

# 2014 Candidate Survey

- 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](mailto:ctlcvt@ctlcvt.org)

Candidate Name: Matthew Lesser

Running for:  House  Senate

District No: 100

Party: Democratic / Working Families

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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: |   |         |           |        |

|  |  |   |  |  |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| <b>Transportation</b>  | 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: The federal Highway Trust Fund is insolvent. We need to explore other options of local funding, including revenue options to maintain critical infrastructure, invest in mass transit and innovative transportation options. |  |   |  |  |
| <b>Property Tax Reform</b>   | 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:  |  |   |  |  |

| <i>Topic</i>                   | <i>Question</i>   | Support | Uncertain | Oppose |
|--------------------------------|---|---------|-----------|--------|
| <b>Pesticides</b>              | 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:                      |   |         |           |        |
| <b>Pesticides</b>              | 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:                      |   |         |           |        |
| <b>Water Source Protection</b> | 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:                      |   |         |           |        |
| <b>Microbeads</b>              | 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       |           |        |

|  |  |                                     |                                     |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Comments:</b>   |  |                                     |                                     |
| <b>Conservation Lands</b>  | Would you support passing a state Constitutional Amendment to better protect state conservation lands from being given away for non-conservation purposes?   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Comments:</b> I support the concept but would need to consider the proposal in greater detail. I'm concerned that this might have the perverse effect of discouraging future administrations from determining that state lands have conservation value, which could actually encourage development. |  |                                     |                                     |
| <b>Energy</b>  | 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?   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| <b>Comments:</b>   |  |                                     |                                     |
| <b>Energy</b>  | 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? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| <b>Comments:</b>   |  |                                     |                                     |
| <b>Toxins</b>  | 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?  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| <b>Comments:</b>   |  |                                     |                                     |



**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 need to get cars off the roads -- critical underinvestment in transit alternatives.

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

The Connecticut River, open space protection and mass transit.

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

**Comments:**