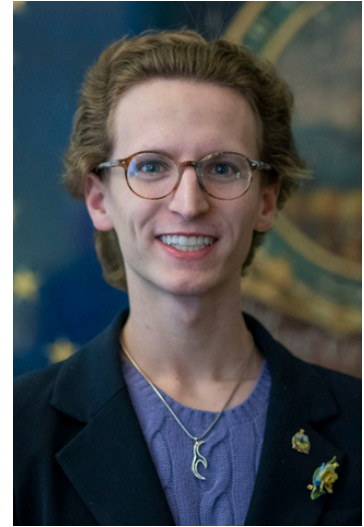


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# REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM "WILL" GREER

MARCH 3,  
2026



## February 2026 Update: Education and Act 73 Updates, Energy and Environment Updates, Town Charter Changes and Miscellaneous Bills Passed

The legislature has been moving ahead with several bills, and there's now more information related to education issues coming out of both the House Education and House Ways and Means committees.

Our committee has taken several actions regarding a few bills aside from the Capital Bill: H.50 is in a conference committee which will identify state lands and buildings that can be used for affordable housing (a few parcels of which were initially recommended in Bennington,) H.540 which makes statutory additions to Restorative Justice programs, and H.635 which eliminates supervisory fees through the Department of Corrections — a smart policy move that actually saves the State of Vermont money!

**I will hold two public forums on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-1:00 PM at Bennington College's Center for the Advancement of Public Action and at the Coffee Bar from 2:00-3:00 PM.**

This newsletter focuses on education and energy/environmental policy updates. The legislature is starting the conversation around education reform measures again, so we will see what comes to the floor in March. I'm including forecast models on education spending in the coming years, which factors in quiet a bit on expenses related to health insurance, and revenue projections for both non-property tax and property tax based sources. There will be a few other topics touched on as well. **Hope to see you guys on Town Meeting Day!**

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In this newsletter,  
you will find:

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Education (Pg. 2)

Environment &  
Energy (Pg. 3)

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Committee, Town, &  
Other Updates (Pg. 4)

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Photos for fun! (Pg. 5)

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## Act 73 & Education Finance Updates:



The House Ways and Means Committee has released a series of updates related to Education Finance for FY2027.

As of the February 15<sup>th</sup> update on proposed school budgets, the **100 districts (accounting for roughly 88% of education spending) have seen an increase of 3.5% from FY2026 — several percentage points lower than originally projected.**

An important consideration as we see slower spending growth is the rate of change of revenue streams. The primary concern from the the committee’s report

is the funding that comes from non-property taxes. There is a loss of approximately 6% (\$56 million) from this part of the Education Fund, which will result in more pressure on property tax revenue to balance the fund.

In FY2018, non-property tax revenues accounted for roughly 35% of the Education Fund. FY2027 we expect to see this be 32% of the total revenue. The legislature is expected to buy down the property tax rate this year, the main question is whether it will be the full amount or set aside in a reserve fund for upcoming fiscal years.

Estimated Changes in Property Taxes Over Time if \$104.9 Million in One-Time General Fund Is Used to Buy Down Fiscal Year 2027 Property Taxes

<i>(dollars in millions)</i>	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027*	FY 2028*	FY 2029*
Without buy down: total estimated total property tax or other revenue needed <i>(millions)</i>	\$1,545	\$1,648	\$1,733	\$1,853	\$1,935
Total one-time buy down <i>(Includes one-time GF and EF surplus)</i>	\$56	\$121	\$126	\$0	\$0
Using buy down: Total property tax or other revenue needed	\$1,489	\$1,528	\$1,606	\$1,853	\$1,935
Estimated relative percentage change year-over-year		3%	5%	15%	4%



## Environment & Energy Updates



The House Energy Committee has delivered several bills to the body since January, the main two I want to highlight are H.527 and H.710.

**H.527 was a bill to related to the permitting process around cell tower infrastructure** by amending 30 V.S.A. 248(a). An environmental review is still required, but it reduces a portion of the regulatory work required under Act 250. **I voted for the bill because it included requirements around local community input and reducing costs associated with permits.**

**H.710 is related to net metering restrictions on solar facilities and defining a plant.** The bill changes the definition of a “single plant” that will reduce cost associated with solar projects approved through the Public Utilities Commission which means lower costs to consumers over time. The bill included additional restrictions on Standard Offer Program facilities so that they do not take advantage of net-metering restrictions.

**I voted YES on the roll call, the vote was approved by the House 108-30.**

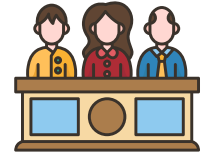
### **2026 Legislative Status: PFAS & Chemical Regulations**

Two updates on action being taken in the legislature on PFAS and chemical regulations.

First, **H.911 is a bill—introduced by Representative Durfee!—to prohibit PFAS in pesticides and its packaging.** This would be an additional collection of products that the State would require to not contain PFAS chemicals.

Second, **H.739, a bill prohibiting the sale or use of the herbicide paraquat,** is also in House Agriculture. Paraquat is banned in over 70 countries already, and it is classified as a restricted use product (RUP) under federal law currently due to its extreme hazard to human health.

## Other Updates: Bills, Committee Work, and General Legislative Updates



There have been several things happening behind the scenes!

First, House Correction and Institutions has been working on several bills, the one that I have specifically been delegated to undertake is **H.559: An act relating to the Parole Board. Currently, the Parole Board is not fully independent from Department of Corrections (DOC) or the Attorney General's Office (AGO).** We have appropriated funding support to provide legal training for Parole Board members and legal counsel that can help in cases where DOC

or the AGO could have a conflict of interest. This will mitigate future legal challenges against Parole Board cases.

The Capital Bill Adjustment is going to start markup in March. Last year, I was the liaison for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) which amounted to over \$20 million in state dollars used for federal matches. **We will continue working with the Clean Water Board on this year's proposal as well as the priority list of projects across Vermont.**

### **Q: What's the status on our Town Charter changes?**

The House Committee on Government Operations took testimony on two of the charter amendments: **H.693 and H.694 which are related to the Town Manager's contract termination and the Selectboard's ability to delegate additional authorities to the police review board (known as CPARB.)** The committee has decided that these are the two that are most directly related to the town's unique operations, and will consider moving forward with the other two after Town Meeting Week.

**The committee may consider H.695, allowing the Selectboard to levy a one-percent tax on short term rentals, if there is a consideration of additional local options taxes.** Given that this will most likely not have a decision prior to session adjourning, this may have to be re-introduced in 2027 once there is concurrence.

If you have any comments or thoughts, please reach out to my legislative email: **wgreer@leg.state.vt.us**



## Personal Update & Pictures!

“Well, that didn’t sound good!” Jane and I watched the car get hit while it was parked in North Bennington. We are okay, but there’s going to be a lot of work to get the Subaru back in shape!

Here are a few pictures from the past month with a short description!

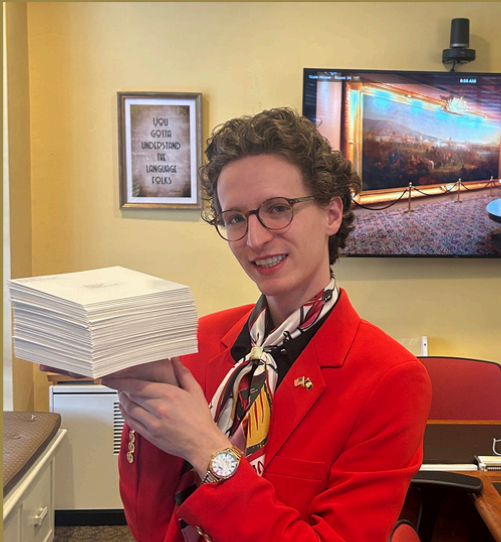
**TOP LEFT:** HOLDING THE FINAL OF FOUR STACKS OF VERY BELATED NEW YEARS CARDS!

**TOP RIGHT:** CAR ACCIDENT THAT I’M STILL HAGGLING WITH INSURANCE OVER!

**BOTTOM LEFT:** BENNINGTON’S TURNING POINT CENTER VISITED US AT THE CAPITOL!

**BOTTOM CENTER:** STUDENTS FROM THE VILLAGE SCHOOL OF NORTH BENNINGTON LEARNING ABOUT TOWN MEETING DAY!

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** I SPOKE WITH NEWS REPORTERS ABOUT AI IMPACTING THE ROLE OF MEDIA AND SUPPORTING FURTHER AI LEGISLATION.



journalistic content,” unless approved by the CEO or editor-in-chief.

But in the new contract, the union wanted job protections against layoffs due to AI, something on which the organization wasn’t willing to budge.



VTdigger reporters Greta Solsaa and Shaun Robinson discussing their contract concerns with Rep. Will Greer (D-