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- * **Property Tax Relief**
 - * **Citizen Participation and Open Government**
 - * **A Waterfront for All the People**
 - * **Programs for Youth, the Elderly and Women**
 - * **Cost Savings through Reform of Government**
 - * **Concern for the Needs of Working People**

The Choice is Clear.



**Bernie
Sanders
for Mayor**

* Financial Reform

Mayor Sanders has worked hard to put the City's financial house in order. When he began as Mayor, he found outdated and inefficient budgeting and accounting systems, money left in accounts bearing little or no interest, and city purchases of supplies, insurance, and fuel that were uncompetitive and wasteful. The Democrat and Republican city officials had allowed this waste of taxpayers' money to continue unquestioned for years.

Mayor Sanders went in and began to clean things up. But his opponents did not give up easily. For an entire year, the Board of Aldermen refused to approve many qualified appointees of the Mayor for important city positions. In the seven short months since a new Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer were finally appointed their office has:

- Established new budgeting and accounting systems to modernize the City's financial management and provide accurate financial data,
- Reformed the City's financial reports and uncovered an available surplus of \$1.9 million. (This surplus will be available to begin street and sidewalk repairs and other projects without a 32¢ property tax increase as the Republicans proposed last June.)
- Established new investment systems to earn the highest possible interest on money previously left in zero interest checking and 5¼% savings accounts,
- Worked closely with the Retirement Board to improve the management of the City's Retirement System, including an audit of the system for the first time in 28 years,
- Began a cooperative purchasing program with other communities to keep down the costs of government,
- Installed a modern telephone system for City Hall that will save over \$100,000 in the next ten years,
- Began a program for competitive purchasing for all goods and services purchased by the City as well as cooperative purchasing by city departments.

Property tax increases, deficits and cuts in services are the result of bad management. Hard times demand the careful use of your tax dollar and the financial leadership provided by Mayor Sanders.

Bernie Sanders

A Mayor Working Hard for All the People

* A Strong Local Economy or What About Business

Despite record recession across the country and drastic cutbacks of federal programs for local government, Burlington's economy has remained strong. During Mayor Sanders' term the number of permits for commercial development increased 44%. These permits represent over \$8 million in new construction for the past two years. Last year alone the value of new permits increased by over 24% over the previous year.

Bernie Sanders has proposed an ongoing venture capital fund to support our existing businesses and to bring more jobs to Burlington. He has brought the best talents of the colleges, business community and local citizens together with the Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation to develop a long range plan to keep our economy strong. He has asked neighborhoods to develop local initiatives to revitalize North Street. And he supports the fight against Pyramid Mall to save our downtown.



* Statewide Leadership for Local Tax Reform

Mayor Sanders is working with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns for statewide changes that will distribute local tax burdens more fairly. As a member of the VLCT's Board of Directors he brought his reform proposals to the League's membership which represents 243 Vermont towns. Now town managers, selectmen, and other Vermont mayors are working to make municipal tax reform a top Legislative issue. Their proposal includes:

- Providing State aid to municipalities for property tax relief,
- Reducing property tax exemptions and providing state reimbursement for state mandated exemptions (colleges, state property),
- Allowing municipalities to retain the fines and fees they collect,
- Preserving and expanding the right of the cities and towns to enact alternatives to property taxation,
- Continuing Federal Revenue Sharing.

* Property Tax Relief

When Bernie Sanders ran for Mayor he opposed former Mayor Paquette's 65¢ tax increase. He promised a better run government and alternatives to the property tax. In 1982, despite cutbacks in Federal Revenue Sharing, he ran city government without an increase in the city tax rate. For 1983 he will be requesting a reduction in city property taxes.

For years Democrat and Republican city officials have relied on property tax increases to fund city government. Mayor Sanders knows that ever-increasing property taxes is not the solution. He has introduced new revenue ideas to reduce the burden on homeowners. He has taken these ideas to Montpelier where they have been adopted by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns and are now receiving serious consideration by the State Legislature.

Keeping property taxes and the cost of government down requires hard work. The Sanders administration has demanded fiscal accountability and responsibility. No longer does the city have nearly a million dollars in 5¼% and zero interest accounts. No longer does the City extend mortgages at interest rates below the going rate. Businesses and wealthy people who have special police and fire alarm services now must pay for these services. Purchase of supplies is no longer taken lightly. All purchases must be by competitive bid and whenever possible must be made in cooperation with other city departments to guarantee the lowest price. Finally, no longer does the city award hundreds of thousands of dollars of insurance business to a select group of insurance agents.

Bernie Sanders believes running government is serious business. Taxpayers' dollars are too precious to be casually wasted away. When it comes to property tax relief, talk is easy, action is what counts. The facts are clear. Mayor Sanders' action has made the difference.

* A New Community Spirit People Helping People

For years, important decisions affecting neighborhoods and the city were made by a select few. People were alienated and dissatisfied. Under the "old ways" politics was for the insiders. Those days are over!

With Mayor Sanders, the interest, excitement, and involvement of residents in city affairs has soared. He created task forces on women, elderly, youth, arts, energy cost control, taxation and economic development. Their

work has been so successful that, in 1982, Burlington received a national award from the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the Xerox Corporation.

Neighborhood Planning Assemblies in each ward are now deciding issues such as housing, economic development, street repair and the waterfront. Volunteers are cleaning our parks and beaches, registering new voters, working with our youth and shoveling snow for our elderly and handicapped neighbors. Through the efforts of the Mayor's Office and dedicated citizens the city has provided temporary emergency shelter for the homeless during chilling winter nights. A Citizen Advocate in City Hall is helping our needy residents find shelter, food and work. With people helping people, Mayor Sanders has shown that government can work—for everyone.

* Street and Sidewalk Improvement

For many years the streets and sidewalks of Burlington have been allowed to deteriorate, and the Street Department was consistently underfunded.

This year, Mayor Sanders will be proposing a \$500,000 street repaving appropriation, more money than in any year since 1973. In addition, five new sidewalk plows have recently been purchased which will greatly improve our snow removal efforts.

The streets and sidewalks of Burlington must be improved. By providing significant new revenues for our streets, by demanding that private utilities pay their fair share for the use of our streets and for the damages which they cause through their excavation work, and by fighting for increased state aid for municipal services, Mayor Sanders is reversing years of neglect and providing Burlington quality streets and sidewalks.

* A Waterfront for the People

The future of our waterfront is the most important development issue facing the City of Burlington. Two years ago Mayor Sanders campaigned to stop a proposal to build high rise condominiums for the wealthy. He believed that the waterfront should be available to all the people, not just the few who could afford \$200,000 homes.

Today, most people agree that the waterfront should be developed. The question is how and for whom. Some politicians continue to believe that the waterfront should consist of expensive condominiums, office buildings, and boutiques. They want to let developers and profits decide the future of our waterfront.

Mayor Sanders believes that the waterfront belongs to the people. He would like to see recreational, cultural, residential and commercial facilities for the whole community, not just the wealthy. He has proposed a program to enable the people to decide what they want on the waterfront and to then begin development based on this public vision.

A Record of Action - Two Years of Progress

For Youth

- affordable, accessible, and stimulating programs to prevent juvenile delinquency and foster a sense of usefulness and belonging
- after-school programs
- drug and alcohol abuse counseling and workshops
- radio shows produced by kids
- an organized baseball league for boys and girls in the Old North End
- a children's theater arts group performing at the Flynn Theater, City Hall, senior housing projects and hospitals
- The B.U.S.Y. program—Building Understanding between Seniors and Youth
- Burlington People's Circus in Battery Park with dozens of youth performing long-rehearsed circus acts
- an Internship program for teenagers and college students in City Hall and other departments



For the Arts

- Free concerts in Battery Park where local musicians and artists performed for thousands of our residents
- Municipal Art Gallery in City Hall and the Mayor's Office
- Performing Arts Series at City Hall Auditorium
- Increased availability of the arts at affordable prices
- Art displays on local buses—Token Images
- Cooperation with The Lane Series and Flynn Theatre
- French-Canadian Week with "La Societe Des Deux Mondes"

Health, Safety and the Environment

- 1—Reorganization of Department of Public Health and Safety to provide greater efficiency and effectiveness
- 2—Over 1500 inspections by the Department of Public Health and Safety to ensure safe and sanitary apartments
- 3—Revival of the role of the Board of Health in areas of environmental health and health care
- 4—Opposition to drastic Blue Cross/Blue Shield rate increases to protect access to health care for our elderly and working people
- 5—City wide distribution of a publication informing tenants and landlords on code compliance and grievance procedures
- 6—Expansion of efforts of Department of Public Health and Safety to address environmental problems of the toxic Barge Canal, pollution of Lake Champlain, air pollution, industrial noise pollution
- 7—Development of the first comprehensive study of the City's health care needs and resources

For Women

- 1—A Special Task Force on Women's Issues
- 2—Free health clinics sponsored by volunteers
- 3—Whistlestop Safety Program to protect women from sexual assault
- 4—Workshops on sexual harassment
- 5—Day Care initiatives
- 6—Women and the Workplace Conference

For Working People

- 1—City Employee Relations Committee consisting of employees democratically elected from the departments
- 2—Wage reclassification study for city employees to guarantee equal pay for equal work
- 3—Modern city personnel policy to ensure equitable treatment of our employees
- 4—Reform of the pension fund to maximize investment income, correct management problems, and guarantee fair benefits
- 5—The ending of years of hostility between city government and its unions
- 6—"Workers Pride Week" to acknowledge the important role of all working people in our community

Re-elect Mayor Sanders

A Mayor Working Hard for All the People

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