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# THIRD ACT VT

## OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

“This is the most optimistic news I’ve come across in a long time  
(which is not saying much I know, but still).”

—Bill McKibben on solar proliferation in developing countries.  
Learn more in his [Substack newsletter](#).

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### Postcards for Democracy

Sunday, October 20, 2-4 p.m.

Allard Square, 146 Market Street, South Burlington, and  
610 Meadowbrook Road, West Brattleboro



We have sent more than **25,000** postcards so far! Now we’re shooting for **30,000**. **This is the final push. The bell lap. Pedal to the metal. LET’S WIN THIS THING!!!**

Details about the October 20 post-carding event in South Burlington and West Brattleboro will be sent separately, and we’ll be connected as always with other Third Act working groups. You may attend in person or from the comfort of your home via Zoom. We welcome your participation in any way and at any level. You may also choose to organize your own event with friends and family.

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## Postcards for Democracy

*(Continued from page 1)*

Here's how it all started. In February, Third Act VTers Ed Cremo and Shaun Deane contacted the Third Act Pennsylvania working group to explore partnering in support of democracy. Since then, a group of Third Act VTers, together with members of other eastern Third Act working groups, has met monthly to send postcards. At first, we targeted Pennsylvania voters to remind them to re-register for mail-in ballots. In March we began post-carding to support important campaigns in PA, AZ, MT, OH, NY, and CA. Since August, we have refocused on Get Out the Vote in PA, and the scripts and targeted voters reflect this.



Third Act VTers post-carding at Allard Square in South Burlington

At the recent Third Act Central “All In,” Bill McKibben made a strong rallying cry and featured how working group efforts (including ours!) will affect the outcome of this important election. He mentioned the impact of our partnerships across working groups with a particular focus on swing states such as Pennsylvania.

Did we know that Pennsylvania would be so critical when we approached that state's working group last January? We suspected as much, but now it seems that every article published about election dynamics mentions the Keystone State.

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/> It's fun and productive!

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## Another Post-carding Opportunity

**Saturday, Oct 19 and 26, 10-noon, Carpenter Carse Library, 69 Ballards-Corner Rd., Hinesburg**

Danièle Pheeny has been running post-carding groups every other Saturday at the [Carpenter Carse Library](#) in Hinesburg. It's a drop-in event, and she provides all materials.

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## No Statewide Third Act VT Meeting in October

Next meeting: Thursday, **November 21**, 5-6 p.m., Zoom

The Third Act Vermont Coordinating Committee has decided to **cancel the October statewide meeting**. We're all hard at work between now and the election doing everything we can to elect the next (and first woman) president of the U.S.! We look forward to seeing everyone at the November statewide meeting on November 21 at 5:00 p.m., after the election.

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## 15 Minutes for Our Future!

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

We are still meeting every Monday morning. And we are still expanding our partnerships in as many ways as possible. We've got an exciting opportunity in progress to add support for the Pennsylvania effort from our new friends in California, led by Sheila Dershowitz, who spoke on the "All In" call about her "Adopt a District" program. She asked us to help build a bridge to the Pennsylvania team, and that is exactly what we are doing this week. Every partnership, every opportunity, and every discrete effort matters in these last three weeks. Everything counts!

Since July, we have met every Monday morning to add to our list of actions that anyone can take to support democracy and to keep our country safe for future generations. The actions (now, almost 50) are intended to be:

- Easy to do and understand
- Able to be accomplished in a short amount of time
- Fun!
- Effective



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://thirdactvt.org.zoom.us/j/86068042744?>

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

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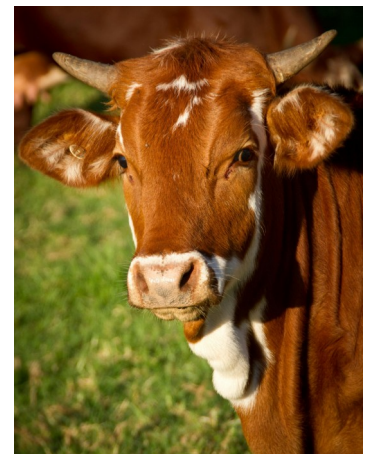
## Decarbonization Action Team Update

Third Act VT's Decarbonization Action Team (DAT), formerly named the Divestment Action Team, will meet with the VT Treasurer's Office to develop a decarbonization plan with the Vermont Pension Investment Commission (VPIC) as an alternative to divestment from fossil fuels. A decarbonization plan would call for VPIC to develop a way to achieve net-zero emissions in its portfolio by a certain date.

Watch the short and informative [Why We're Moo-ving Toward Decarbonization](#) on YouTube by Bloomberg Green. It explains why the concrete, steel, and agriculture industries are critical to reducing greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate climate change.

The Divestment Action Team (DAT) worked over the past two years to craft and support the fossil fuel divestment bill (S.42), which passed in the Vermont State Senate but didn't pass in the House Government Operations and Military Affairs Committee in April 2024. The DAT has shifted its focus to decarbonization for the upcoming legislative session.

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



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## Phone Banking Opportunities

Want to make a difference in this election? 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.

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## Voting Action Team Appeal

In these final days of the presidential campaign, let's roll up our sleeves and do whatever we can to help elect Kamala Harris and Tim Walz! Third Act's two primary goals are preserving our democracy and protecting our planet. Defeating Trump is essential to both.

According to pollsters and political journalists, seven swing states will decide who wins the election, possibly by as little as a few thousand votes: Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. Getting out the vote in these states is the whole battle. In his Substack newsletter, independent journalist Dave Margulius offers these [actions you can take](#).

- Phone/virtual: Make calls to get out the vote; staff voter assistance and ballot cure hotlines.
- Make a trip: Go help local groups get out the vote, or serve as a poll monitor or observer.
- Spread the word: Share this guide widely; we need everyone in the fight.

See [Margulius's newsletter](#) for details and specific actions for each swing state.

If you have family or friends in swing states, please contact them and encourage them to vote not just for Harris but also for key congressional and other down-ballot candidates, especially for Senate seats. Independent journalist Dan Pfeiffer offers [tips for convincing people to vote for Harris](#).

It's not too late to make donations to support key candidates in swing states. I'm confident your donations will be graciously and gratefully accepted. Remember 2016! Hillary Clinton won the popular vote by more than 3 million votes yet lost the election in the Electoral College.

Questions? Contact Jud Lawrie at [judlawrie@mindspring.com](mailto:judlawrie@mindspring.com).



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## 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!

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## Communications Team Update

The recently formed Communications Team aims to engage, inspire, and educate Third Act VT members to take action in our fight for the climate and democracy. Comms Team members are Laura Zakaras, Suzie McCoy, Elizabeth Seyler, and Mari Miceli. In one of our first actions, Laura sent a welcome email to Third Act members who live in Vermont but haven't yet joined the Third Act Vermont working group via Third Act Central's website. In collaboration with Third Act VT's Shawn Deane, the team also plans to make the newsletter easier to access and read, more inspiring, and more action focused. It will continue to highlight our campaigns, the actions of our regional groups, and all Third Act VT teams' fantastic efforts and successes.

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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 Part of Third Act VT!**