

2014 Candidate Survey



- BEFORE YOU COMPLETE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE, PLEASE SAVE IT TO YOUR COMPUTER AND USE THAT FILE TO RETURN TO US.
- Please complete this survey by August 1, 2014.
- Email your completed survey to: ctlcv@ctlcv.org

Candidate Name: Douglas Sutherland

Running for: House District No: 123 Party: Democratic

Candidate/Campaign Mailing Address: Vote Sutherland 2014, Dawn Cantafio, Treasurer, 72 Tait Road, Trumbull, CT 06611

Phone: 203-268-3114 Website: www.votesutherland2014.com Email: votesutherland2014@gmail.com

Are you enrolled in the Citizen's Election Fund for public campaign financing? Yes X No

Do you have a primary? Yes No X

Are you an incumbent? Yes No X

Part 1: If elected, what position do you expect to take on the following environmental issues?

Please mark boxes named "Support," "Uncertain," and "Oppose" with an x.

Topic	Question	Support	Uncertain	Oppose
Parks	Would you support state park and forest revenues going to park and forest operations and maintenance rather than to the General Fund?	X		
Comments: <i>I think revenues generated in a specific sector of our state need to first address needs in that sector.</i>				
Transportation	CT is one of the 10 states most dependent on federal funds as a percentage of their transportation expenditures. More than half of the states and localities have moved forward on increasing their funding share. Do you favor this and how might we do it in CT?	X		

Comments: While I hate the idea of bringing back tolls to Connecticut, I think it is probably necessary in order to provide revenue to address our crumbling transportation infrastructure. I would support an EZPass type of system with the toll revenues going into the transportation fund.			
Property Tax Reform	CT's property tax burdens small towns, strangles cities, undermines mass transit and drives sprawl. Would you be an advocate on behalf of the environment in the tax reform debate, especially with regards to property tax?	X	
Comments: Property tax reform is one of my key priorities. I think property taxes are a very regressive way to fund municipal expenses like public schools. It is a huge burden on seniors who's income declines when they retire and it also burdens corporations since it is not tied to profits. Property taxes also distort land development decisions to the detriment of our communities. I will work to reform our property tax system to bring it in line with what many other states are doing.			

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Question</i>	Support	Uncertain	Oppose
Pesticides	The American Academy of Pediatrics and many other science and medical institutions have warned that pesticides (including herbicides) are harmful to human and ecological health. CT has a ban on use of lawn care pesticides on grounds of elementary and middle schools. Would you support legislation to extend this ban to high schools and public parks where children play?	X		
Comments: I think that the health risks of pesticides on our school playgrounds and parks are a hidden danger few parents even consider. I think there are better ways to manage pests and weeds on playgrounds and parks. Organic methods can produce results just as good as chemical methods at comparable cost and with much reduced danger to the health and wellbeing of our citizens.				
Pesticides	Should towns have more authority to limit or guide pesticide applications within their borders, including roadside spraying and applications of pesticides in wetlands and surface water?	X		
Comments: Towns should absolutely have the authority to regulate pesticide use within their borders. State preemption laws have been pushed through the legislature with strong pressure from the chemical industry and these laws are not in the best interest of the citizens in our towns and communities.				
Water Source Protection	CT normally uses decades old data for setting standards and guidance for stormwater management. Would you support requiring the state to upgrade its standards using scientifically validated, up-to-date statistics on volumes of water associated with extreme storms and annual precipitation?	X		
Comments: It makes absolutely no sense to base current regulations on out-dated information.				
Microbeads	Many personal care products such as shampoos and toothpaste are being manufactured using tiny plastic microbeads. Once microbeads are washed down the drain, they can enter lakes, rivers, and eventually the ocean through sewage overflows or pass through sewage treatment plants. Microbeads, like other plastics, can absorb toxic chemicals. They can be mistaken for food by aquatic life and can be passed up the food chain to larger fish, wildlife, and humans. Would you support legislation to protect our waterways from this new environmental threat?	X		
Comments: I would definitely support a ban on the manufacture and sale of products containing microbeads. The hazards to the environment far outweigh the benefits of using these materials in personal care products. Other states are already doing this and Connecticut needs to get on board this effort.				
Conservation Lands	Would you support passing a state Constitutional Amendment to better protect state conservation lands from being given away for non-conservation purposes?	X		

Comments: State conservation lands are an invaluable treasure that must be preserved for generations to come. Current statues do not go far enough in protecting these treasures. We must do more and I will support these efforts.			
Energy	Would you support policies or legislation to protect and expand the state's cost-effective energy efficiency programs opposing any attempts to raid the CT Energy Efficiency Fund for state budgetary needs?	X	
Comments: Energy efficiency and conservation is the low-hanging fruit in the battle against air pollution, global warming and escalating costs of energy in Connecticut. It is clearly shortsighted to take money away from these programs for short-term budgetary considerations.			
Energy	While other states promote shared net metering and sub metering for solar, fuel cell and other distributed renewable sources, CT imposes regulatory barriers that effectively prevent development of these projects in our state. Would you support legislation that removes these barriers and enable clean renewable distributed generation to move forward?	X	
Comments: Sustainable energy planning is high on my list of priorities. We must support the expansion of distributed, renewable energy sources wherever we can.			
Toxins	Would you support legislation that requires the Department of Public Health to identify chemicals of high concern to children, manufacturer disclosure of those chemicals and a process for recommendations to reduce exposure?	X	
Comments: Our children are extremely vulnerable to chemical toxicity. Clearly it is in everyone's interest to identify toxins, require labeling and work to reduce their use and our children's exposure to these chemicals.			



Part 2: What environmental issue has lacked the attention in Connecticut that it deserves? As a legislator, what will you do to change that? *I think sustainable energy has not gotten enough attention. Connecticut is focusing too much attention on spreading access to cheap natural gas as a way to reduce energy costs. I think this will turn out to be a false solution that will ultimately fail to reduce costs while at the same time endangering our environment further. We need to incentivize the development of renewable, distributed energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydro as a way to reduce costs, improve reliability, and reduce greenhouse gases. As a legislator, I will try to educate my fellow representatives on the benefits of renewable energy and the hazards of continued reliance on fossil fuels.*

Part 3: What are the environmental priorities in your district? *I would say that the priorities in my district revolve around preservation of open space and the preservation of the Pequonnock watershed. The extension of the Rail-to-Trails link from Monroe down to Bridgeport is also a key objective. Also a desire for better regional and coordinated planning of land development.*

**Part 4: If you are elected, what would be your top environmental priorities for the 2014 legislative session?
Please identify up to three and rank the three in order 1, 2, or 3:**

- Parks
- 3 Transportation
- Pesticides
- Water Source Protection
- Microbeads
- Conservation Lands
- 2 Energy
- Toxins
- 1 Property Tax Reform
- Other (please explain)

Comments: *Environmental issues have long been a primary focus of mine. I have worked at the grassroots level to raise awareness of climate change, oppose the spread of fracking and encourage the move to renewable sources of energy. As the Executive Producer of the Public Access and YouTube show Stream of Conscience, I have worked to highlight issues like GMO Labeling, the hazards of fracking, and the dangers of pesticides in our parks and playgrounds. You can view some of these shows at the following links. I look forward to working with the CTLCV on environmental initiatives if I am elected to the General Assembly.*

Channel URL: <https://www.youtube.com/user/DFATVnet>

GMO Labeling: <http://youtu.be/bsRBOjUsb8s?list=UUXtUQQ2ZHpQFL7Jgm4JFTTg>

<http://youtu.be/PNsUmH3Toy0?list=PLA2B120FCA7D1225B>

Pesticides: <http://youtu.be/hHXC5AnvkRk?list=UUXtUQQ2ZHpQFL7Jgm4JFTTg>

Pesticides and Outdoor Wood Furnaces: <http://youtu.be/mA-QIY57-yo?list=UUXtUQQ2ZHpQFL7Jgm4JFTTg>

Fracking: http://youtu.be/Di_827I_s7M?list=UUXtUQQ2ZHpQFL7Jgm4JFTTg

<http://youtu.be/NKm6KXQrU5w?list=UUXtUQQ2ZHpQFL7Jgm4JFTTg>