

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: Susan Johnson

Running for: XHouse Senate District No:49 Party: Democrat

Candidate/Campaign Mailing Address: 120 Bolivia Street, Willimantic, CT 06226

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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 x No _____

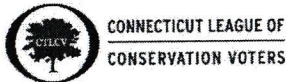
Part 1: If elected, what position do you expect to take on the following environmental issues?
Please mark boxes named "Support," "Uncertain," and "Oppose" with an x.

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: Our economic times are improving. We should look to improving the condition of our parks and recreational areas by providing more financial support.				
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 must look to providing more support for our rail systems. Better rail will encourage more businesses to locate or stay in CT. When our freight rail is cost effective it will help pay for our passenger rail. We should analyze why our transit districts are not coordinating services so they can expand access to and from different areas of the state.			
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: More regionalization and coordination of transit districts, school districts and other local government functions will help reduce our property tax burden.			

<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: As Chairman of Public Health and a member of the Education Committee I supported the pesticide ban on high school grounds and public parks. We must do a better job of educating our local officials regarding this issue. They simply know very little about organic practices because they are taught only about the pesticides that are created by the chemical companies. After listening to the testimony and committee debate I am convinced that more analysis must be taught to our communities. This might include a cooperative forum with LCV and CCM.				
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: I was a proud supporter of this sessions Water Plan legislation.				
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: I support the theory but I would have to see the language before I can really commit.				
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: As our economy improves I will continue to support these initiatives.				
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: I worked hard to promote this legislation during my time as Public Health Chairman this last legislative cycle.				



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

Mass transit development is the biggest environmental issue facing our state and our region. If we fix our rail systems we will expand our economy and improve our water and air quality. Repair of rail is good for 100 years. Repair of our highway system must be done every 5 to 6 years. Northeastern states have been left out or rail improvement systems. Compare us with the Southeastern rail systems or the rail systems in the west and we are far behind. I have been working locally to address this regional issue, by coordinating my efforts with other legislators and elected officials in our region.

Part 3: What are the environmental priorities in your district? Clean up the superfund site located in the old Thread Mills area. I worked on changing legislation to facilitate this cleanup. Also, I worked with EPA to help find the responsible party. EPA is now cleaning up the site. Once that is complete the area should have the brownfields cleanup started.

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

Comments: Of course all of the above items are important to our quality of life. I will work hard on any one or all of those issue and try and see which ones have the best chance to become law.

As you can see from my remarks mass transit and rail are very important to my district. I have two rail lines that go through my district. If they become functional my district will do much better. For now we are isolated with no way out except by car and a few limited bus routes in the eastern Connecticut region.