

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: Robert Michalik

Running for: House Senate District No: 31 Party: Democrat

Candidate/Campaign Mailing Address: Michalik 2014, 21 Rambler St., Bristol, CT 06010

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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:				
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: The state can begin by stopping its habit of raiding the Special Transportation Fund to balance the budget. It can also prioritize infrastructure needs in the projects that it bonds.</p>				
<p>Property Tax Reform</p>	<p>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?</p>	<p>X</p>		
<p>Comments: I am a strong proponent of tax reform - particularly reform that decreases our reliance on property taxes to fund local government. Not only is the property tax regressive, but also it also creates a number of perverse incentives that can lead communities to make unfortunate decisions impacting the environment and economic development.</p>				

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?	X		
<p>Comments:</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:</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:</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:</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?		X	
<p>Comments: I am certainly in favor of protecting conservation lands. However, I would need to better understand whether a Constitutional Amendment is truly necessary to do so.</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:				
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:				



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

Until recently, Connecticut has not focused enough on brownfield redevelopment. It wasn't until just this past January that the state hired Tim Sullivan as the first director of the Office of Brownfield Remediation and Development – nearly a decade after the office was created. The legislature needs to ensure that it provides adequate resources and support to Mr. Sullivan and his team. By cleaning up and reusing brownfield sites, not only can we increase jobs and grow the tax base, but also we can decrease pressures on parcels of undeveloped land that would be better off preserved.

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

Brownfield remediation and land preservation, to name two.

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
- 3 Conservation Lands
- Energy
- Toxins
- 1 Property Tax Reform
- Other (please explain)

Comments: