

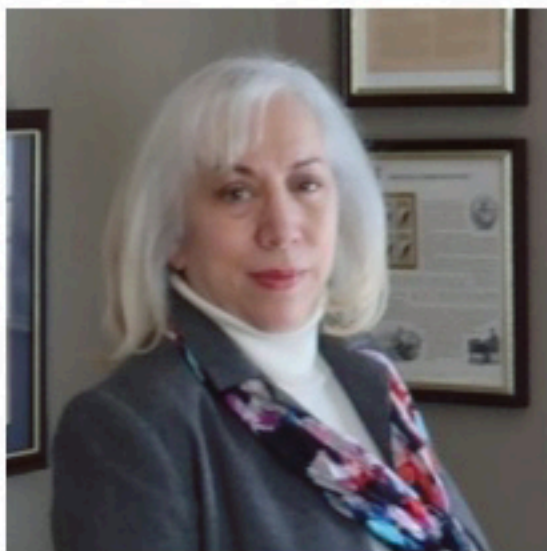
# Linda Joy Sullivan

for Vermont Auditor of Accounts 2020

## The Courage to Speak the Truth

In the last three years while in the General Assembly I have published [thirty \(30\) full length op-eds](#) in newspapers around Vermont.

These were not easy to write. Most involved hard policy choices or positions on controversial legislative actions. Every writing exposed me to criticism. It would have been far easier – and politically safer – for me to have just kept quiet.



Why am I telling you this? Because I believe it reflects upon the type of State Auditor I will be.

First, I have never written out of political aspiration, in order to see my name in the paper or to further some personal agenda. I came to public life late in my career, motivated to contribute to my community through public service. I never before this year contemplated running for election to be your State Auditor. I have written because I consider it to be part of the job. I believe that when someone is fortunate enough to be elected to public office, one is obligated to *speak the truth* on issues of great public importance.

**As Auditor I pledge not to travel safe paths and take politically expedient positions in my work. Public service is just that – it's all about work, not personal glory.**

Second, you will see if you visit the [My Commentary](#) page on my website, that I have written on topics that ***show that I am really passionate about "good government."*** Laws need to be written right. It's not enough that they address an important or popular issue. A poorly designed bill serves no one well no matter how good it feels. Bad policy decisions have consequences. Poorly drafted laws and inefficient administration of those laws takes tremendous effort to remedy, often at great expense of our neighbors and local businesses. Constitutional rights and civil liberties need to be protected. There must be public accountability for instances of bad government.

**As Auditor, I pledge passionately to root out bad government, to make our government accountable and to keep it honest and efficient.**

Finally, the fact that I have had the courage to speak out reflects, very simply, that I am not just another Montpelier insider. Government needs to maintain its focus on making a positive difference to individual Vermonters and our communities all around the State. Being a public servant doesn't amount to engaging in a Montpelier popularity contest. While it's sometimes very difficult to call out bad performance by fellow public servants, I have not been shy about doing so, because the ***bottom line*** is advancing ***your*** interests..

**As Auditor, I pledge to be your voice, to demand that government serves all Vermonters and delivers value, and to do so honestly and with high integrity, free of conflicts and the influence of special interests.**

In other words, I pledge to serve you having ***the courage to speak the truth.***

Linda Joy's Campaign  
Website

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Pd for by Linda Joy Sullivan for VT Auditor, Jim Salsgiver, Treasurer.

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