

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: Anthony Ortiz

Running for: House Senate District No: 8 Party: Democrats

Candidate/Campaign Mailing Address: 15 Columbia Landing, Columbia, CT 06237

Phone: (860) 228-3263 Website: _____ Email: anthony.ortiz2@gmail.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

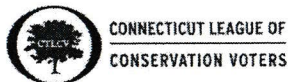
Part 1: If elected, what position do you expect to take on the following environmental issues?
Please mark boxes named "Support," "Uncertain," and "Oppose" with an x.

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 revenue of those who implement the tasks deserve to receive this compensation. For this reason, I support state park and forest revenues going to park and forest operations and maintenance rather than to the General Fund.				
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:			
<p>In reviewing desk research to address this question, I found an article that examines "how property taxes influence land use change decisions of Georgia private landowners." The article, <i>Impacts of property tax on land use change decisions in Georgia</i>, by Li Meng, and Daowei Zhang, found that "state and local governments may have little success utilizing property taxes changes to encourage conservation."</p> <p>With this in mind, Connecticut is not Georgia. Our state is a different geographic location with different population demographics. Thus, we cannot draw direct conclusions from their study. However, their study raises valid findings that we need to examine here in Connecticut on little success utilizing property taxes changes to encourage conservation.</p> <p>For this reason, until we conduct research on the link between property taxes and environmental conversation in Connecticut, I am uncertain on this question.</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		
Comments:				
Yes, I support legislation to extend this ban to high schools and public parks where children play.				
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:				
<p>Yes, towns should have more authority to limit or guide pesticide applications within their borders. Pesticide application needs to be tailored to best match each town.</p> <p>I am from Columbia. We are a small town with an Inland Wetlands Commission. As they are more familiar with Columbia than Connecticut state officials, they are better prepared to safely address roadside spraying and applications of pesticides and their impact in wetlands and surface water.</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		
Comments:				
Yes, definitely! We cannot use decades old data for setting standards and guidance for stormwater management. Our environment changes every day. In using older data, we are not adapting to what needs to be done now.				

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: Yes, I support legislation to protect our waterways from microbeads.				
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: Yes, I support passing a state Constitutional Amendment to better protect state conservation lands from being given away for non-conservation purposes.				
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: Yes, I support policies or legislation to protect and expand the state's cost-effective energy efficiency programs and opposing any attempts to raid the CT Energy Efficiency Fund for state budgetary needs				
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: Yes, I support legislation that removes these barriers and enable clean renewable distributed generation to move forward.				
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, I 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.				



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 many concerns that need more attention in Connecticut. The one that deserves the most attention is waste management. Waste management is most important since it has direct impacts on the local watersheds, rivers, and the Long Island Sound. With this in mind, overall environmental management is more manageable if we have stronger control over the source of the waste – consumers who throw away the waste.

To change this, I will propose stricter guidelines for recycling at town dumps and transfer stations, improved management of nutrients that we use to fertilize our lawns, and tax on plastic bags at grocery stores (this encourages reusable bags).

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

In my district, business and environmental interests are at conflict over the Tankerhoosen River Watershed Management Plan. To strengthen the local economy and Tankerhoosen River Watershed, we need to maintain management of a healthy watershed. For the economy, a watershed management plan that preserves the watershed reduces the costs of water maintenance and increases property values. According to *The Economics of Watershed Protection*, “two regional economic surveys document that conserving forests on residential and commercial sites can enhance property values by an average of six to 15% and increases the rate at which units are sold or leased.” In addition, “coastal wetland areas contribute to the local economy through recreation, fishing and flood protection. Various economists have calculated that each acre of coastal wetland contributes from \$800 to \$9,000 to the local economy.” Thus, the economic benefits are vital to the local economy.

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
- 1 Water Source Protection
- Microbeads
- 2 Conservation Lands
- Energy
- Toxins
- Property Tax Reform

3 Other (please explain)- Balancing environmental management with economic growth. Examples include creating ecotourism throughout the state, create jobs in the field of environmental management, and improving accountability of economic sectors to reduce their negative impact on the environment.

Comments:

As an economist, who specializes in agricultural and resource economics, my goal is to assess the environment and identify ways to maintain preservation and conservation practices that strengthen economic benefits for the local communities. The environment is always the priority for our benefit and the benefits of future generations. For this reason, when we can strike a balance between economic interests and environmental management, everyone wins.