

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: Steve Cassano

Running for: House Senate District No: 4 Party: Democrat

Candidate/Campaign Mailing Address: Po Box 2124, Manchester, CT 06045

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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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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? <u>100% of FUEL TAX REVENUES SHOULD BE USED FOR TRANSPORTATION</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:				
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?			

Comments: WE ARE SPENDING \$400,000 TO COMPLETE A TWO YEAR REVIEW OF OUR ENTIRE TAX STRUCTURE. ~~HOW~~ I WOULD HOPE THAT SMALL BUSINESSES AND PROPERTY TAX PAYERS WOULD GET RELIEF AND THE STRUCTURE OF FUTURE TAXES WOULD BE MORE INCOME BASED.

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?		✓	
Comments: I WOULD HOPE THAT CERTAIN CHEMICALS CAN STILL BE USED TO KEEP FIELDS SAFE. I BELIEVE MORE CHILDREN ARE IMPACTED BY HOME LAWN SERVICE				
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?			
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?	✓		
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?		✓	
Comments: NOT FAMILIAR WITH THIS - AND HOW WE COULD PASS EFFECTIVE LEGISLATION. I LIKE CLEAN TEETH AND A CLEAN BODY				
Conservation Lands	Would you support passing a state Constitutional Amendment to better protect state conservation lands from being given away for non-conservation purposes?	✓		
Comments: THE STATE IS A BIGGER THREAT HERE THAN THE PRIVATE SECTOR. IT WILL TAKE YEARS TO DO AN AMENDMENT. MAYBE EASIER TO REQUIRE 75% OF BOTH HOUSES TO APPROVE AND SUCH TRANSFER!				

S THAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS USE PESTICIDE

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?	✓		
Comments: I HAVE SUPPORTED SEVERAL TO DATE.				
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?		✓	
Comments: WOULD NEED TO HAVE MUCH MORE INFO TO GIVE YOU AN HONEST ANSWER AS I AM NOT FAMILIAR WITH THESE APPROACHES.				
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?	✓		
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?**
 FOREST PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT. FUND DEEP'S FOREST DIVISION SO THEY CAN DO WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE. AS MAYOR OF MANCHESTER WE ESTABLISHED THAT POLICY WITH OUR WTS DEPARTMENTS AND OUR RESERVOIRS CLEARLY HAVE BEEN WELL MANAGED AND ACCESSIBLE TO RESIDENTS
- Part 3: What are the environmental priorities in your district?**
 CLEAN WATER, PARTICULARLY OUR LAKES, WHICH ARE SUFFERING FROM MULTIPLE ALGAE PROBLEMS - CLEAN AIR AS MANY OF OUR RESIDENTS ARE IMPACTED BY OUTSIDE WOOD BURNING STOVES.
- 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
- Conservation Lands
- 3 Energy
- Toxins
- 1 Property Tax Reform

IF THESE THREE AREAS ARE FUNDED PROPERLY ALL OF THE OTHER AREAS WILL BE DIRECTLY IMPACTED IN POSITIVE WAYS