



State to Main

The Voice of Vermont Business



November 11, 2020

In This Issue:

- [Contact Your Legislators Now to Urge Additional Business Grant Funding](#)
- [Vermont Chamber Requests Additional Relief for Businesses](#)
- [State Election Results Impact Political Dynamics in Montpelier](#)
- [Vermont Chamber Hosts Virtual Policy Series](#)
- [In Case You Missed It](#)

[Contact Your Legislators Now to Urge Additional Business Grant Funding](#)

After the Vermont Chamber urged the Scott Administration and the Joint Fiscal Committee to redeploy unallocated CARES Act funding to the business recovery grants, the Joint Fiscal Committee is considering an Administration proposal to reallocate \$75 million for businesses. After discussion in the Committee questioning the ongoing need for small businesses, the Committee decided to make their final decision on Saturday. [Contact your legislators](#) and ask them to urge their colleagues on the Joint Fiscal Committee to approve these funds for additional business relief grants. If your legislator is a [member of the Joint Fiscal Committee](#) you can contact them directly with the request.

In your communication with legislators we suggest highlighting the vital importance of maintaining cash flow and the financial impact of Governor Scott's most recent travel restrictions, which includes universal mandatory quarantine for all out of state travel to Vermont. If you have questions about how best to frame your communication, please contact [Vermont Chamber Government Affairs Director Charles Martin](#).

[Vermont Chamber Requests Additional Relief for Businesses](#)

The Vermont Chamber [sent a letter](#) last week to the Joint Fiscal Committee requesting the Committee authorize disbursement of a portion of state-recouped relief resources to businesses with existing unmet need. To avoid returning Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) dollars to the federal government, the State will recoup any unexpended CRF resources prior to the congressionally imposed spend deadline of December 31. As a result of the pandemic-caused economic downturn, there is an estimated \$600 million in unmet need that businesses throughout Vermont are still grappling with. The Committee has not yet made a final decision on how to use remaining CRF funds. They are expected to meet on Saturday to make a final determination. In the meantime, the Vermont Chamber will continue to work with state leaders to help ensure the business community is not left out of this opportunity for additional economic relief.

[State Election Results Impact Political Dynamics in Montpelier](#)

Republican Governor Phil Scott handily won reelection by a margin that clearly reflects bipartisan support for the Governor's leadership during the pandemic and prior. In addition to the Governor's victory over Progressive/Democrat challenger, Lt. Governor David Zuckerman, Republicans increased their total strength by three seats in the House and one seat in the Senate. Notably, this outcome reduces the strength of the combined Democratic and Progressive parties in the House to 99 seats, effectively eliminating the liberal coalition's ability to override gubernatorial vetoes through party-line votes.

Impacting State House dynamics further is the exodus of several legislative leaders, including President Pro Tempore of the Senate Tim Ashe (D/P) from the State House after his Lt. Governor primary election loss to Lt. Governor-Elect Molly Gray (D), House Speaker Mitzi Johnson's (D) election loss to Republican challenger Michael Morgan, and House Progressive Party Chair Robin Chesnut-Tangerman's loss to Republican challenger Sally Achey. The vacancy of the Speaker's position has already resulted in [multiple legislators coming forward](#) as possible replacements for Speaker Johnson. House Speaker hopefuls will no doubt spend the next several weeks delicately attempting to gather support among their legislator colleagues before the upcoming election of a new House Speaker.

[Vermont Chamber Hosts Virtual Policy Series](#)

The Vermont Chamber of Commerce is currently hosting a [Virtual Policy Series](#) that brings together government and business leaders to get questions answered, provide personal access to key Vermont leaders, and bring attendees up to speed on important policy. You can [view the complete agenda and register for upcoming events](#) through December 14. [Next Monday at our Broadband Now and Beyond event](#), Department of Public Service Commissioner June Tierney and Representative Laura Sibia will discuss broadband investments made in 2020 and planned infrastructure improvement.

[In Case You Missed It](#)

[**House Republican Gains Could Strengthen Scott's Veto Powers**](#)

[**Kimbell Joins Race For House Speaker; Browning Also Considers Outside Run**](#)

[**State Orders Universal Quarantine for Travelers**](#)

[**Vermont Chamber Joins Addison County Chamber for 2020 Legislative Briefing**](#)

[**State Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund Remains Healthy**](#)



Virtual Policy Series: Conversations With Key Vermont Leaders

Monday Afternoons Through December



View Full Agenda and Register at VTChamber.com

Want great exposure for your business? Sponsoring the weekly newsletter is an affordable and effective way to reach your target customers. Email Megan Bullard for pricing and more information.

In business since 1912, the Vermont Chamber of Commerce is a private, not-for-profit business organization with 1,500 members employing 45,000 people and representing all sectors of the state's economy. Our mission is to create an economic climate conducive to business growth and the preservation of the Vermont quality of life. Copyright ©2018 The Vermont Chamber of Commerce. All Rights Reserved.

Vermont Chamber of Commerce, 751 Granger Road Barre, VT 05641, 802-223-3443

[Visit our website](#)

