

Vermont State Grange

Legislative Policy Book

**2014**

Vermont State Grange  
[www.vtstategrange.org](http://www.vtstategrange.org)  
Master: Brenda Rousselle  
802-878-5877

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 Grange State Master as listed to left.

**VERMONT STATE GRANGE LEGISLATIVE POLICY BOOK**

<b>Agricultural</b>		
AG 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 1-2014	Wood Shelving in Artisanal Cheese Production	<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>
Policy 2-2014	Animal Care at Vermont Fairs and Field Days	<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>
Policy 1-2013	Support the Production and Use of Biochar to Benefit Agriculture and Climate	<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>
Policy 2-2013	Vermont State Vegetable	<i>The Vermont State Grange promotes the Gilfeather Turnip as the official vegetable of the State of Vermont.</i>
Policy 02-2012	Industrial Hemp	<i>The Vermont State Grange urges the National Grange to support legislation at the Federal level for the growing of industrial hemp.</i>
Policy 13-2012	Grading of Maple Syrup	<i>The Vermont State Grange urges the Secretary of Agriculture/Environment to support Vermont Standards of Maple Syrup of all grades and that all states use their own state standards.</i>
Policy 14-2012	Disaster Relief	<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>

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Policy 02-2011	Recycling or Gleaning of Food Items from Stores	<p><i>The Vermont State Grange encourages the Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets to</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <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></li> <li>• <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></li> <li>• <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></li> </ul>
Policy 03-2011	Vermont AgrAbility	<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>
Policy 19-2011	Support for Farms Impacted by Tropical Storm Irene	<p><i>The Vermont State Grange encourages all Community Granges in Vermont and their members recognize the significant needs of those farms that have been impacted so severely by Tropical Storm Irene and make a special effort to support their needs in any way possible, including financial support to the Vermont Farm Disaster Relief Fund.</i></p>
Policy 01-2010	Roadside Weeds	<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>
Policy 01-2009	Milk Price Support	<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>
Policy 01-2008	Composting as an Agricultural Enterprise	<p><i>The Vermont State Grange resolves:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>That the official policy of the State of Vermont should support and foster the composting of organic wastes</i></li> <li>• <i>That composting shall be treated by law as an agricultural endeavor.</i></li> <li>• <i>That the State shall enact additional statutes and adopt regulation specifically to further this policy</i></li> <li>• <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></li> </ul>

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Policy 02-2008	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	Preferential Purchasing of Vermont 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	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 02-2005	Milk Vending Machines in Schools	<i>The Vermont State Grange urges the Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets to continue to promote and assist in the placement of dairy product vending machines in schools and colleges in the state.</i>
Policy 03-2005	Public Education about Agriculture	<i>The Vermont State Grange encourage the Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets, together with other state and federal agencies, to initiate a public education campaign, such as field trips, to educate the public about common agricultural practices.</i>
Policy 04-2005	Cattle ID and Importation	<i>The Vermont State Grange encourages the ban on livestock importation from any foreign country be continued until the National Livestock Identification System is in place.</i>
Policy 05-2005	Farmer Penalties for Air Quality Violations	<i>The Vermont State Grange supports the efforts of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets, Food &amp; Markets to prevent farmers from being penalized for violating air quality standards from efforts to comply with water quality standards.</i>
Policy 05-2004	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 02-2004	Pro-Family Farms	<i>The Vermont State Grange reaffirms its existing policy of support for family dairy farms and encouraging diversification into other Agricultural endeavors.</i>

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Policy 14-2003	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	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 24-2001	Preserving Agricultural Land	<i>The Vermont State Grange supports efforts to maintain land in the United States for the production of agricultural commodities thereby reducing our dependence on imports.</i>
Policy 22-1999	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	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	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>
Policy 01-1997	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	Agricultural Promotion and Development	<i>The Vermont State Grange commends the Vermont Department 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	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 03-2013	Pittsford Ridge a Historical Site	<i>The Vermont State Grange goes on record as being in favor of the State of Vermont declaring Pittsford Ridge a Historical Site and off limits to development.</i>
Policy 07-2008	Recycling in Our Schools	<i>The Vermont State Grange support that all schools in the State of Vermont "shall recycle to the greatest extent possible."</i>

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Policy 02-2006	Alternative Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <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></li> <li>• <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></li> <li>• <i>That the State of Vermont, after thorough research, pursues funding incentives to help small businesses establish these alternate energy production methods.</i></li> <li>• <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></li> <li>• <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></li> </ul>
Policy 03-2006	Ground Water in Vermont	<i>The Vermont State Grange opposes declaring groundwater as a public trust of the State of Vermont.</i>
Policy 04-2006	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	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 26-2002	Alternative Energy Sources	<i>The Vermont State Grange supports policies that encourage expanded use of renewable energy sources. The Vermont State Grange urges the Legislature and the Administration to make it a policy of the State of Vermont to encourage, through wise land use regulations and policies, the development of renewable energy sources within the State of Vermont.</i>
Policy 27-1999	Air Quality	<i>Vermont State Grange oppose the burning of sludge until it is proven that said practice is within safe quality standards.</i>
Policy 12–1998	Preserve the Long Trail	<i>The Vermont State Grange seek governmental support to preserve the Long Trail for generations from commercial development .</i>
Policy 13-1998	Cormorant	<i>The Vermont State Grange urge the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife under the Department of the Interior to reduce and control the Cormorant population on Lake Champlain.</i>

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<b>Health, Education, and Welfare</b>		
Policy 13-2014	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	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	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>
Policy 06-2011	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 07-2010	School District Consolidation	<i>The Vermont State Grange strongly opposes consolidation of school districts unless so voted by the legal voters of said districts. The Vermont State Grange supports consolidation of supervisory unions where it can be shown that such consolidations will benefit each school district and result in actual cost savings.</i>
Policy 05-2009	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	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	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	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>

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Policy 10-2008	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 his 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	Stem Cell Research	<i>Stem Cell Research - The National 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	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 18-2004	Prescription Drugs	<i>The Vermont State Grange go on record that drug companies work toward reducing advertising of their prescription drugs and pass the savings onto the consumer.</i>
Policy 19-2004	Nutritious Foods in School Vending Machines	<i>The Vermont State Grange supports the use of milk and dairy products in vending machines at all our public and private junior/high schools and also encourages legislation at the State and National levels to remove all soda and candy machines and replace them with dairy and nutritional foods.</i>
Policy 38 -2004	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	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 20-2002	Research, Education and Legislation for Lupus Related Illnesses	<i>The Vermont State Grange will adopt, encourage and support education related to Lupus and the current treatments in the Grange yearly programs. The Vermont State Grange supports legislation providing increased funding for research and the development of effective treatment and the accurate education relating to Lupus and the effects it has on the population of Vermont and the United States collectively.</i>
Policy 15-2001	Driver's License Restriction Regarding Narcolepsy	<i>Vermont State Grange urges the Department of Motor Vehicles to enact regulations regarding and restricting the licensing of individuals with narcolepsy until there is medical proof that the narcolepsy is under control.</i>

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Policy 17-2001	Methadone Abuse	<i>The Vermont State Grange goes on record as opposing allowing patients to remove methadone from the clinical setting.</i>
Policy 14-2001	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>
Policy 33-1998	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 08-2012	Headlights	<i>The Vermont State Grange is on record as being in favor of the HDS headlights that are adjusted so that they don't interfere with oncoming traffic and new ones have an auto adjust feature.</i>
Policy 17-2010	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	Headlights Turned On	<i>The Vermont State Grange supports legislation which would require all vehicles on Vermont roads have their running lights or headlights on at all times.</i>
Policy 11-2008	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	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 agricultural 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 agricultural based businesses to the railroad corporations or related business.</i>
Policy 08-2006	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>

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Policy 9-2006	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 8-2003	Hand Held Cell Phones	<i>The Vermont State Grange goes on record as favoring legislation prohibiting a person from driving while talking on a hand held cell phone.</i>
Policy 23-1997	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 41-1997 0	Rest Areas	<i>The Vermont State Grange recommends that an adequate number of rest areas be maintained along our highways and that they be open 24 hours a day to accommodate truckers and employees who work night shifts.</i>
Policy 42-1997	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 09-2014	Bonuses to Civil Service Employees	<i>The Vermont State Grange opposes the policy of awarding any monetary bonuses to civil servants employed by the Federal Government.</i>
Policy 10-2014	Term Limits	<i>The Vermont State Grange supports the laws be revised for term limits:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Limiting U.S. Senators to maximum term of three (3) times</i></li> <li>• <i>Limiting U.S. Representatives to a maximum of five (5) times</i></li> </ul>
Policy 18-2014	Opposition to "Waters of the United States" proposal	<i>The National Grange of The Order of Patrons of Husbandry and the Vermont State Grange strongly advise the US EPA and the US Army Corps of Engineers to withdraw the currently proposed "Waters of the United States" proposal.</i>
Policy 09-2012	Banning Sirens on Radio Ads	<i>The Vermont State Grange urges the FCC to ban the use of sirens in radio ads.</i>
Policy 14-2011	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, soymilk, and dairy containers) and that the amount of deposit be increased.</i>
Policy 21-2011	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>

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Policy 23-2010	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 24–2010	Travel and Exportation to Cuba	<i>The Vermont State Grange and the National Grange encourage passage of HR 4645 - The Travel Restriction Reform and Export Enhancement Act.</i>
Policy 25-2010	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	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	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	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	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	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	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	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 12-2006	Farm to School	<i>The Vermont State Grange supports legislation that will encourage and promote programs and initiatives that would allow local produce straight from the farm to be a larger portion of the school lunch program.</i>
Policy 24-2004	Support the Local Economy	<i>The Vermont State Grange encourages its members and their neighbors to shop locally, thereby supporting locally owned businesses.</i>

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Policy 26-2004	Legislative Studies	<i>The Vermont State Grange supports efforts to reduce the number of legislative studies.</i>
Policy 03-2003	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	American Flag	<i>The Vermont State Grange wants legislation passed making the desecration of the American Flag a criminal offence.</i>
Policy 08-2001	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	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"> <li>• <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></li> <li>• <i>Individual account options should be chosen by the government to avoid unnecessary confusion and expansion of government.</i></li> <li>• <i>Individual benefits must be guaranteed no 'matter what' option is chosen nor what risk is involved in that account.</i></li> <li>• <i>The increase in retirement age must be on a gradual basis during a pre-set determined amount of time.</i></li> <li>• <i>Any surplus money in the Social Security Fund remain there and not be used for any other purpose.</i></li> </ul>
Policy 32-1997	Restructuring of Power Industry	<i>The Vermont State Grange urges the legislature to proceed with diligence to develop legislation which will enable the restructuring of the power industry insuring all consumers a reliable, affordable power supply and that this legislation includes provisions for consumer education so they can thoroughly understand the economics of their individual choices.</i>
Policy 16-1995	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 50-1983	Outside Auditors	<i>Vermont State Grange goes on record as opposing of a law requiring towns to use outside auditors.</i>
Policy 56-1983	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>

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<b>Taxation</b>		
Policy 11-2014	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	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	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	Use Value Taxation Program	<i>That the Vermont State Grange:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>continues its support of the original mission of the Current Use Program as stated in the Vermont Statutes</i></li> <li>• <i>favors a declining with drawl penalty be based on the longevity of the enrollment period</i></li> <li>• <i>that the withdrawal penalty be based on the Fair Market Value Appraisal at the time of withdrawal</i></li> <li>• <i>urges that there be adequate administration to enforce landowner compliance with program provisions.</i></li> </ul>
Policy 30–2010	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	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	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 14-2007	Tax Relief for non-Profits	<i>The Vermont State Grange supports the passage of legislation that is a town/city grants tax-free status to non-profits who own property in their town/city, that the State of Vermont not require that the town/city pay the tax that would be due on the property.</i>
Policy 15-2006	Taxation - 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	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>

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Policy 32-2004	Educational Funding	<i>The Vermont State Grange goes on record as wanting the State of Vermont to discontinue the property tax on homestead properties and allow taxpayers with principal residences to contribute to education spending through a broad based tax to support education (Example: Income, Sales tax, Gas Tax, Severance Tax). Also the State Government should, to the greatest possible extent, leave the property tax to municipalities where its revenues are better needed to provide municipal services.</i>
Policy 39-2000	Real Estate Tax Exemptions for Non-Profit	<i>Vermont State Grange supports the following: Properties that are tax exempted by town government be exempt from Act 60 taxation.</i>
Policy 25-1999	Vehicles Tax	<i>The Vermont State Grange go on record as opposing any additional tax for owners of trucks, vans and other vehicles which cannot get more than 20 miles per gallon of gasoline or other fuel.</i>
Policy 38-1997	Water Charges	<i>The Vermont State Grange suggests that water for agricultural use from standing or moving river, brooks, streams or ponds shall not be tax or a fee charged for its use.</i>
Policy 33-1996	Lawsuits	<i>The Vermont State Grange goes on record as supporting that people in jail pay all costs of lawsuits brought by them against state and other officials or persons.</i>