

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: ctlcvc@ctlcvc.org

Candidate Name: Danté Bartolomeo

Running for: House Senate District No: 13 Party: Democrat

Candidate/Campaign Mailing Address: 167 Reynolds Drive, Meriden CT06450

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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

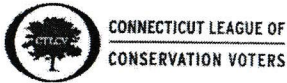
Part 1: If elected, what position do you expect to take on the following environmental issues?
Please mark boxes named "Support," "Uncertain," and "Oppose" with an x.

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've seen the need locally, in the town of Middlefield when working to address issues at Wadsworth Falls which required signage and enforcement. It makes sense to keep the funds generated from Parks and forest within the same system. However, I would have to know how, with the looming deficit whether this is yet possible.				
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?			

<p>Comments: With federal transportation funds on the decline, I believe we must look into more programmatic changes such as tolls in our state. I believe if given the choice voters would prefer tolls to an increase in the gas tax. I do not currently serve on the Transportation Committee so I would have to learn more regarding past concerns with tolls.</p>			
<p>Property Tax Reform</p>	<p>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?</p>		
<p>Comments: If the state were to fulfil its obligation to funding education less property tax revenue would need to be spent on education locally, therefore allowing the state to use the money of other valuable resources, including the environment. I have been vocal supporter of environmental issues in the past and will continue.</p>			

Topic	Question	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?			
<p>Comments: Absolutely. I worked extremely hard last year as the Chair of the Children's Committee which sponsored the legislation banning pesticides on all school grounds. I plan on working with Dr. Lu and members of the Environment Committee towards a full ban on school grounds again next session and would vote in favor of a ban in public parks and children's play areas.</p>				
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?			
<p>Comments: I would like to see towns limit pesticide application within their borders, however, it is my experience that municipalities have resisted our efforts to limit pesticides as they feel organic treatments are too costly.</p>				
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?			
<p>Comments: I encourage basing our policy decisions on the most up-to date, scientifically validated research data. However, if the use of these standards requires municipalities to upgrade their systems, I would take that into consideration also.</p>				
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?			
<p>Comments: Yes</p>				
Conservation Lands	Would you support passing a state Constitutional Amendment to better protect state conservation lands from being given away for non-conservation purposes?			

<p>Comments: Generally, I do not support the state giving away state conservation lands for non-conservation purposes but am interested in understanding why the league feels a constitutional amendment is necessary.</p>			
<p>Energy</p>	<p>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?</p>		
<p>Comments: As Chair of Housing supported HB 5133</p>			
<p>Energy</p>	<p>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?</p>		
<p>Comments: Yes</p>			
<p>Toxins</p>	<p>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?</p>		
<p>Comments: Yes. In the Children's Committee we raised bill 5354- AAC Chemicals of High Concern to Children and I was also prepared to support Public Health's bill – 126 AAC Children's Exposure to Chemicals</p>			



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

Pesticides on School Grounds. High school is very important do the students' human development, such as a females endocrine system during these years

Part 3: What are the environmental priorities in your district?

In Middlefield they have been struggling with ways to combat the invasive species in Lake Besek.

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
- Transportation
- Pesticides
- Water Source Protection

Microbeads
Conservation Lands

Energy

Toxins

Property Tax Reform

Other (please explain)

Comments: