

2025 TOWN MEETING REPORT: Reps. Kathleen James and Rob Hunter

The Vermont General Assembly's 2025 legislative session kicked off on January 8. During the first week, House members took the oath of office, elected Rep. Jill Krowinski as Speaker, attended a joint assembly to hear Governor Scott's inaugural address, and received committee assignments for the 2025-2026 biennium.

Rep. James was named chair of the newly created House Energy and Digital Infrastructure Committee. This panel considers matters relating to energy, utilities, telecommunications, broadband, information technology, cybersecurity, and other similar policies. Rep. Hunter will serve on the House Education Committee. This panel covers education, libraries, and literary and scientific subjects.

The legislature meets in person at the State House in Montpelier every Tuesday through Friday during the five-month session, January through May. At the General Assembly website (legislature.vermont.gov), you can see legislator bios (including voting records), follow committee agendas, read bills and testimony, and watch all committee hearings and floor debate (both live and recorded).

Reps. James and Hunter will hold regular constituent coffee hours during the session. These informal get-togethers are open to all residents of the Bennington-4 district, which includes Arlington, Manchester, Sandgate and northwest Sunderland. Coffee hours are held on Saturday mornings from 9 to 10:30 am following the schedule below. We also attend town and school meetings in the communities we represent.

January 11: Charlie's Coffee House (Manchester)
January 25: Corner Market (East Arlington)
February 8: Wayside Country Store (West Arlington)
February 22: Charlie's Coffee House (Manchester)
March 1: Corner Market (East Arlington)
March 15: Wayside Country Store (West Arlington)

March 29: Charlie's Coffee House (Manchester)
April 12: Corner Market (East Arlington)
April 26: Wayside Country Store (West Arlington)
May 10: Charlie's Coffee House (Manchester)
May 24: Corner Market (East Arlington)
June 7: Wayside Country Store (West Arlington)

We see shared and urgent priorities for the upcoming two years, most of which are directly related to affordability and building a stronger, more vibrant state. Education funding — supporting high-quality schools that deliver an excellent education at an affordable, sustainable cost — has been and remains at the top of the list. We need to build a new funding system that's fair, transparent and that more clearly connects local spending decisions to tax rates.

The challenges facing Vermont — education, healthcare, housing, climate resiliency — are complicated and hard to solve. We're ready to develop and vote on specific proposals that we think will move the needle— policies that will make life better and more affordable for all of us, and legislation that will move Vermont forward. These times call for collaborative leadership, and we welcome your ideas.

To receive regular legislative updates, please join Kath and Rob's shared mailing list (sign up at kathjamesforstaterep.com). We're also easy to reach:

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