

IA's Voice is Being Heard!

Yesterday there were about 125 people at our Action on the State Budget at Ohavi Zedek, in which we urged decision-makers to be bold and innovative in addressing poverty by making changes in funding and policies around corrections, education and child care, housing, and job creation, and to raise revenue by increasing taxes on the wealthiest Vermonters. Secretary of Administration Jeb Spaulding (representing Gov. Shumlin), Senators Tim Ashe, Sally Fox, and Anthony Pollina, and Rep. Martha Heath (Chair of House Appropriations) heard our message and shared their thoughts with us.

This event affected not only those present, but many others in the community who are reading and seeing the excellent press coverage:

[Burlington Free Press](#)

and

[WCAX](#) (they don't have the video up on the website; this is just a summary -- the video was even better).

WPTZ- Channel 5 also ran a video piece at 6 pm and 11 pm that is not on their website.

We will follow up this effort with a **Press Conference at the Statehouse on Thursday, January 19 at 11:30 am**, and then organize groups of VIA leaders to testify at public hearings in February and conduct one-to-ones with their lawmakers throughout the budget process. Stay tuned for ways in which you can get involved!

Many thanks to Rabbi Joshua Chasan, Jeff Potash, Lois Whitmore, Don Horenstein, Doug Hoffer, Kathy Chasan, Corrie Wilcox, Linda Prescott, Harris Webster, Sharon Wilson, Mike Brown, and Amity Baker for their participation in the Action, and to the LOCs of Ohavi Zedek in Burlington and Christ Episcopal Church in Montpelier for all their hard work in preparing for it.

Let's make Vermont the state that models to other states how a budget can be made more just and equitable!