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Statement of Purpose

The purpose of Out In The Mountains [OITM] is to serve as a voice for lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people, and our supporters in Vermont. We wish the newspaper to be a source of information, insight, and affirmation. We also see OITM as a vehicle for the celebration of the culture and diversity of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities here in Vermont and elsewhere.

Editorial Policy

We will consider for publication any material that broadens our understanding of our lifestyles and of each other. Views and opinions appearing in the paper do not necessarily represent those of Out In The Mountains. This paper, as a non-profit organization, cannot and will not endorse any political candidates. We reserve the right not to publish any material deemed to be overtly racist, sexist, anti-Semitic, ageist, classist, xenophobic, or homophobic.

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editorial

Top Ten Reasons to Vote

10. You get the right to complain in the face of all those self-righteous folks who say “If you didn’t vote, don’t complain.” And, well-meaning though they are, aren’t they just a bit insufferable? After you’ve voted, you get to complain all you want about what terrible things the government is doing or what obviously terrific things it’s not.

9. It doesn’t cost anything and it feels good. And when you feel good, you look good, so after voting, you’ll look fabulous, baby!

8. You can wear all your Pride-Wear to the polls to enliven the wait. Or better yet, go in drag and loudly announce your name to the clerk.

7. It’s less painful than a tattoo or a piercing. Not only is voting painless, so is registering (see #4). You do, however, have to remember your name.

6. The more of us the marryer. If you want equality, ya gotta vote for people who are willing to fight for it.

5. Remember Florida. The election that wasn’t can’t happen again if everyone eligible registers and

votes. Then again, it *has* been suggested that international observers be employed to ensure fairness. Much easier if we do it ourselves.

4. It’ll shock your parents – and your friends. Especially when you drag them down to the polls with you – after getting them registered, of course. And you can register at your town hall or at R.U.1.2? Queer Community Center or at a table on Church St. in Burlington most Saturdays, or by any Justice of the Peace or Notary Public.

3. Lawrence v. Texas. It’s about privacy and equality, and whether the next U.S. Supreme Court vacancy goes to a Scalia or Thomas clone or someone less ... homophobic? Rigid? Someone who will consider the case against DOMA on its merits.

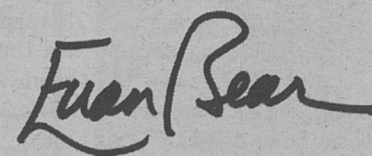
2. State judicial retention. Guess who gets to decide whether the state Supreme Court Justices who brought Vermont civil unions keep their jobs? You do! Or at least, anyone who votes for state Representatives does. They’ll hold the hearings and cast the votes.

1. Use it or lose it. What would happen if the Administration decided to “postpone” the election (that’s not paranoia, the plan was

floated this summer as a possible response to a “terrorist act”) and we all went to vote anyway? Last day to register to vote in the September 14 primary is September 7, the day after Labor Day. There’s a primary race among the Democrats for Lieutenant Governor between two experienced, smart, great women candidates. Three Republicans, one of whom identifies as a transwoman, are vying for the right to oppose the re-election of Vermont Attorney General William Sorrell. Pick Your Choice! Your Vote Is Your Voice! Last day to register for the November election is October 25.

You can actually vote early, up to 30 days before the primary or general election day by asking for an early voter ballot at the town clerk’s office and either voting there on the spot or taking the ballot home and mailing it in or returning it in person before election day. You can vote in the primary RIGHT NOW!

Vote as if your life, your health, and your future depended on it – they do!



Euan Bear
Editor