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—For section.....Voices/Letters from readers
—Format.....Opinions - Letters to the Editor - Special
—Dateline.....Brattleboro
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Notes from editor (not for publication):

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 Richards: Her will, skill, and experience can defeat
2 governor

####END HED####

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4 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

5 Vermonters have an important choice to make over the
6 next four weeks. By Aug. 11, Primary Day in Vermont, we will
7 need to choose the Democratic candidate who will run against
8 Phil Scott in November.

9 Scott has been in office now for 10 years. Our hospitals
10 are on the verge of bankruptcy, and our farms are failing. Over

11 60% of young Vermonters anticipate moving out of the state.

12 Scott's "moderation" has begun to wear thin.

13 Democrats have fielded two primary candidates, who at
14 first glance may appear similar — two smart young women.

15 However, there are substantive differences between the two,
16 visible if you observe them in forums, interviews and meetups.

17 One candidate, Amanda Janoo, is an economist who
18 works as an advocate and policy analyst on a global level. She
19 can clearly explain the theory behind our economic problems.
20 The solutions she envisions are uniformly progressive but often
21 impractical.

22 The other candidate is Aly Richards, who began her
23 public service career as the youth representative on the Vermont
24 State Board of Education. She worked on Barack Obama's first
25 presidential campaign and most recently spent 10 years working
26 collaboratively with Vermonters to pass childcare access
27 legislation.

28 This nationally recognized legislation has resulted in
29 establishment of more childcare businesses, better wages for
30 childcare workers, and childcare subsidies for more Vermont
31 families.

32 When I listen to Aly, it is evident that she is eager and
33 excited at the thought of bringing Vermonters together to find
34 solutions to the problems now hobbling the state, beginning with
35 housing and healthcare.

36 Her method, successful in passing the childcare bill, is to
37 gather all the concerned constituents and work with them to
38 define the problem and identify the most viable solutions.

39 She knows these problems will be hard to solve, and
40 brings will, skill, and experience to the process. She promises as
41 governor to harness the zeal of experts in the state administration
42 to support the work of our elected Legislature on behalf of these
43 solutions.

44 Voting in the primaries has already begun, and town
45 clerks have ballots available. Ballots can be requested at the town

46 clerks' offices or at the official state voter portal at
47 vote.vermont.gov.

48 For primaries you must request ballots; they are not sent
49 automatically as are general election ballots. Registered voters
50 can get ballots and vote any time through Aug. 11.

51 Vermont does not have party registration and there is no
52 need to declare your party to vote in the primary; voters may
53 choose at each primary election to vote any one of the three
54 ballots they are given.

55 The best possible way to retire Gov. Scott this fall is to
56 put Aly Richards on the ballot!

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BIO/COATTAIL:

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LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

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LINKS:

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VIDEO:

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

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