

# 2012 Candidate Survey



- Email your completed survey to: [elections@ctlc.org](mailto:elections@ctlc.org)
- Please attach a biography
- Please complete this survey by July 1, 2012. Thank you!

Candidate Name: Michael J. Renzullo

Running for:  House  Senate      District No: 63      Party: Democrat

Candidate/Campaign Mailing Address: P.O. Box 245 Winsted, CT 06098

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Are you enrolled in the Citizen's Election Fund for public campaign financing?   Yes  No  
 Do you have a primary?   Yes  No  
 Are you an incumbent?  Yes  No

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

Topic	Question	Support	Uncertain	Oppose
<b>1. DEEP Operations (funding)</b> <small>(Click <a href="#">Here</a> for more information)</small>	Currently, all revenues collected by CT DEEP through permits, licenses, and admissions fees go to the General Fund and do not support DEEP operations. Would you support creation or re-institution of a fund within DEEP that enabled it to recoup revenues from hunting permits, special licenses, parks admissions, etc.?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Comments:</b> Frankly, I need to learn more about what is currently in place. Certainly, DEEP needs funding to operate, but where it comes from, and whether or not a change is justified, I simply can't say at this point. When the issue comes up, I will consider it carefully.				
<b>2. Transportation and Mass Transit.</b> <small>(Click <a href="#">Here</a> for more information)</small>	Would you support policies or legislation to promote transit-oriented development that focuses growth and dense development around transit stations while respecting the unique character of each of our 169 cities and towns?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Comments:</b> Mass transit is one of my key interests for our district. Winsted and Torrington used to have trolleys, and Winsted was once a crossroads for the railroad going to New York, Boston, Hartford, and Albany. My dream is to restore rail to the 63 <sup>rd</sup> , and increase other local public transportation as well.				

Topic	Question	Support	Uncertain	Oppose
<b>3. Riverfront Protection</b> (Click <a href="#">Here</a> for more information)	Would you support a statewide system of protective vegetated buffers along the state's rivers and streams (with exemptions for built-up areas, agriculture and other special situations)?	√		
<b>Comments:</b> Yes, with the exception, as you point out, of built up areas, like Winsted and Torrington, where some development and river access is appropriate. Also, in an effort to produce as much electricity as possible from renewable sources, I do support certain well planned, responsible, micro-hydro projects.				
<b>4. Pesticides Rollback</b> (Click <a href="#">Here</a> for more information)	Would you support and protect the current ban on toxic pesticides on school grounds?	√		
<b>Comments:</b> Is that really a serious question? Who would want pesticides on school grounds? Or herbicides, or any toxic materials for that matter...				
<b>5. Pharmaceutical Disposal</b> (Click <a href="#">Here</a> for more information)	Would you support a statewide program that allows Connecticut's residents to have a safe and secure place to dispose of unused pharmaceutical drugs?	√		
<b>Comments:</b> If it doesn't get disposed of properly, it goes down the toilet or into the landfill, and then into the environment.				
<b>6. GMO Labeling</b> (Click <a href="#">Here</a> for more information)	Would you support mandatory labeling of genetically engineered foods, also known as GMO?	√		
<b>Comments:</b> Absolutely! I grow my own food (as much as possible), and I raise chickens (free range mostly). What I grow, for the most part, are heirloom varieties. I would also like to institute programs where school kids get involved with the growing of their own food, at various levels, right on the school grounds, as part of the curriculum, What they grow is then used in the school lunches, not only teaching kids the entire cycle, but resulting in much healthier diets and kids.				
<b>7. Mattress Recycling</b> (Click <a href="#">Here</a> for more information)	Would you support requiring manufactures to create a system for mattress-component recycling similar to the systems for recycling electric waste and the unused paint?	√		
<b>Comments:</b> Every industry should take steps to increase efficiency and decrease waste. What waste there is needs to be recycled if possible, or if not, then disposed of properly.				
<b>8. Water Conservation</b> (Click <a href="#">Here</a> for more information)	Would you support efficient use and planning of water supplies by providing incentives for utilities to encourage water conservation through ratemaking mechanisms?		√	
<b>Comments:</b> It depends on the proposal. I would have to consider it when it was presented.				
<b>9. Toxics (children)</b> (Click <a href="#">Here</a> for more information)	Would you support legislation that creates a process that identifies chemicals of high concern to children and makes recommendations how to reduce their exposure?		√	
<b>Comments:</b>				
<b>10. Community Redevelopment and Conservation Act (CRCA)</b> (Click <a href="#">Here</a> for more information)	Would you support an optional conveyance tax for municipalities on buyers of real property to be used within the municipality for preservation and conservation of land, air, water, and energy resources?		√	
<b>Comments:</b>				

**Part 2: What environmental issue has lacked the attention in Connecticut that it deserves? As a legislator, what will you do to change that? What are the environmental priorities in your district?**

We have several brownfields sites that need remediation, as well as farmland that is polluted with a variety of agricultural chemicals, such as DDD and DDT, for example, that need attention. Brownfield sites line the rivers in Winsted and Torrington, a remnant of our former manufacturing boom. More funds and attention need to be devoted toward making these sites safe for citizens, and reclaiming them as valuable real estate assets.

**Part 3: If you are elected and you could choose only one environmental issue to address, which *ONE* of the following issues would be your priority for the 2013 Legislative Session?**

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DEEP Funding                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Pesticides Rollback     | <input type="checkbox"/> Mattress Recycling | <input type="checkbox"/> CRCA                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation & Mass Transit | <input type="checkbox"/> Pharmaceutical Disposal | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Riverfront Protection                    | <input type="checkbox"/> GMO labeling            | <input type="checkbox"/> Toxics (children)  |  |

**Explain Why:**

The 63<sup>rd</sup> District needs rail service. We used to have rail service from Winsted to the entire country, and we need this to be restored. This will open up the Farmington and Naugatuck river valleys, boosting real estate values, increasing business, and reducing the number of cars on the road. Freight and passenger lines are in use around us – in Torrington, Canaan, Cornwall, Hartford, Waterbury, Wassaic. It would be an easy project to install light rail, linking these lines together. This will put Winsted and Torrington back into the orbit of NYC, Hartford, Danbury, and other population centers, and it will open up employment and travel options for the citizens of our district. It is long overdue.