**Letter to Editor 10/21/12**

I just read the Burlington Free Press Sunday cover story on Bernie Sanders’ fund raising exploits.

Even though he’s a popular incumbent almost guaranteed to win in November, Sanders has raised $6.9 million, mostly from his poor fixed income supporters across the country (only 9% from Vermonters) afraid the big bad Republicans will take away their benefits.

Of course, this is far more ethical than Republican candidate tactics: scaring campaign dollars from (mostly) small business owners afraid that the big bad Democrats will give all their profits to welfare recipients.

What American hasn’t wanted to eliminate the disgusting money grubbing practices of politicians in both parties? As a VoteKISS (Vote to Keep It Short and Simple) candidate for US Senate, I represent 3 pre-written bills and have signed a contract to ONLY vote for those bills if elected. The first bill reforms government via a US Constitutional amendment with TEN major updates. Section 5 of that amendment reads, in its entirety:

All candidates for federal office shall receive and spend/use campaign donations only during the year preceding an election. Donations shall be used only for:

1. Reasonable annual salary (no greater than that of the desired office) for non-incumbents only

2. Reasonable annual salary for one campaign assistant

3. Travel expenses in the territory of the desired office

4. Office expenses and meeting space rentals

5. Setup and maintenance of a campaign website

6. Publication and mailing expenses for one packet of information delivered to each household in the territory of the desired office

7. As Congress shall pass with a two thirds majority vote.

Unused campaign funds shall be donated to a non-political non-profit organization within a month after the election.

Individuals may only donate toward candidates’ official campaign efforts as stated above; political action and other organizations may NOT donate funds to individual campaigns but may pay for media events, polls, and political activities that invite/include all candidates running for a given office.

Candidates must maintain a publicly posted, up-to-date, independently audited list of campaign contributions and expenses, including reasonable cost estimates for donated time and materials.

With VoteKISS, you can vote (almost) directly for a US Constitutional Amendment that does the above, and more. Read the 3 bills at [www.votekiss.org](http://www.votekiss.org), and VoteKISS this November.

**Letter to Editor 10-12-12**

Today for daily prayer our pastor had his electronic bible study group read 1 Samuel:17—the story of the shepherd boy David slaying the giant Goliath with a slingshot and a stone. The prayer he asked us to recite was “Father, putting my name on Your plan is like Saul putting his armor on David. Please don’t let me ever try to cover what You are doing.”

I feel like David standing before Goliath. I am an insignificant voice in Vermont, holding a slingshot called VoteKISS (Vote to Keep It Short and Simple), with 3 stones in my hand—the three pre-written bills I represent as a VoteKISS candidate for US Senate. I face the giant power of our political party system—so obviously huge, corrupted by big money, hateful in tone, rigged to favor the incumbent and the senior members of Congress. How can I prevail against such an opponent?

I believe in the God who helped David. I believe He is working through me to bring a revolution to this country founded on His principles of loving unity rather than hateful divisiveness. He sees us struggling to run this country without turning to Him for a solution. It’s time we realize we must have faith that He can deliver us with something as tiny as a checkmark on the ballot.

Did you know that Vermont, itself an insignificant voice in Congress, is one of the few states in which an ordinary person like myself can even get her name on the ballot? Most states require over 100,000 signatures for a third party candidate to run for US Senate—in Vermont it’s 500. God not only chose me, He chose Vermont to throw the stone, to bring an arrogant and divisive foe to its knees.

VoteKISS is a way to by-pass politics by writing short and simple bills FIRST, that solve our biggest problems in ways everyone can understand and most of us can agree with. VoteKISS candidates ONLY vote FOR those bills each election cycle. Visit [www.votekiss.org](http://www.votekiss.org/) and see how easy it is to by-pass politics and vote for real change this November.

**Letter to Editor 9-25-12**

By coincidence I was at the State House for Gov Shumlin's press conference on 9/24 where every mayor in VT endorsed his candidacy, explaining how wonderful his administration was, helping out in Irene and with town projects for economic growth.   
  
I asked Shumlin "It's easy to play the hero with an open checkbook and no concern about the bottom line. Which Peters did you borrow from to pay these Pauls for their endorsement? I'm a poor farmer who just saw her "income sensitive" property taxes go up $1k, so I suppose I'm a Peter?"   
  
He asked me sharply who I was, and I said my name and that I was a candidate for US Congress. He said these matters should be discussed AFTER the press conference, and went on to answer Ch 3 reporter's important questions about rumble strips and lottery changes.

Shumlin isn’t playing a new game—the political system is rigged in favor of incumbents who use their position to distribute political favors to the politically important—in this case relatively voter dense cities.

I had one elderly gentleman tell me he couldn’t vote for me because Bernie Sanders personally saw to it that his VA benefits were increased. Doesn’t he realize that Bernie also personally saw to it that not only he is in debt by **$51,123.71** (his share of $16 trillion federal debt) but every one of his kids, grand kids, and yes, even that 6 month old great grand has the same debt load, growing fast. Was that $100/mo increase worth it?

Another lady said “Just tell me you can beat Bernie and how you’re gonna do it”. I don’t want to “beat Bernie”. I want to replace the hot air and political games he and every politician represent with concrete solutions to our biggest problems: government reform via a US Constitutional Amendment, healthcare reform by replacing Obamatax with a short and simple solution, and tax reform by replacing the income tax with the short and simple Fairtax.

**Letter to Editor 8-27-12**

Our founding fathers created “one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all”. We’ve pledged to support that nation all our lives, and many fine people have been injured or died defending those words.  
  
Yet today God is not allowed in public schools; prayer frowned upon at public events. Our party system divides us into red conservatives or white independents or blue liberals. Liberty is in question when we spend half of each year working to pay taxes and our children are enslaved to an almost insurmountable national debt. Our courts raise the letter of the law above the spirit of the law, and criminals plea bargain their way around justice.  
  
We are in danger of losing this nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all, through our indifference and/or frustration with politics. We have seen, in the last eight years especially, that out-of-control government spending continues no matter which party is in power.   
  
Did you know that our current political system was NOT mandated by the US Constitution? It’s merely a tradition born at a time when most people were illiterate peasants, so “noble” men were chosen to make decisions for them. Americans today are more than capable of making governance decisions, so why are we still using go-between legislators?  
  
Why not write no more than 3 short and simply written bills that solve our biggest problems in ways everyone can understand and most of us can agree with? Then vote for candidates who sign a contract to ONLY vote for those pre-written bills each election cycle. Only bills We the People understand and agree with will pass into law, without special interest intervention or wasted time.   
  
Visit [www.votekiss.org](http://www.votekiss.org/) and see how easy it is to by-pass politics and vote for real change this November.

**THE U.S. MALADY AND HOW TO CURE IT**

**By Laurel LaFramboise**

St. Paul excelled at using analogies to explain the most difficult topic to understand: mankind’s relationship with God. I’m going to borrow this approach to explain probably the next most difficult topic to understand: our country’s malaise.

Our nation is like a human being, conceived by our founding fathers--probably with more than a little help from their wives. The U.S. and state constitutions are our skeletal structure; legislative activity, muscles; the executive branch the nervous system that sparks governance action; the judicial branch, as skin, defines the boundaries between what’s within the law and outside it. The economy is our digestive and respiratory systems: input raw materials, draw out energy, and (unfortunately) spew out waste products. We the People are the circulatory system, transporting that energy to every niche and corner of the nation—as well as acting as our major defense system against internal threats.

So in this analogy, what is our national illness? A brain tumor, present at our birth and growing in strength with each passing generation. Today its tendrils reach deep into the national psyche, forcing We the People to feed it--even knowing its malignancy is detrimental to our health--because we don’t know how to remove it. The tumor is our political system.

Not part of the Constitution, but necessary at our birth due to high illiteracy and low access to information in the 18th century, politicians over the centuries have legislatively created the Rube Goldberg machine we have today. Why? To better ensure their shell games go unnoticed and their re-election is assured. The result? No matter who we vote into office, the machine prevents any injury to itself, and continues draining increasing amounts of energy from the nation.

We could try to physically remove the tumor, but the surgery would be dangerous (who would act as surgeon—a dictator?) and probably leave tendrils to re-grow. It is best if We the People figured out a way to by-pass it and deprive it of life-giving energy.

Introducing VoteKISS—Vote to Keep It Short and Simple. In November we can vote in changes Americans have wanted for a long time, simply by changing the order of steps in which a bill becomes a law. Let’s write short and simple bills FIRST that solve our biggest problems in ways everyone can understand and most of us can agree with. Then let’s vote for candidates who sign a contract to ONLY vote for those bills as written each election cycle. Bills we understand and approve would pass into law quickly and without special interest intervention.

Interested in learning more? Read the VoteKISS draft bills at [www.votekiss.org](http://www.votekiss.org). Tell me how you’d change them by e-mailing <laurel@votekiss.org> I hope to hear from you soon.

**Do Americans Agree on ANYTHING Politically?**

**Letter to editor 7-4-12**

Our political parties want us to believe the United States is a nation divided: red conservatives, white moderates, OR blue liberals can’t agree on ANYTHING.

I’ve come to believe, however, that most Americans are red, white AND blue:

* We are fiscal conservatives because we KNOW it’s our civic duty to use public monies responsibly, but the current overspending isn’t being responsible.
* We are social moderates because we KNOW it’s our moral duty to care for the less fortunate, but we don’t want to be patsies for the lazy and corrupt.
* We are environmental liberals because we KNOW it’s our sacred duty to protect God’s creation and preserve it for future generations, but we’re not sure how to balance it with our other duties.

Most Americans are also united in one other area: we have a deep distrust of and distaste for politicians and our political system.

All that is needed to unite Americans this November is a vehicle that will embrace our red, white and blue core beliefs and by-pass the political system we despise. That vehicle, I believe, is VoteKISS.

VoteKISS stands for Vote to Keep It Short and Simple. It is a way to by-pass politics by changing the way we vote:

* Today we vote for candidates who make a lot of promises, but then they vote for compromise bills NOBODY wants and increasingly, nobody understands.
* VoteKISS candidates stand for 3 short and simply written bills that solve our biggest problems in ways everyone can understand and most of us can agree with—because they represent our red, white, and blue beliefs. VoteKISS candidates sign a contract to ONLY vote for those 3 bills as written each election cycle, which removes politics from the position of representative.

My son Andre, who is running for US House, and I are VoteKISS statewide candidates on Vermont’s ballot. ANY candidate currently on other state ballots can become VoteKISS candidates by signing a contract to vote ONLY FOR the 3 bills as written in final form by November 1. If no candidate in a race signs, voters can still register their approval for VoteKISS by voting for any presidential candidate and NOT voting for any state or federal representative. By doing so the winner of the race will know exactly how many constituents favor the VoteKISS bills. If this idea “goes viral” I believe most Voters are angry enough to use this simple tool to make major governmental changes.

Have I tweaked your interest in what the 3 bills are about? Visit [www.votekiss.org](http://www.votekiss.org) to read the exact wording of the current drafts.

Don’t give up on the power of your vote. We the People can unite and fix what’s wrong with government this November. Have faith!

**Letter to editor 6-2-12**

We all know our country is in trouble. Many of us realize that no matter who we vote for government spending will increase and our freedoms will decrease. So what’s a poor voter to do?

I asked that question over 2 years ago and started searching for an answer. The result was a solution so simple I call the idea VoteKISS: Vote to Keep It Short and Simple.

Today we vote for candidates who make a lot of promises; they then go to the capitols and vote for compromise bills nobody wants or even understands. Why don’t we write a few short and simple bills that solve our biggest problems in ways everyone can understand and most Americans agree with? We then vote for candidates who sign a contract to ONLY vote for those few bills AS WRITTEN each election cycle. Bills we the people approve would pass quickly into law with no special interest intervention.

You may think there’s no political issues most Americans agree with, but what about this list: congressional term limits, campaign SPENDING restrictions, a short and simply written bill requirement, virtual congressional sessions so representatives live in their districts, end gerrymandering, allow second choice voting, and add fiscal restrictions such as no unfunded mandates, no deficit spending or printing of money without 2/3 Congressional approval—all as a US Constitutional Amendment. No self-serving politician would EVER reduce their power by voting these in, but with VoteKISS, we can by-pass them!

To promote VoteKISS I’ve stood in the Walmart parking lot for several weekends collecting signatures to run for US Senate as a VoteKISS candidate. For better bang for my buck I collected signatures for my son Andre to run for the US House. Check out our website at [www.votekiss.org](http://www.votekiss.org) today!

**Letter to editor 4-16-12**

Hello. My name is Laurel LaFramboise of Chelsea, VT. My son, Andre and I are running as VoteKISS candidates for US Congressional seats this fall.

Would you like to be able to vote (almost) directly for a U.S. constitutional amendment that includes:

* Congressional term limits
* Campaign spending restrictions
* Virtual congressional sessions (so representatives live in their districts)
* Short and simple bill requirement
* A sane budget process that includes a balanced budget requirement, elimination of unfunded mandates, and automatic budgeting if Congress stalemates

These are just HALF of the governmental reform ideas included in the first of 3 bills VoteKISS candidates represent. The second bill presents a short and simple solution to healthcare; the third bill replaces the income tax with the Fairtax, a national retail sales tax on new goods and services.

VoteKISS stands for Vote to Keep It Short and Simple. It’s a way to by-pass politics and implement changes Americans have wanted for a long time, simply by voting for candidates who represent a few pre-written bills rather than a lot of empty promises. VoteKISS takes a bit of explanation, so please visit [www.votekiss.org](http://www.votekiss.org), or search for VoteKISS in You Tube and watch the 2 short presentations (6 and 8 minutes) that explain the concept.

As VoteKISS candidates Andre and I shall not raise or spend funds campaigning to make ourselves a household name. With VoteKISS it’s not about us, it’s about the bills. If we are elected we will spend most of our time helping Vermonters with their individual governmental problems as we will not be involved in the politics of negotiating bill passage.

Do you want to use the power of your vote to implement real change this November? Learn how at [www.VoteKISS.org](http://www.VoteKISS.org)!