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—Article Number:.....43886

Notes from editor (not for publication):

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 Janoo: Like Bernie Sanders, a politics of compassion and
2 justice

####END HED####

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4 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

5 With the Aug. 11 Democratic primary election for
6 governor looming, how is one to make a fact-based choice
7 between Amanda Janoo and Aly Richards?

8 After 10 years of Gov. Phil Scott's failure to live up to his
9 promises to "reduce property taxes" and "make Vermont
10 affordable," let's look at the contrast between how these two
11 candidates will finance their initiatives.

12 Janoo supports the “Fair Share for Vermont” 3% tax
13 surcharge on the wealthiest Vermonters — those with yearly
14 incomes over \$500,000 — which would raise \$114 million to
15 pay for free preventive and primary healthcare for all Vermonters.
16 This common-sense initiative has been endorsed by 15 Vermont
17 organizations.

18 Asked repeatedly in the debates, Richards has refused to
19 support this surcharge on Vermont’s 1% richest, each of whom
20 received an average tax cut of \$57,000 in 2026 federal taxes.

21 On education, Janoo has spoken out strongly against the
22 forced consolidation of our schools. She believes that our local
23 schools form the heart of our communities. In contrast, despite
24 the Legislature’s Redistricting Task Force having voted to reject
25 forced consolidation, Richards hasn’t categorically come out
26 against forcing Vermont’s 119 school districts to be shrunk to
27 between 10 and 25.

28 Some people bring up the so-called “electability”
29 question, which brings to mind the 2016 presidential primary.
30 Despite Bernie Sanders winning more than six primaries and
31 caucuses in the Midwestern rust bowl *and* rural states, pundits
32 declared that only Hillary Clinton was “electable.” Her
33 subsequent loss to Donald Trump and Bernie’s current Fighting
34 Oligarchy Tour (which has turned out over 100,000 voters
35 disgusted with the concentration of wealth and power) call into
36 question claims about who is or is not “electable.”

37 Like so many of you, I am tired of the politicians who,
38 despite their promises, end up doing the bidding of the rich and
39 powerful. That’s why I’m so excited about Amanda Janoo.

40 Like Bernie Sanders, she is an entirely different kind of
41 candidate. She has a strong moral core, and she is deeply
42 committed to economic fairness and justice. From her own lived
43 experience, she knows that Vermont has become way too
44 expensive — not just because of our sky-high property taxes, but
45 because of unaffordable health insurance, spiraling rent, and
46 runaway energy costs.

47 I am doing everything I can to support Amanda Janoo's
48 campaign, and I am hoping you'll learn about her policies.
49 Let's turn the leaf and celebrate a politics of compassion
50 and justice.

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

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LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

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VIDEO:

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

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