

2014 Candidate Survey



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- Please complete this survey by August 1, 2014.
- Email your completed survey to: ctlcvt@ctlcvt.org

Candidate Name: Alden Mead

Running for: House Senate District No: 87/North Haven Party: Democratic & Working Families

Candidate/Campaign Mailing Address: Mead for North Haven c/o Stephen Gifford, Treasurer, 230 Clintonville Lane, North Haven, CT 06473

Phone: 203-239-6387 Website: www.facebook.com/MeadNorthHaven Email: aldenmead@comcast.net

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: Revenues from parks and forests should support parks and forests that are in dire need of financial resources				
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		

<p>Comments: I need to become more familiar with this and would appreciate any direction you might give.</p>			
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	
<p>Comments: Yes, and in addition, creative property tax policy can be an incentive to maintain and even develop agricultural, forestry and conservation uses of land.</p>			

<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		
<p>Comments: Yes, if we cant have a liquor store within a certain distance of a school, it stands to reason to a greater degree that there should not be the danger Children being exposed to toxins that are not only out of the bottle, but sprayed in that environment.</p>				
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		
<p>Comments: Of course, towns should not be able to have less regulation than intended by state law and guidelines, but authority to "limit" or "guide" is in a positive direction that build upon and furthers State law and intent for the better.</p>				
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		
<p>Comments: This is common sense and good practice in any field.</p>				
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		
<p>Comments: I believe Microbeads are already banned in Illinois and have been found to be polluting even the Great Lakes. If we recognize the danger of plastic bags we can see, these microbeads are merely little plastic beads that are more insidious because of their invisibility to the eye.</p>				
Conservation Lands	Would you support passing a state Constitutional Amendment to better protect state conservation lands from being given away for non-conservation purposes?	XX		
<p>Comments: Because this would provide the highest level of protection to conservation lands when other protections are not adequate.</p>				

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: The State Energy Efficiency Fund is not meant to be discretionary for other purposes; raiding it is wrong and further legislation can help to protect it more; and perhaps there are creative judicial remedies and paths as well?				
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: Connecticut should not be lagging in this area, but rather a pioneer.				
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 should be a responsibility of the Department of Public Health.				



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

There are, of course, a list. But land conservation and preservation of park and forest land should receive more attention and money. I would look to create State support for projects such as the Quinnipiac Trail and protection of land that goes along that river through a number of towns.

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

- Cleaning along the Quinnipiac River and creating a trail in North Haven. I have been a lifetime member of the North Haven Quinnipiac Trail Association since its founding some years ago.
- Assessing and cleaning toxic chemicals from former industrial sites
- Improving public transportation to provide for less use of private vehicles.

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:

- 3 Parks
- Transportation
- Pesticides

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

Comments:

This is tough because choices are not only based on environmental priorities of these issues alone, all of these being important, but also on each candidates particular experiences, skill sets and background. I made my choices based on all these.