

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: ctlcvt@ctlcvt.org

Candidate Name: <u>David Baram</u>		
Running for: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> House <input type="checkbox"/> Senate	District No: <u>15</u>	Party: <u>Democrat</u>
Candidate/Campaign Mailing Address: <u>5 Warbler Circle, Bloomfield, CT 06002</u>		
Phone: <u>860-243-3041</u>	Website: <u>-----</u>	Email: <u>baram4@aol.com</u>
Are you enrolled in the Citizen's Election Fund for public campaign financing? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Do you have a primary? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Are you an incumbent? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		

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.

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Question</i>	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: We should have dedicated funding to assist with park operations.				
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: We need to allocate more money for transportation and stop raiding our special transportation fund. We might also have to consider an increase in revenue. I would like to explore tolls on Connecticut's major highways, with a deduction for CT residents.				
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: Yes, property tax reform could include credits for smart growth and transportation accessibility.				

<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: This is a natural extension of our existing law and makes sense.				
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 not be able to circumvent state law governing pesticides, but should be able to pass ordinances for stricter regulation.				
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: I don't know much about this issue but the question's proposition sounds reasonable if such microbeads are posing an hazard.				
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: Yes, but it might be a lot easier to pass a state statute regulating deed language to prohibit breach of original intent.				
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: We need to stop raiding our dedicated funds established to achieve results for so many of our goals including this one.				
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: We definitely need transparency in disclosure of harmful 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 would like to see us purchase more open space, by funding programs to purchase open space in partnership with our municipalities, programs to buy development rights, and revenue to assist local land trusts in the purchase and maintenance of open space.

Part 3: What are the environmental priorities in your district? In addition to open space preservation, a big concern is making new energy resources available that are "clean" and lower the cost to consumers such as natural gas, wind and solar. Ridgeline regulations for towers and development together with

enforcement and education of wetland preservation are important local issues.

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

Comments: It is difficult to prioritize the above issues as they are all important. But energy is a significant issue to my constituents along with transportation and pesticides.