises. I believe the best antidote to

*(Continued on page 2)*

---

## Hello from the New Third Act VT Co-Facilitators

*(Continued from page 1)*

feeling despondent about the current state of affairs is to take collective action to promote positive change. Third Act Vermont provides one of the most effective ways for us to take that action and make our wise and senior voices heard.” [davidmccolgin@yahoo.com](mailto:davidmccolgin@yahoo.com)

Beth: "I have been working in the field of sustainable energy since the 1972 oil embargo. I co-founded the nonprofit Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC) in 1986, and then co-created Efficiency Vermont, the country's first efficiency utility, in 2000. Learning about the concept of climate change so many years ago, I am terrified by its potentially devastating effects and deeply motivated to mitigate its impacts. Having worked in the environmental arena for the First and Second Acts of my life, I'm committed to keeping on with this work because there's so much more we must do in such a short time to ensure a planet that can sustain life for ourselves, our children, and our grandchildren. I've been active in Third Act VT's Divestment Action and Legislative Action Teams. I see the value of bringing those of us in our Third Act together, using our collective wisdom, time, and resources to learn, build community, and change the future." [bethsachs12@gmail.com](mailto:bethsachs12@gmail.com)



---

## Senior-to-Senior Youth Voter Registration

Please consider supporting your local high school fall voter registration drives before the November election! This is a critically important election, and young people are concerned about the environment and vote accordingly. Third Act VT has an important role to play in welcoming youths into our democracy and instilling a lifelong interest in voting and good citizenship.



Join us in working with [Third Act](#) national and [The Civics Center](#) on this initiative. Learn more and preview the resources available to schools on The Civics Center's website. Third Act VT is also collaborating with the League of Women Voters of Vermont's ([LWVVT](#)) high school voter registration efforts.

As of May 2024, Third Act Vermonters were working on Senior-to-Senior in one-third of our high schools (out of 90 total schools). Our allies in the LWVVT were working in another 10 percent. Many report having fun, feeling satisfied with their work, and feeling pleased to promote this key action for democracy.

Contact Suzie McCoy at [SuzieMcCoy1@gmail.com](mailto:SuzieMcCoy1@gmail.com) 802-343-4076 for more information & guidance. She's happy to share a one-page flyer to use when contacting schools. Let's make sure seniors are registered in every part of the state!

---

## Postcards for Democracy

**This is it. Time to postcard all you can! Here's some background and how to get involved.**

In February of this year, Shaun Deane of Third Act VT contacted the Third Act Pennsylvania working group to see if there might be an opportunity to partner with them in support of Democracy. Since then, a group of us have met monthly to send our postcards targeting Pennsylvania voters, initially, to remind them to re-register for mail-in ballots. Since March, we have also used post-carding to support important campaigns in PA, AZ, MT, OH, NY, and CA. Since August we have refocused on Pennsylvania.

We meet on the first Sunday of each month, from 2-4 p.m., in various locations (VT, DC, PA, and MA). The next is on Sunday, October 6, at Allard Square in South Burlington, VT. You do not have to attend an in-person event to participate; you may participate remotely. We would welcome your participation in any way and at any level.

We have sent more than **19,000** post cards so far! After the next Sunday event, we plan to run a week-long marathon in October. Separate details, Zoom links, and reminders will be sent out ahead of any actions. Learn more about Third Act Vermont's post-carding efforts here, including how to run your own post-carding event: <https://thirdactvt.org/postcards-for-democracy/>



Any questions? Please contact Shaun Deane at [shaun@thirdactvt.org](mailto:shaun@thirdactvt.org).

Longtime Third Act VT partner Carol Grodzins of Third Act Washington, DC, writing postcards during a flight



Third Act VT volunteers post-carding in South Burlington



Saint Lawrence Univ. students post-carding at Third Act VTer Suzie McCoy's home



Friends post-carding at Third Act VTer Elizabeth Seyler's home

---

## Another Post-carding Opportunity

Danièle Pheeney runs post-carding groups every other Saturday at the [Carpenter Carse Library](#) in Hinesburg, VT. It's a drop-in event from 10 a.m. to noon. Upcoming dates are Sep. 21 and Oct. 5, 19, and 26. She provides all materials.

---

## 15 Minutes for Our Future!

Mondays, 8:30 a.m., up to Election Day

In July, we launched a weekly meeting to define actions to protect our democracy—and by default, our climate and future. We have called this meeting “15 Minutes For Our Future!” We are holding brief (less than 15-minute) weekly Zoom calls to identify two to four actions that each of us can take in support of democracy. These actions are fun, fast, and easy, with clear instructions. And they require minimal effort for maximum impact.

At our first meeting, on August 5, we chose actions to support battleground candidates and to learn about Project 2025. At this point, we have a list of 25 specific actions that anyone can do—and we add to the list each week.

Program details, week-by-week actions and accomplishments, and other information are available at [www.thirdactvt.org/fifteen](http://www.thirdactvt.org/fifteen). Please join us! The Zoom link is always the same: <https://thirdact-org.zoom.us/j/86068042744?pwd=BGpTYaTwRyYpjfrwGP3nwsFDhtiWkP.1>

Any questions? Please contact Shaun Deane at [shaun@thirdactvt.org](mailto:shaun@thirdactvt.org)

---



---

## Divestment Action Team Update

Members of the Divestment Action Team (DAT) have been meeting with Vermont’s Office of the State Treasurer to develop a decarbonization proposal that was initially proposed by the Vermont Pension Investment Commission (VPIC) earlier this year as an alternative to divestment from fossil fuels. With the Treasurer’s Office, DAT is working to turn this proposal into a bill to be introduced in the next session, which starts in January 2025. The Treasurer’s Office is meeting with VPIC regarding the details of the bill, which would call for VPIC to develop a plan for achieving net-zero emissions in their portfolio by a certain date. The New York City Employees’ Retirement System has a similar plan and is a good model.

# DIVEST



DAT worked over the past two years to craft and support S.42, an act relating to divestment of State pension funds of investments in the fossil fuel industry. The bill passed the Vermont Senate but didn’t pass out of the House Government Operations and Military Affairs Committee in April 2024. The DAT has now shifted its focus to the decarbonization proposal for the upcoming session.

DAT members are David McColgin, Beth Sachs, Donna Fialkoff, Dina DuBois, Hank Prensky, and Mari Miceli

---

## More Ways to Help Before Election Day

Election Day is about seven weeks away. The finish line of this marathon is in sight. Let's pull out all the stops and elect Vice President Kamala Harris and Vermont candidates prepared to protect democracy and the planet! Phone banking is a GREAT way to get into action right away. Please give it a try!

### Phone Banking Opportunities for VP Kamala Harris

The Vermont Democratic Party is hosting phone banking on Tuesdays through October 29 from 5:30-8 p.m.

- In person in Burlington. Get info and register [here](https://mobilize.us/s/OfcTfT), <https://mobilize.us/s/OfcTfT>
- Virtually on Google Meets. Get info and register [here](https://mobilize.us/s/oI0Ned), <https://mobilize.us/s/oI0Ned>

### Phone Banking Opportunities for Vermont Candidates

The Vermont Democratic Party is hosting phone banking on Thursdays through October 31 from 5:15-7:30 p.m.

- In person in Burlington. Get info and register [here](https://mobilize.us/s/bSGWrO), <https://mobilize.us/s/bSGWrO>
- Virtually on Google Meets. Get info and register [here](https://mobilize.us/s/4yhxnr), <https://mobilize.us/s/4yhxnr>

If you participate in phone banking, please contact Jud Lawrie at [judlawrie@mindspring.com](mailto:judlawrie@mindspring.com) to let him know how it went.

Support [Lean Left Vermont](#)'s Efforts in NC, PA, and NH  
Lean Left Vermont has a number of initiatives to mobilize Democratic voters in North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and New Hampshire.

First, do you have family or friends in any of these states?  
Please encourage them, especially the young ones, to register and vote. They may go to [IWillVote.com](https://www.IWillVote.com) to learn how.

Second, [sign up for a PowerHour](#) to ask friendly Democrats in North Carolina to be hotline volunteers, poll observers, and canvassers.

Third, take a one-hour training to learn how to answer voters' questions. The NC Democratic Party's [Voter Assistance Hotline](#) gets many calls, and volunteers find that helping people vote is very satisfying. Sign up for a training [here](#).

Finally, travel to NC, PA, or NH to canvass. If you're interested, sign up for the virtual Canvassing Q&A on Thursday, September 19, from 5-6 p.m. Guest speakers from each state will provide the low-down on what's happening and how you can connect with their efforts. Feel free to pick your

state: Attendees will break into three different Zoom rooms. Sign up via [Mobilize](#).

Questions? Contact Dana Goss of Lean Left Vermont at [goss-wol@wvvt.com](mailto:goss-wol@wvvt.com).

**Lean Left  
Vermont**  
*Strengthening Democracy*



---

## Statewide Third Act VT Meeting

Thursday, September 19, 5-6 p.m., Zoom

Our next Third Act Vermont statewide meeting will be on Thursday, September 19, at 5 p.m. In the last two monthly meetings we focused on our revitalization process—talking about next steps for keeping the fires burning at Third Act Vermont. Since then, David McColgin and Beth Sachs have volunteered to take on the role of co-facilitators, and they look forward to seeing you at the Sept. 19 meeting. The meeting will provide updates on what's happening now across the state and what we're all doing leading up to Nov. 6! We'll be thinking about how to make these monthly meetings even more engaging and would love to hear your thoughts about this.

Here is the meeting [link](#) for joining. Or cut and paste this URL into your browser:

<https://thirdact-org.zoom.us/j/83923821289?pwd=hdqHdaAF9qUFCd9gUV8IvyEPUWUwgW.1>

Meeting ID: 839 2382 1289

Passcode: 089568

---

## Celebrity Activists Endorse VP Kamala Harris

*This isn't a Third Act VT initiative, just news that's fun to share!!*



Actress and activist **Jane Fonda** has been battling the climate crisis for decades. On Wednesday she was interviewed on the television show “[Jimmy Kimmel Live](#)” about the recent presidential debate, the dangers of the climate crisis, and why we must elect Vice President Kamala Harris. “We are facing an historic catastrophe,” she said. “We cannot afford to lose four more years to the climate crisis.” Fonda encouraged viewers to vote for Harris because she’s the only candidate with a platform to address the climate. Watch Fonda’s interview on [YouTube](#).

Singer-songwriter **Taylor Swift** regularly makes donations to help climate disaster victims, support cancer research, and champion the arts. Last week she endorsed VP Harris on Instagram, stating, “I’m voting for @kamalaharris because she fights for the rights and causes I believe need a warrior.... I was so heartened and impressed by her selection of running mate @timwalz, who has been standing up for LGBTQ+ rights, IVF, and a woman’s right to her own body for decades.”



---

## 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).

---

## Project 2025 Training: Understanding and Stopping It

Thursday, September 19, at 7 p.m. on Zoom

*This is not a Third Act VT event, but we thought you'd like to know about it.*

Do you want to learn more about Project 2025? Do you want to know what you can do to stop it? The [Vermont Progressive Party](#)'s Organizing Committee, in partnership with [CPD Action](#) and [Rights & Democracy VT](#), is offering a free virtual training session on **The Who, What, and Why of Project 2025**.

We will discuss its possible implications, why we need to mobilize now to stop it, and how to mobilize. The training is perfect for anyone wanting to engage in direct action and educate others on this radical plan created by the far right. With the upcoming election, it is imperative that constituents be prepared to articulate their demands and the needs of their communities. **Register** for the training [here](#).



---

## Talk, Q&A, and Book Sale with Bill McKibben

Sunday, October 6, at 4 p.m. at American Flatbread, 46 Lareau Rd., Waitsfield, VT 05673

*This is not a Third Act VT event, but we thought you'd like to know about it.*

Bill McKibben is an acclaimed environmental activist who founded the first global grassroots climate campaign, 350.org, and Third Act. He has written more than a dozen books about the environment, including his first, *The End of Nature*, published in 1989. In 2014 he was awarded the Right Livelihood Prize, often referred to as the alternative Nobel. He has won the Gandhi Peace Award, holds honorary degrees from 19 colleges and universities, and currently serves as the Schumann Distinguished Scholar Environmental Studies at Middlebury College in Vermont.



The event is sponsored by: Friends of the Mad River, The MR Path Association, The Valley Reporter, Mad River Climate Action, Champlain College, and American Flatbread

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