

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: James McGovern

Running for: House Senate District No: 15 Party: Republican

Candidate/Campaign Mailing Address: 25 Diana Drive, Bloomfield CT 06002

Phone: 860.242.1050 Website: www.mcgovernforct.com Email: elect@mcgovernforct.com

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

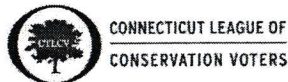
Part 1: If elected, what position do you expect to take on the following environmental issues?
Please mark boxes named "Support," "Uncertain," and "Oppose" with an x.

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: The general fund has been misused. Having separate funding buckets for education, highways and parks/forests provides a level of discipline that benefits not only the environment but the people of CT at large.				
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:				
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: I am a big supporter of mass transit especially trains and support the expansion of Metro North. Much of the property tax challenges municipalities suffer from are a result of unfunded state mandates. Elected officials need to do a better job in ensuring that ideas come with funds.				

<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: I am an organic gardener and don't use pesticides in my own home. Why would I want them at schools where my two children attend.				
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: Yes, towns and their respective wetlands commissions are best positioned for this role				
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:				
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: I believe this issue is important but not well known to the public at large. I would like to see more awareness campaigns and ultimately a labeling standard emerge.				
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: Absolutely. State lands that are set aside for conservation should be used for that purpose till eternity. I would actually like to see an increase in the amount of land set aside for this purpose.				

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: I support fiscal discipline. Raiding one budget to pay for another is wrong. I also support energy efficiency programs. My own home uses heat pumps for both heating/air conditioning as well hot water. Would like to see an expansion.				
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: Yes, this is just plain common sense.				



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 issue of fracking needs to be tackled.

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

Increased homeowner usage of solar.

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
- 1 Energy
- 2 Toxins

3 Property Tax Reform
___ Other (please explain)

Comments: