

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: David Bedell

Running for: House Senate District No: 125 Party: Green

Candidate/Campaign Mailing Address: 116 New Norwalk Rd, New Canaan, CT 06840

Phone: 203-581-3193 Website: www.ctgreenparty.org Email: dbedellgreen@hotmail.com

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

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: First, dedicated funds such as the Transportation Fund and the Energy Efficiency Fund should be used only for their stated purposes, not turned over to the General Fund. Second, we may need to re-evaluate the gasoline tax and the tax exemptions on SUVs and minivans in order to create a fairer system. Heavy users of our roads and heavy polluters should pay more for their impact.

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		
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Comments: I support legislation enabling all towns to implement Land Value Tax as an alternative to traditional property tax. (It is currently permitted only in New London.)

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?	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:				
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: The recent sewage runoff into Stamford harbor shows that current management measures are inadequate.				
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:				
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: CT should use NY and MA constitutional amendments as a model. There should be no more deals like the Haddam Land Swap.				

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?

The health and environmental hazards of nuclear power need more attention. I will work to improve the safety of Millstone Nuclear Power Plant in the short term and replace it with safer, cleaner sources of energy in the long term. I will also work with NY state officials to phase out the Indian Point Nuclear Plant. Another issue that has been neglected during CT's transition to natural gas is the impact of hydraulic fracturing (fracking)—even if the gas is not extracted in CT, we need to take account of the human and environmental health costs of gas.

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

Besides its proximity to Indian Point Nuclear Plant, my district suffers from traffic congestion due to the number of automobile commuters. We need to improve service on Metro-North RR, make bus transit more convenient, and adopt planning strategies that encourage bicycle and pedestrian traffic.

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
- 2 Transportation
- ___ Pesticides

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

Comments: