

2014 Candidate Survey



CONNECTICUT LEAGUE OF
CONSERVATION VOTERS

- 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: Marc Balestracci

Running for: House Senate District No: 38 Party: Democrat

Candidate/Campaign Mailing Address: 11 Hillcrest Drive, Waterford, Connecticut

Phone: 860-917-0395 Website: _____ Email: Balestracci2014@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:				
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: I am open to discussions about raising transportation funds in Connecticut. Whether it be new electronic highway tolls, increased funding from existing revenue or other means. We can find ways to further support our transportation needs by changes to our current tax system in Connecticut. By this I do not mean by raising taxes, but by changes made to those who make high incomes, closing corporate loopholes and ending frivolous spending.				
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: I agree that we need a comprehensive review of our current tax system in Connecticut.				

<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:				
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: The language of this effort would need to be known for me to commit 100% in either direction. I am open to the idea.				
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:				
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: As these microbeads may be in so many everyday products, the language of any such proposed legislation would need to be known for me to commit in either direction on this topic.				
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:				

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	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:				
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:				



Part 2: **What environmental issue has lacked the attention in Connecticut that it deserves? As a legislator, what will you do to change that?** Shoreline protection. Those communities directly on the shore have seen the destruction caused by recent storms. We need to work to bring this issue to the forefront and ensure that we are prepared for future storms. Better planning, better building and allocating the proper resources to the shore can make a significant impact.

Part 3: **What are the environmental priorities in your district?** Obviously, being home to a nuclear power plant is a priority in Waterford. Ensuring safe operation and safe storage of spent fuel is a priority of the district as its effects could go far beyond the immediate area. Another concern is preserving the shoreline from further damage or deterioration. Recent storms have shown the vulnerability of this area and this too is a priority of my district.

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:**

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

Comments: