

Vermont State Grange

Legislative Policy Book

October 2023



Vermont State Grange
www.vtstategrange.org

Kathleen Paglia
kmpaglia@gmail.com

The Grange is a non-profit, nonpartisan, fraternal organization that advocates for rural America and agriculture.

For more information about the Grange contact our website or the Legislative Director as listed to left.

Table of Contents

Agricultural 7

 Upholding the Standard of Identity for Dairy 7

 Vermont Farm Show 7

 Investing in Vermont Agriculture 7

 Food Composting in Institutions Serving Meals 7

 Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act..... 7

 Promoting Sustainable Agriculture 8

 Support for Organic Milk Task Force..... 8

 Non-Meat Substitutes in Separate Section 8

 Community Food Security Plan and Food Security Act 8

 Growth Management Plan for Milk 9

 School Meals Plate Waste 9

 Opposition to Prophylactic Use of Neonicotinoids 9

 Endangered Species Act..... 9

 Whole Milk in School Meal Programs 9

 Support for Legislation to Shield Farmworkers from Deportation 10

 Wood Shelving in Artisanal Cheese Production..... 10

 Animal Care at Vermont Fairs and Field Days 10

 Support the Production and Use of Biochar to Benefit Agriculture and Climate 10

 Disaster Relief..... 10

 Recycling or Gleaning of Food Items from Stores 11

 Vermont AgrAbility..... 11

 Roadside Weeds 11

 Milk Price Support 11

 Composting as an Agricultural Enterprise 11

 Beef Check Off 12

 Preferential Purchasing of VT Agricultural Products..... 12

 Interstate..... 12

 Meat Sales..... 12

 Infrastructure of Our Agricultural Industry..... 12

 Imported Agricultural Standards 12

 Forest Management..... 12

VERMONT STATE GRANGE LEGISLATIVE POLICY BOOK

Agricultural Fairs..... 12

UVM College of Agriculture 12

Discrimination in USDA Programs..... 12

Vermont Agricultural Products..... 13

Agricultural Promotion and Development 13

Business Promotion 13

Environment 13

 Alternative Energy 13

 Wilderness Designation in the Green Mountain National Forrest..... 13

 Bottle/Can Deposit Bill 13

 Preserve the Long Trail 13

Health, Education, and Welfare 14

 Strive for Social and Racial Justice, Equality, and Compassion in Human Relations..... 14

 Support for Vermont State Colleges..... 14

 Assistance with Mental Health Expenses for Farmers 14

 Information on Prescriptions..... 14

 Prescription Drug Labeling..... 14

 Education About Vaccinations..... 14

 Support Local Products Use in Nutritional Programs 14

 Schools Have Trained First Aid Staff 14

 Nutrition Class for High School Students 15

 Freedom to Express Our Religious Beliefs in School..... 15

 Sex Offender Registry 15

 Educational Age Requirement..... 15

 Local Foods for Schools..... 15

 Integrated Health Care Program..... 15

 Stem Cell Research 15

 Vaccination Against HPV 15

 School Choice..... 15

 Education about Living Wills and Durable Power of Attorney 15

 Training Teachers in ASL..... 15

 Control of Costs for Special Education 16

Highway and Transportation..... 16

- Interstate Speed Limits..... 16
- Stop Fatalities on Vermont Roads..... 16
- Drivers Education Offered Free in All Vermont High Schools..... 16
- Interstate Rest Stops 16
- Headlights Turned On..... 16
- Vanity License Plates 16
- Railroad Farm Crossings 16
- Lamoille Valley Rail Trail..... 16
- Roundabout Proposal..... 17
- Separate Transportation Funds 17
- Reaffirm National Policy 17

Legislative 17

- H. R. 1454 Ghost Guns Are Guns Act 17
- Number Spoofing or Cloning 17
- Campaign Financing..... 17
- Rural Broadband Services 17
- Support for the United States Postal Service..... 17
- Broadband..... 18
- Act 250 Revisions..... 18
- Raising the Federal Minimum Wage 18
- Support National Passage of the Equal Rights Amendment..... 18
- Gerrymandering of Voting Districts..... 18
- Selective Service..... 18
- Robocall Enforcement Improvement Act..... 18
- Federal Legislation of GMO Labeling..... 18
- Term Limits..... 18
- Bottle Deposits..... 18
- Support for Bill H.R. 3092 IH Local Foods Act..... 18
- Fireworks Permit Process 19
- Challenges for Change..... 19
- Legislature Adjournment by May 1st..... 19

VERMONT STATE GRANGE LEGISLATIVE POLICY BOOK

Ethanol in Gasoline 19

Prisoner Talent Usage 19

Observing Memorial Day 19

Cable Television 19

Opposed to Instant Runoff Elections 19

Battle of Hubbardton Day 19

Support the Local Economy 19

Legislative Studies 19

Village Centers and Downtown Designations 20

American Flag 20

Fight Against Terrorism 20

Social Security Options 20

Remove Outdated Laws 20

Gun Control 20

Taxation 21

 Solar Installations on Agricultural Lands 21

 Taxing at Charging Stations 21

 Reduce State Income Tax on Social Security 21

 Oppose Vermont State Tax on Medical, Dental, or Physical Therapy Bills 21

 Opposition Vermont Carbon Tax 21

 Income Used in Property Tax Rebate Formula 21

 Current Use Tax Coalition 21

 Property Tax Exemption 21

 Use Value Taxation Program 21

 Taxation of Farms 22

 Property Taxes on Mobile Homes 22

 Teachers Retirement 22

 Monitoring of Land Use Program 22

 Increased Annual per Parcel Payments 22

Agricultural		
Agriculture Policy Statement		<i>The Vermont State Grange supports the concept of a state premise registration system that helps maintain animal health and consumer confidence in our livestock industry.</i>
Policy 1-2023	Upholding the Standard of Identity for Dairy	<i>The Vermont State Grange and National Grange urge support of the Dairy Pride Act by the US Congress.</i>
Policy 2-2023	Vermont Farm Show	<i>The Vermont State Grange encourages the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets to ensure that the Vermont Farm Show be held in 2024, and that we support the Agency's efforts to reimagine the event, with due regard for its history, to evolve and meet the current needs of the Vermont Agricultural community including a more central location, and be it further resolved that this resolution be forwarded to the Commissioner of the Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets and to the Vermont Farm Show Board of Trustees.</i>
Policy 3-2023	Investing in Vermont Agriculture	<i>The Vermont State Grange supports the Governor's recommendations regarding investing in Vermont Agriculture outlined in his budget address of January 20, 2023, and urges the legislature to adopt them, and be it further resolved that this resolution be forwarded to members of the legislature.</i>
Policy 4-2023	Food Composting in Institutions Serving Meals	<i>The Vermont State Grange make an effort to encourage everyone from private homes to all food businesses, from cooks to bus boys, to hospital and nursing home attendants, be aware of what should go in the compost and recycling bins and what should go into the dumpster. This will help to ensure that businesses and the community reap the benefits of composting and be it further resolved that some composting facilities will come to an establishment to help train staff on the process. These businesses should have in-house training annually as well. In addition, the busyness of a commercial kitchen can be a deterrent to conscientious composting; therefore, multiple compost bins located in prime areas throughout the service area can provide efficiency. This will make it quick and easy for employees to responsibly and effectively dispose of organic waste and be it further resolved that this resolution be sent to the appropriate state agency that can provide education and appropriate funding.</i>
Policy 11-2023	Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act	<i>The Vermont State Grange urge our Vermont Congressional Delegation to pass H.R. 1147 (Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act).</i>

VERMONT **STATE** GRANGE LEGISLATIVE POLICY BOOK

<p>Policy 1-2022</p>	<p>Promoting Sustainable Agriculture</p>	<p><i>The Vermont State Grange Agriculture Director request the continued inclusion of these Sustainable Agriculture recommendations* to any Legislation being considered by the Appropriate Legislative Committee and to the Department of Agriculture</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *-Crop rotation -Permaculture (planting without tillage, etc.) -Cover crops -Natural Soil Enrichment -Natural Pest predators (Integrated Pest Management) -Polyculture Farming -Agroforestry -Biodynamic Farming
<p>Policy 17-2021</p>	<p>Support for Organic Milk Task Force</p>	<p><i>Vermont State Grange strongly encourages the effort of the Organic Milk Task Force established by the Vermont Agency of Food and Markets, especially urging them to work with organic producers, bottlers, and processors of organic products in finding new markets for organic milk production.</i></p>
<p>Policy 2-2021</p>	<p>Non-Meat Substitutes in Separate Section</p>	<p><i>That non-meat substitutes should be contained in their own separate section in all food retailers and not displayed with real meat products</i></p>
<p>Policy 1-2020</p>	<p>Community Food Security Plan and Food Security Act</p>	<p><i>Vermont State Grange supports the following: that once the initial food needs have been met, National, State, or Provincial governments offer simple guidelines to encourage fair food distribution. The focus should be on local communities to form a Food Security Committee, with Grange members to play an active part, to study a community's present and future food security needs, in order to be more prepared for future food insecurity situations.</i></p>

VERMONT **STATE** GRANGE LEGISLATIVE POLICY BOOK

<p>Policy 1-2019</p>	<p>Growth Management Plan for Milk</p>	<p><i>The Vermont State Grange recommend a Growth Management Plan that would incorporate:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A dairy farmer governance board working in conjunction with USDA. The National Dairy Board model could be used for farmer representation with the addition of dairy economist and two dairy processors.</i> • <i>Determination of a base milk volume for individual producers</i> • <i>Determination of the volume of milk required to meet domestic and export needs as well as a 30-day emergency stock of dairy products, nationally, regionally, and to the individual dairy farmer.</i> • <i>A means to provide strong signals to individual dairy farmers that milk over the required domestic and export volume and emergency stock is not desired.</i> • <i>A means for new dairy farmers to join family operations and/or start new individual dairy farms.</i> <p><i>Detailed rules and regulations for the merging of dairy farming operations, the dissolution of farm partnerships and other changes in business structures, and be it further RESOLVED:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>That the Growth Management Plan be implemented at a national level and must be mandatory for all dairy producers to take part</i> • <i>An administrative fee for all dairy farmers and a flat rate is supported</i>
<p>Policy 4-2019</p>	<p>School Meals Plate Waste</p>	<p><i>The Vermont State Grange urges the National School Lunch Program seek to further change portion sizes according to grade levels, in an effort to see less food wasted in our schools and that middle and high school students be given the option of choosing more protein and dairy, especially if they are athletes.</i></p>
<p>Policy 1-2018</p>	<p>Opposition to Prophylactic Use of Neonicotinoids</p>	<p><i>The Vermont State Grange go on record in opposition to the prophylactic use of neonicotinoids, and be it further resolved that the Vermont State Grange support statewide legislation requiring seed dealers to provide the option of untreated seeds for agricultural use and designating neonicotinoids as restricted use chemicals, which can only be applied by trained applicators, and be it further resolved that the National Grange support the establishment of an independent national laboratory at the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) responsible for testing pesticides and reporting the EPA test results and be it further resolved that the National Grange support CLEAR labeling of ALL products containing neonicotinoids based on EPA test results as to their adverse effects to pollinators.</i></p>
<p>Policy 2-2018</p>	<p>Endangered Species Act</p>	<p><i>The Vermont State Grange and the National Grange go on record in opposition to weakening the Endangered Species Act. The Grange will contact members of Congress and encourage individual Grange members to contact their congressional delegations, to oppose any weakening to the Endangered Species Act.</i></p>
<p>Policy 21-2018</p>	<p>Whole Milk in School Meal Programs</p>	<p><i>That the Vermont State Grange go on record in support of the return of whole milk in the school breakfast and lunch programs.</i></p>

VERMONT **STATE** GRANGE LEGISLATIVE POLICY BOOK

<p>Policy 1-2017</p>	<p>Support for Legislation to Shield Farmworkers from Deportation</p>	<p><i>The Vermont State Grange supports SB1034 and urges the Congress to pass it immediately.</i></p> <p><i>SB1034 SUMMARY: The proposed legislation would create a “blue card” status similar to the “green card” status now currently available for other types of workers, e.g., computer programmers in Silicon Valley. The proposed legislation includes language protecting the farmer who has heretofore employed the applicant. “An alien must complete qualified work (documented by the farmer), not be ineligible (e.g., felon or terrorist), submit an application (to DHS) within the application period, pass nation security and law enforcement clearances and pay the proper fees and penalties to be eligible for blue card status.”</i></p>
<p>Policy 1-2014 Reaffirmed 2021</p>	<p>Wood Shelving in Artisanal Cheese Production</p>	<p><i>The Vermont State Grange and the National Grange is on record in support of all cheese makers who presently follow the FDA rules which continue to permit properly maintained, cleaned, and sanitized wood as an aging surface in cheesemaking and that these rules will continue to be enforced by state and federal regulators and inspectors, who clearly understand how traditional methods and materials comply with current food safety standards and that cheese makers in Vermont and around our country be allowed to continue the long-standing practice of using wood shelving in artisanal cheese production and aging.</i></p>
<p>Policy 2-2014 Reaffirmed 2021</p>	<p>Animal Care at Vermont Fairs and Field Days</p>	<p><i>The Vermont State Grange asks the Vermont Secretary of Agriculture to develop and distribute educational programs and information promoting the appropriate care of animals at Fairs and Field Days. Be it further recommended that all fair departments develop animal care check lists and accounting systems as a matter of record and to be used for educational purposes.</i></p>
<p>Policy 1-2013 Reaffirmed 2021</p>	<p>Support the Production and Use of Biochar to Benefit Agriculture and Climate</p>	<p><i>The Vermont State Grange agrees to educate its members on the advantages in the operations of Biochar production and its use for soil building, better crop production, water filtration, pollution mitigation, renewable energy generation, and greenhouse gas emissions reduction. The Vermont State Grange recognize biochar’s public good potential to reduce pollution, greenhouse gases, and phosphate runoff and the agronomic and economic value of biochar to farmers, and advocate to support Legislation that encourages and supports Biochar production and use at local farm production and state and Local policy levels.</i></p>
<p>Policy 14-2012 Reaffirmed 2021</p>	<p>Disaster Relief</p>	<p><i>The Vermont State Grange recognize the need for and support the Legislature to establish a permanent fund through the Vermont Community Foundation or equal organizations for Vermont agricultural disaster relief and that the funds only be dispersed for agricultural relief in Vermont for declared disasters.</i></p>

VERMONT STATE GRANGE LEGISLATIVE POLICY BOOK

<p>Policy 02-2011 Reaffirmed 2021</p>	<p align="center">Recycling or Gleaning of Food Items from Stores</p>	<p><i>The Vermont State Grange encourages the Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets to</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>develop a certification process, whereby local farmers and animal caregivers may be certified receive safe food that has passed its expiration date to use as feed for animals, not for human consumption or resale.</i> • <i>That local farmers and animal caregivers, upon application and approval, would be granted a certificate that would enable them to enter into agreement with local stores and supermarkets, with a strict no-sale clause.</i> • <i>That those supermarkets be encouraged to develop a plan to reduce food waste, and if supermarkets and other stores that sell food fail to develop and implement such a plan or participate in food to animals, they may not be allowed to receive a tax break for wasted food.</i>
<p>Policy 03-2011 Reaffirmed 2021</p>	<p align="center">Vermont AgrAbility</p>	<p><i>Vermont State Grange Agricultural Committee add Vermont AgrAbility to their list of donations, which include the Heifer Project and the Kelley Farm.</i></p>
<p>Policy 01-2010 Reaffirmed 2018</p>	<p align="center">Roadside Weeds</p>	<p><i>The Vermont State Grange urges the Vermont Agency of Transportation, the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, and the Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets develop a roadside management plan of operation that includes the control of invasive species and noxious weeds. This plan should include any and all accepted practices of weed control and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the agencies mentioned above and that Town Highway Departments be encouraged to follow the plan.</i></p>
<p>Policy 01-2009 Reaffirmed 2017</p>	<p align="center">Milk Price Support</p>	<p><i>The Vermont State Grange supports the federal efforts to increase dairy farm income by increasing the support price, investigating antitrust within the dairy industry, and finding new discovery methods for setting a fair price for milk, while recognizing the need for regional food security. The Vermont State Grange supports new efforts to establish a national supply management program that includes all dairy farmers in the country and will better demonstrate the federal mandate to provide a fresh, stable and affordable supply of milk and dairy products for American citizens.</i></p>
<p>Policy 01-2008 Reaffirmed 2018</p>	<p align="center">Composting as an Agricultural Enterprise</p>	<p><i>The Vermont State Grange resolves:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>That the official policy of the State of Vermont should support and foster the composting of organic wastes</i> • <i>That composting shall be treated by law as an agricultural endeavor.</i> • <i>That the State shall enact additional statutes and adopt regulation specifically to further this policy</i> • <i>That insofar as it is necessary to regulate composting to safeguard the public health, the regulations adopted for this purpose shall be specific to and appropriate for composting enterprises.</i>

VERMONT STATE GRANGE LEGISLATIVE POLICY BOOK

Policy 02-2008 Reaffirmed 2018	Beef Check Off	<i>The Vermont State Grange encourages the creation of a regional approach to the national regulations of Beef Councils to allow increased funding and local participation of beef producers in Beef Promotion activities in the New England region. The Vermont State Grange also commends the Vermont Beef Industry Council for its leadership role in the Vermont Beef Industry.</i>
Policy 01-2007 Reaffirmed 2017	Preferential Purchasing of VT Agricultural Products	<i>The Vermont State Grange supports the preferential purchasing of Vermont agricultural products by state agencies and institutions and as a furtherance of this policy, the Vermont State Grange requests that the legislature enact a bill, which is a reasonable implementation of this policy.</i>
Policy 02-2007 Reaffirmed 2017	Interstate Meat Sales	<i>The Vermont State Grange supports that the law that prohibits the sale of state inspected meat products (beef, pork, lamb, goat, and poultry) across state lines be repealed and that Congress pass interstate meat inspection and sales legislation that will provide economic fairness and open markets, as well as food safety.</i>
Policy 05-2004 Reaffirmed 2017	Infrastructure of Our Agricultural Industry	<i>The Vermont State Grange strongly supports efforts to improve the infrastructure of our agricultural industry, realizing value-added agriculture and the production and processing of our food and fiber supplies for Vermont consumption is a state food and economic security issue. The Vermont Grange also strongly recommends that the State of Vermont partner with well-planned processing facilities through financial support with financial tax incentives and grant programs, as well as low or no interest loans through the Vermont Economic Development Authority.</i>
Policy 14-2003 Reaffirmed 2017	Imported Agricultural Standards	<i>The Vermont State Grange supports the USDA applying as strict standards to imported agricultural products as are applied to domestic agricultural products.</i>
Policy 32-2002 Reaffirmed 2017	Forest Management	<i>The Vermont State Grange supports good forest management practices including harvesting of timber on both public and private lands to keep our forests healthy and avoid catastrophic fires.</i>
Policy 22-1999 Reaffirmed 2017	Agricultural Fairs	<i>The Vermont State Grange supports an increase in the stipend fund (now called Based Funding) and the funding of capital improvement grants to assist agricultural fairs in showcasing Vermont Agriculture.</i>
Policy 34-1999 Reaffirmed 2017	UVM College of Agriculture	<i>The Vermont State Grange reaffirms support for the UVM College of Agriculture including the Extension Service and the Agricultural Experiment Station. Adequate funds should be provided for carrying out programs.</i>
Policy 07-1998 Reaffirmed 2017	Discrimination in USDA Programs	<i>The Vermont State Grange urge the National Grange to ensure the Federal Government followed through in investigating and prosecuting alleged incidences of discrimination in the USDA and its implementing policies that will bring about changes to end racial discrimination in the U.S. Department of Agriculture and in Federal programs.</i>

VERMONT STATE GRANGE LEGISLATIVE POLICY BOOK

Policy 01-1997 Reaffirmed 2017	Vermont Agricultural Products	<i>The Vermont State Grange urges the Vermont Department of Agriculture to continue to vigorously explore the possibility of overseas markets for the sale of Vermont agricultural and specialty products.</i>
Policy 03-1994 Reaffirmed	Agricultural Promotion and Development	<i>The Vermont State Grange commends the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets for their efforts to encourage diversification and pledges to support the department in future programs of Agriculture development and promotion.</i>
Policy 02-1993 Reaffirmed 2017	Business Promotion	<i>The Vermont State Grange feels that any economic development program for the State of Vermont include the promotion of farming and its related businesses as its most important industry.</i>

Environment		
Policy 02-2006 Reaffirmed 2018	Alternative Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Vermont State Grange goes on record in support of reducing energy costs and improving renewable energy opportunities and support for the State of Vermont further investigation and research in wind, solar, bio-fuels, bio-mass, methane digestion, and hydrogen, as well as creating other new sources of power for Vermont.</i> • <i>The Vermont State Grange and the state of Vermont recognize the balance needed for both food and energy security, in determining what alternative energy systems is cost-effective and eventually adopted.</i> • <i>That the State of Vermont, after thorough research, pursues funding incentives to help small businesses establish these alternate energy production methods.</i> • <i>That the Vermont State Grange support the continuance and enhancement of the Rural Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvement program of the Farm Bill at the National level, encouraging our state legislators to leverage state funding to enhance the projects</i> • <i>That we as Grangers, establish ourselves as active participants and role models in energy efficiency in our daily lives, whether at work or at home, and seek to educate ourselves and others in energy efficiency.</i>
Policy 04-2006 Reaffirmed 2018	Wilderness Designation in the Green Mountain National Forrest	<i>The Vermont State Grange opposes the wholesale designation of large areas of the Green Mountain National Forest as wilderness area. The VSG encourages proper scientific management practices be employed to ensure continued multiple use of the Green Mountain National Forest for the benefit and enjoyment of all citizens.</i>
Policy 11-2004 Reaffirmed 2018	Bottle/Can Deposit Bill	<i>The Vermont State Grange supports a deposit on water/juice can and bottles which are not covered under the current soda can/bottle deposit.</i>
Policy 12-1998 Reaffirmed 2018	Preserve the Long Trail	<i>The Vermont State Grange seek governmental support to preserve the Long Trail for generations from commercial development.</i>

Health, Education, and Welfare		
Policy 2-2020	Strive for Social and Racial Justice, Equality, and Compassion in Human Relations	<i>The National, State, and local Granges recognize that the fight for civil rights and equality is as real today as when it was founded in 1867, just two years after the 13th Amendment to abolish slavery was passed, and be it further resolved that the National, State, and local Granges urge their members to take initiative by sponsoring an open public meeting in collaboration with other local and national organizations to fight for social justice against the harsh racial practices to which people of color are exposed.</i>
Policy 10 EXE-2020	Support for Vermont State Colleges	<i>The Vermont State Grange urges the Governor, the Vermont Legislature, and the Board of Trustees of the Vermont State Colleges to ensure continued support of Vermont Technical College so that it can continue to provide essential educational opportunities to the citizens of Vermont.</i>
Policy 11 EXE-2020	Assistance with Mental Health Expenses for Farmers	<i>The Vermont State Grange encourage the Vermont State Department of Agriculture, Food & Marketing and the Agency of Health and Human Services to make funding available to subsidize the cost of mental health counseling for farmers.</i>
Policy 12-2017	Information on Prescriptions	<i>The Vermont State Grange supports a rule that prescription information sheets should be written in font size 14 point, and be it further resolved this information should also be printed on white paper with contrasting black lettering.</i>
Policy 13-2016 Reaffirmed 2023	Prescription Drug Labeling	<i>The Vermont State Grange supports a rule that allows a patient to request that all their prescription drug labels list the name of the drug, the dosage to be taken, and the reason for which it is to be taken, and be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Department of Health and Human Services.</i>
Policy 13-2014 Reaffirmed 2021	Education About Vaccinations	<i>That the Vermont State Grange goes on record in support of the following: That parents (guardians) of children that want to “opt out” of required/recommended vaccinations be required to participate in an educational program that explains the pros and cons of immunizations and be informed that immunizations are provided free of charge by the Vermont Health Department before signing the Waiver of Immunization Form.</i>
Policy 20-2011 Reaffirmed 2018	Support Local Products Use in Nutritional Programs	<i>The Vermont State Grange takes every opportunity to promote and support the use of local products in nutritional services provided in retirement homes, nursing homes, senior centers, and other institutions, including schools and hospitals.</i>
Policy 05-2011 Reaffirmed 2018	Schools Have Trained First Aid Staff	<i>The Vermont State Grange encourages that the State of Vermont require that all schools have staff that has received instruction in first aid and the care of any relevant medical conditions as needed by the student population.</i>

VERMONT STATE GRANGE LEGISLATIVE POLICY BOOK

Policy 06-2011 Reaffirmed 2018	Nutrition Class for High School Students	<i>The Vermont State Grange encourages the State of Vermont to require all high school students in the State of Vermont partake in an active class that has a nutritional component.</i>
Policy 05-2009 Reaffirmed 2017	Freedom to Express Our Religious Beliefs in School	<i>The Vermont State Grange supports that a person should be free to celebrate in school in a way they feel is appropriate for their beliefs and does not interfere or infringe on the beliefs of other students or with the education of said students.</i>
Policy 09-2009 Reaffirmed 2017	Sex Offender Registry	<i>The Vermont State Grange go on record as recommending there be a national Sex Offender database that is accessible by all law enforcement personnel.</i>
Policy 05-2008 Reaffirmed 2017	Educational Age Requirement	<i>The Vermont State Grange urges the Vermont Department of Education to require all students to remain enrolled in school or alternate program leading to a diploma or certificate until they graduate or reach the age of eighteen.</i>
Policy 06- 2008 Reaffirmed 2017	Local Foods for Schools	<i>The Vermont State Grange encourages schools to investigate locally grown products and use of Farm to School Program that encourage more nutritious meals and snacks.</i>
Policy 10-2008 Reaffirmed 2017	Integrated Health Care Program	<i>The Vermont State Grange go on record as supporting the following: The State of Vermont shall have one integrated health care program to cover the medical needs of all residents without regard to financial, employment, or health status, age, or other discriminatory eligibility requirements. That this health care program shall be financed by the State in a just and equitable manner and any individual costs shall be related solely to ability to pay. That payment for services provided under this program shall be adequate to reimburse the reasonable and necessary costs of providing those services.</i>
Policy 10-2007 Reaffirmed 2017	Stem Cell Research	<i>The Vermont State Grange promote the passage of Legislation designed to utilize Fertilization clinic embryos not used in the implantation process as a source of stem cells for Federally funded research.</i>
Policy 17-2007 Reaffirmed 2017	Vaccination Against HPV	<i>The Vermont State Grange is on record as supporting funding and educational information for the HPV vaccine by the Vermont Department of Health to all Vermont females and males who desire it.</i>
Policy 38 -2004 Reaffirmed 2017	School Choice	<i>The Vermont State Grange supports school choice for all children and urges the Vermont Legislature to pass a law to provide for school choice in Vermont.</i>
Policy 26-2003 Reaffirmed 2017	Education about Living Wills and Durable Power of Attorney	<i>Vermont State Grange adopt, encourage, and support education related to living wills and/or durable power of attorney as they relate to giving patients direct control over their physical and mental comfort at the culmination of this life or a terminal illness.</i>
Policy 14-2001 Reaffirmed 2017	Training Teachers in ASL	<i>The Vermont State Grange supports measures that would encourage the recruitment and training of teachers in American Sign Language. The Vermont State Grange also supports legislation that would provide funding to schools for teaching American Sign Language.</i>

VERMONT STATE GRANGE LEGISLATIVE POLICY BOOK

Policy 33-1998 Reaffirmed 2017	Control of Costs for Special Education	<i>The Vermont State Grange urges the US Department of Education to provide appropriate funding to cover the cost of the Special Education Services that they mandate that are above the cost of regular students.</i>
--------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Highway and Transportation

Policy 10-2021	Interstate Speed Limits	<i>The Vermont State Grange opposes the imposition of a 55 mile per hour speed limit on Interstate Highways except in those urbanized areas such as the Burlington, Brattleboro, and White River areas where the limits are already reduced.</i>
Policy 13-2017	Stop Fatalities on Vermont Roads	<i>The Vermont State Grange urge the Vermont Legislature to change the seat belt law to a primary offense.</i>
Policy 14-2017	Drivers Education Offered Free in All Vermont High Schools	<i>The Vermont State Grange supports legislation which would require all that all Vermont High Schools offer Drivers Education to all students aged 15 and over for free.</i>
Policy 17-2010 Reaffirmed 2018	Interstate Rest Stops	<i>The Vermont State Grange asks the Vermont State Agency of Transportation to develop alternatives, consistent with federal regulations, that would permit commercial or non-profit corporations to lease and run rest area facilities.</i>
Policy 18-2010 Reaffirmed 2018	Headlights Turned On	<i>The Vermont State Grange supports legislation which would require all vehicles on Vermont roads always have their running lights or headlights on.</i>
Policy 11-2008 Reaffirmed 2017	Vanity License Plates	<i>The Vermont State Grange supports the vanity plate having an extra charge the first year to pay for making the special plates, but that a renewal sticker is at the same rate whether it is to be used on a regular or vanity license plate.</i>
Policy 18-2008 Reaffirmed 2017	Railroad Farm Crossings	<i>The Vermont State Grange takes a firm stand opposing any legislation that may be put forth at the National, State, or Local levels or by any governmental agency requiring farmers or any agriculturally based business in Vermont to be liable for liability insurance for any railroad crossings found on any farm owner's property. The Vermont State Grange opposes any liability insurance payment required by any farm owners or agriculturally based businesses to the railroad corporations or related business.</i>
Policy 08-2006 Reaffirmed 2017	Lamoille Valley Rail Trail	<i>The Vermont State Grange recommends to the Vermont Agency of Transportation that ATV's be allowed access on the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail only to access their adjacent trails for the safety of the public who will be using the trail for walking, hiking, horseback riding, and other non- motorized uses except for snowmobiles in the winter. Copies of this resolution were sent to the Governor and the VT Agency of Transportation.</i>

VERMONT STATE GRANGE LEGISLATIVE POLICY BOOK

Policy 9-2006 Reaffirmed 2017	Roundabout Proposal	<i>The Vermont State Grange opposes the creation of a roundabout at Five Corners in Essex Jct., Vermont as a replacement for the Circumferential Highway completion.</i>
Policy 23-1997 Reaffirmed 2017	Separate Transportation Funds	<i>The Vermont State Grange urges that transportation funds be maintained separately from the general fund and that the State of Vermont fully and adequately fund state aid for town roads and bridges.</i>
Policy 42-1997 Reaffirmed 2017	Reaffirm National Policy	<i>The residents of the State of Vermont and all who use the highways of this state expect and deserve a well maintained and safe highway system. Therefore, it is requested that the Vermont State Grange strongly reaffirms the National Grange's policy of urging timely maintenance repair and rebuilding of rural roads and bridges.</i>

Legislative		
Policy 11-2022	H. R. 1454 Ghost Guns Are Guns Act	<i>Vermont State Grange goes on record as supporting H.R. 1454 Ghost Guns Are Guns Act.</i>
Policy 12-2021	Number Spoofing or Cloning	<i>Vermont State Grange urge the Vermont Legislature to take action to bring this practice of Number Spoofing or Cloning to a halt and be it further resolved that this resolution be forwarded to the Federal Government for their action on the problem.</i>
Policy 15-2021	Campaign Financing	<i>Vermont State Grange supports that all candidates running for local, state or national offices be prohibited from accepting campaign contributions from outside their district or state and be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Secretary of State of Vermont and to National Grange.</i>
Policy 5-2020	Rural Broadband Services	<i>Vermont State Grange supports the formation of communications union districts (CUD) under the provisions of 30 V.S.A., Chapter 82 with the purpose of bringing high-speed Internet service (broadband) to underserved rural regions of Vermont. Be it further resolved that this is one alternative that can bring a reliable and affordable, high speed internet option to rural areas with no direct cost to towns and allows for funding to plan and conduct initial network engineering for even larger grants or very low interest loans. Be it further resolved that the Congressional Delegation be given a copy of this resolution for the express purpose of understanding our plight and our needs for continued funding from the federal level through the Federal Communications Commission as well as USDA Rural Development.</i>
Policy 7-2020	Support for the United States Postal Service	<i>That Vermont State Grange supports Title 5 of the United States Code be amended to repeal the requirement that the United States Postal Service must prepay future retirement benefits and that the offices of Senator Patrick Leahy and Senator Bernie Sanders be mailed a copy of this resolution.</i>

VERMONT STATE GRANGE LEGISLATIVE POLICY BOOK

Policy 15-2019	Broadband	<i>The Vermont State Grange support the passage of House Bill 95, currently under consideration by the Vermont House of Representatives, that will require the Commissioner of Public Service to study the feasibility of electric companies providing broadband internet access service using electrical distribution and transmission infrastructure, or other means, and that copies of this resolution be sent to members of the Vermont General Assembly.</i>
Policy 14-2019	Act 250 Revisions	<i>The Vermont State Grange encourage the Vermont Legislature to include a review of the application procedures along with the review of the Act 250 Legislation, and that a copy of this resolution be sent to the appropriate committee in Montpelier.</i>
Policy 13-2018	Raising the Federal Minimum Wage	<i>The Vermont State Grange and the National Grange support increasing the Federal Minimum Wage to a minimum of \$12 per hour.</i>
Policy 17-2017	Support National Passage of the Equal Rights Amendment	<i>That the National Grange commit to establishing equality for women in the USA by actively supporting and advocating for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment in every state in the union.</i>
Policy 22-2017	Gerrymandering of Voting Districts	<i>That the Vermont State Grange and the National Grange take a position encouraging state legislators to delegate redistricting authority by creating non-partisan state committees of suitable individuals to define future election districts to the fair and equitable benefit of voters throughout the United States.</i>
Policy 17-2015 Reaffirmed 2022	Selective Service	<i>The Vermont State Grange urges lawmakers that unless all citizens between the ages of 18 and 26 are required to register, the Grange favors the abolition of the Selective Service System.</i>
Policy 18-2015 Reaffirmed 2022	Robocall Enforcement Improvement Act	<i>The Vermont State Grange urges lawmakers to support adoption and enforcement of the Robocall Enforcement Improvement Act that will enhance the Federal Communication Commission's ability to regulate and penalize fraudulent telemarketers.</i>
Policy 13-2015 Reaffirmed 2022	Federal Legislation of GMO Labeling	<i>The Vermont State Grange urge national lawmakers to allow states to make regulations in their state to require GMO labeling on products sold in their state.</i>
Policy 10-2014 Reaffirmed 2021	Term Limits	<i>The Vermont State Grange supports the laws be revised for term limits:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Limiting U.S. Senators to maximum term of three (3) times</i> • <i>Limiting U.S. Representatives to a maximum of five (5) times</i>
Policy 14-2011 Reaffirmed 2018	Bottle Deposits	<i>The Vermont State Grange continues to support current deposit requirements on liquor, beer and soda containers and also supports the expansion of the Bottle Bill to include wine and all carbonated and non-carbonated drinks (with the exception of rice milk, soy milk, and dairy containers) and that the amount of deposit be increased.</i>
Policy 21-2011 Reaffirmed 2018	Support for Bill H.R. 3092 IH Local Foods Act	<i>The Vermont State Grange supports Bill H.R.3092 IH Local Foods Act granting a pilot program to certain states supporting efforts to buy local fruits and vegetables.</i>

VERMONT STATE GRANGE LEGISLATIVE POLICY BOOK

Policy 23-2010 Reaffirmed 2018	Fireworks Permit Process	<i>The Vermont State Grange goes on record: • That anyone purchasing fireworks must not only get a permit at the time of purchase, but also sign a statement at the fireworks dealership at the time of purchase, declaring that they understand the rules and dangers of fireworks. • The users of any fireworks must notify and receive written permission from the local forest fire warden in the town where the fireworks will be used.</i>
Policy 25-2010 Reaffirmed 2018	Challenges for Change	<i>The Vermont State Grange does not agree with the Challenges for Change legislation and believes the Legislature should not relinquish their line item authority in the state budget.</i>
Policy 26-2010 Reaffirmed 2018	Legislature Adjournment by May 1st	<i>The Vermont State Grange supports the following: That if the Vermont State Legislature is not adjourned by May 1st, that they finish up the session without pay, thereby saving the State approximately \$50,000 to \$80,000 per day in expenses.</i>
Policy 28 – 2010 Reaffirmed 2018	Ethanol in Gasoline	<i>That the Vermont State Grange petition our legislators to allow non-ethanol gasoline to be made available for retail purchase.</i>
Policy 11-2009 Reaffirmed 2017	Prisoner Talent Usage	<i>The Vermont State Grange is on record as supporting the Vermont Department of Corrections in the utilization of the talents of prisoners to offset the cost of incarceration.</i>
Policy 13–2009 Reaffirmed 2017	Observing Memorial Day	<i>The Vermont State Grange go on record supporting the original meaning of Memorial Day, to honor those who have fallen while defending our nation.</i>
Policy 13-2008 Reaffirmed 2017	Cable Television	<i>The Vermont State Grange encourages our congressional delegation to sponsor or support legislation to allow so called a la carte service where cable or satellite subscribers pay only for channels they want.</i>
Policy 14-2008 Reaffirmed 2017	Opposed to Instant Runoff Elections	<i>The Vermont State Grange voted to rescind previously adopted Policy 33-1999, Instant Runoff Elections” and goes on record as opposing Instant Runoff Voting for statewide elections.</i>
Policy 15-2008 Reaffirmed 2017	Battle of Hubbardton Day	<i>The Vermont State Grange encourages the Vermont State Legislature to enact the recognition of the Battle of Hubbardton by declaring the first Saturday in July as a Vermont State holiday.</i>
Policy 24-2004 Reaffirmed 2017	Support the Local Economy	<i>The Vermont State Grange encourages its members and their neighbors to shop locally, thereby supporting locally owned businesses.</i>
Policy 26-2004 Reaffirmed 2017	Legislative Studies	<i>The Vermont State Grange supports efforts to reduce the number of legislative studies.</i>

VERMONT STATE GRANGE LEGISLATIVE POLICY BOOK

Policy 03-2003 Reaffirmed 2017	Village Centers and Downtown Designations	<i>The Vermont State Grange supports that the delineation for state designation of downtowns and village centers be determined by elected local officials and the criteria in state law be amended to allow for the needed flexibility for communities to accommodate existing infrastructures, both residential and mixed neighborhoods, and for areas of future growth.</i>
Policy 29-2002 Reaffirmed 2017	American Flag	<i>The Vermont State Grange wants legislation passed making the desecration of the American Flag a criminal offence.</i>
Policy 08-2001 Reaffirmed 2017	Fight Against Terrorism	<i>The Vermont State Grange urges all citizens, patriotic and civic organizations, representatives and senators to support the men and women in the armed forces of the United States of America, in its fight against terrorism.</i>
Policy 53-1998 Reaffirmed 2017	Social Security Options	<i>The Vermont State Grange supports a change in the Social Security system that allows for the following:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Individuals should be allowed the option of investing a certain percentage of their payroll taxes either in the system or in an individual account.</i> • <i>Individual account options should be chosen by the government to avoid unnecessary confusion and expansion of government.</i> • <i>Individual benefits must be guaranteed no 'matter what' option is chosen nor what risk is involved in that account.</i> • <i>The increase in retirement age must be on a gradual basis during a pre-set determined amount of time.</i> • <i>Any surplus money in the Social Security Fund remain there and not be used for any other purpose.</i>
Policy 16-1995 Reaffirmed 2017	Remove Outdated Laws	<i>The Vermont State Grange goes on record in support of setting aside a portion of each legislative session to review and remove outdated laws from the Vermont statutes.</i>
Policy 56-1983 Reaffirmed 2017	Gun Control	<i>Vermont State Grange encourages the enforcement of our present laws pertaining to the ownership of firearms and opposes the enactment of any laws which would jeopardize the legal right of U.S. citizens to keep and bear arms.</i>

Taxation		
Policy 14-2021	Solar Installations on Agricultural Lands	<i>The Vermont State Grange supports legislation that expands the definition of agricultural land to include the land underlying any solar generation facility that is, in the aggregate, 0.1 acre or less.</i>
Policy 16-2019	Taxing at Charging Stations	<i>The Vermont State Grange urges the State Legislature to consider placing a tax at the charging stations so that the electric cars are paying corresponding tax as they charge their cars at the charging stations around the state. This would then include the cars that are visiting the state, rather than raising the already high price of gas.</i>
Policy 17-2018	Reduce State Income Tax on Social Security	<i>The Vermont State Grange go on record as supporting legislative action to reduce state income taxes on Social Security for Vermonters, and be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be submitted to the proper Department in Montpelier.</i>
Policy 21-2016 Reaffirmed 2023	Oppose Vermont State Tax on Medical, Dental, or Physical Therapy Bills	<i>The Vermont State Granges urges the State of Vermont to not tax Vermonters for the medical, dental, or physical therapy bills.</i>
Policy 22-2016 Reaffirmed 2023	Opposition Vermont Carbon Tax	<i>The Vermont State Grange takes a stand against the proposed Carbon Tax coming up for passage by the Vermont Legislature.</i>
Policy 11-2014 Reaffirmed 2021	Income Used in Property Tax Rebate Formula	<i>The Vermont State Grange supports the following: That income at or below the poverty level of any family member in need of care that lives with family members, not be included in the property tax rebate formulas.</i>
Policy 12-2014 Reaffirmed 2021	Current Use Tax Coalition	<i>The Vermont State Grange supports the current use tax coalition recommendations to the legislature and encourages that the listers be encouraged to be the local contact to aid the state to carry out its administrative role.</i>
Policy 10-2012 Reaffirmed 2020	Property Tax Exemption	<i>The Vermont State Grange proposes legislation seeking tax exempt status for all Grange properties in the State of Vermont.</i>
Policy 29–2010 Reaffirmed 2018	Use Value Taxation Program	<i>That the Vermont State Grange:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continues its support of the original mission of the Current Use Program as stated in the Vermont Statutes • favors a declining with drawl penalty be based on the longevity of the enrollment period • that the withdrawal penalty be based on the Fair Market Value Appraisal at the time of withdrawal • urges that there be adequate administration to enforce landowner compliance with program provisions.

VERMONT STATE GRANGE LEGISLATIVE POLICY BOOK

Policy 30–2010 Reaffirmed 2018	Taxation of Farms	<i>The Vermont State Grange encourages the State of Vermont to permit towns to grant farmers tax relief.</i>
Policy 31–2010 Reaffirmed 2018	Property Taxes on Mobile Homes	<i>The Vermont State Grange encourage the State of Vermont to require the proration of taxes by the towns involved to eliminate double taxation on mobile homes.</i>
Policy 14-2009 Reaffirmed 2017	Teachers Retirement	<i>The Vermont State Grange supports the Vermont State income tax as the most equitable way to fund the Vermont Teacher's Retirement Fund.</i>
Policy 15-2006 Reaffirmed 2017	Monitoring of Land Use Program	<i>The Vermont State Grange urges that there be adequate administration and enforcement to closely monitor landowners within the program to ensure the land is being used in the manner that has been approved under the current use program.</i>
Policy 24-2005 Reaffirmed 2017	Increased Annual per Parcel Payments	<i>The Vermont State Grange supports increased annual per parcel payments to towns to offset the increased costs of appraisals.</i>