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Notes from editor (not for publication):

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 Janoo: careful, evidence-based approach to difficult
2 issues

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4 TEXT BODY:

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5 After 10 years under the same governor, Vermonters
6 should ask a simple question: Is our state moving in the direction
7 we want?
8 Elections are an opportunity not simply to judge
9 personalities, but to consider what kind of leadership Vermont
10 needs for the next decade.

11 My association with the Rural School Community

12 Alliance reinforced my belief that good government begins with
13 local democracy. The Alliance opposed another round of forced
14 school district consolidation because we believed local
15 communities should help shape the decisions that affect them.

16 Ultimately, the Legislature rejected mandatory
17 consolidation, and Gov. Scott signed that decision into law.

18 That experience made me pay closer attention to
19 candidates who combine thoughtful analysis with respect for
20 local communities. The more I have learned about Amanda Janoo
21 — particularly her careful, evidence-based approach to difficult
22 issues like healthcare and affordability — the more convinced I
23 have become that she offers that kind of leadership.

24 Here are eight reasons I will be voting for her.

25 1. *Evidence over ideology:* Educated at Cambridge and
26 Oxford and now an economist working on public policy, Janoo
27 approaches Vermont's challenges with data, careful analysis, and
28 measurable outcomes rather than slogans or predetermined
29 answers. She believes public policy — including education,
30 health, and housing policies — should be judged by whether it
31 actually works.

32 2. *A new direction for Vermont:* Gov. Scott deserves
33 appreciation for his years of public service. But after a decade,
34 Vermonters should honestly ask whether the results are good
35 enough. Housing remains increasingly unaffordable, healthcare
36 costs continue to rise, and our schools — once among the
37 nation's strongest — have experienced troubling declines.

38 Continuing the same approach is unlikely to produce
39 different results. It is time for change.

40 3. *Understanding Vermont's affordability crisis. With first-*
41 *hand experience seeking housing in Burlington, Janoo*
42 *understands that affordable housing is not simply an economic*
43 *issue but one that determines whether young families can remain*
44 *in Vermont, build careers, purchase homes, and strengthen their*

45 communities. Vermont's future depends on making our state a
46 place where the next generation can afford to live.

47 4. Healthcare that rewards what matters most. Janoo
48 understands that Vermont's healthcare system often rewards what
49 is easiest to bill rather than the services that communities depend
50 upon most. Her thoughtful analysis of the financial challenges
51 facing Brattleboro Memorial Hospital and its birthing center have
52 demonstrated an ability to connect sound economics with the
53 real needs of families and communities.

54 5. Trusting local democracy. Having grown up with
55 Vermont Town Meeting, Janoo understands that strong
56 communities produce better government. She believes citizens
57 should help shape the policies that affect their lives rather than
58 having decisions imposed from farther away.

59 6. Strengthening rural communities. Vermont's small
60 towns and local schools are among our state's greatest strengths.
61 Rather than treating rural communities as inefficiencies to be
62 consolidated away, Janoo recognizes that thriving local
63 institutions are essential to Vermont's identity, economy, and long-
64 term vitality.

65 7. Respect for Vermont's democratic institutions. Effective
66 governors work with the Legislature rather than around it. Janoo
67 has emphasized collaboration, transparency, and respect for the
68 legislative process, recognizing that durable public policy is built
69 through partnerships rather than by executive action alone.

70 8. Leadership that can unite Vermonters. Amanda Janoo
71 combines intellectual rigor with optimism, practical economic
72 expertise, humility, and genuine respect for democratic
73 participation. She offers thoughtful leadership that can appeal not
74 only to Democrats but also to independents and Republicans
75 looking for evidence-based solutions rather than partisan rhetoric.

76 The Rural School Community Alliance reminded me that
77 ordinary Vermonters can still shape the future of our state when
78 they organize around sound principles and good evidence. This

79 election cycle, we have another opportunity to choose what kind
80 of leadership we want.

81 I believe Amanda Janoo offers leadership grounded in
82 evidence, respect for local democracy, collaboration, and
83 intellectual humility. Those are the qualities Vermont needs now,
84 and they are why I will proudly cast my ballot for her.

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