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New Vermont PBS Web Series Takes Viewers *Beyond Bernie*

Retrospective Chronicles Vermont's Unique Culture and Politics

BEYOND BERNIE

Colchester, VT – April 30, 2018 – Vermont may be a small state, but when it comes to the national political and cultural spotlight, it's grown accustomed to the glare. A phenomenon perhaps best characterized by Senator Bernie Sanders' 2016 presidential run, Vermont's outsized contributions to the national political scene are as fascinating as they are remarkable, and they are all chronicled in **Beyond Bernie: Searching for Vermont's Political Identity**, a five-part web series produced by Vermont PBS. Starting May 9, viewers can watch the series on [Facebook](#) or at vermontpbs.org/beyondbernie.

"*Beyond Bernie* is a story of the character, independence and unique community experience of this special state- it's so much more than a story of Vermont Politics," said Holly Groschner, President of Vermont PBS. "Senator Sanders has been a touchstone for this phenomenon. There are also cultural, political and historical forces driving the Vermont ethos explored in this series."

Rare archival footage contributes to the exploration of pivotal events in Vermont history and the people behind them. From the political mobilization that grew out of the "back-to-the-landers" movement to Senator Sanders' presidential candidacy, each of the five segments explores a different aspect of Vermont's political legacy:

- **It's the Person, Not the Party** looks at how Vermont bucks the national trend of voting along party lines, including discussion of our current governor Phil Scott;
- **The Next Gen** considers how millennials, inspired by Senator Sanders, are getting involved in politics;
- **The Eyes of the Nation on Vermont** goes back to Sen. Jim Jeffords' historic defection from the Republican Party during the George W. Bush administration;

further together

- **Burlington's Socialist Mayor** revisits the conservative 80s when Burlington surprised the nation by voting for Bernie Sanders as its mayor;
- **They Ended Up Changing the World** examines a time when Vermont, a historically conservative state, experienced an influx of hippies and “back-to-the-landers”, starting the tradition of progressive politics in the state.

All five episodes will be available on Wednesday, May 9 online. A one-hour compilation of the series will also air on Vermont PBS at 8 pm on Thursday, May 17.

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Vermont PBS is Vermont's statewide public media provider and visual storyteller. We connect neighbors through stories that change lives. To learn more or watch our programs, visit vermontpbs.org.