

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: Alex Taubes

Running for: House District No: 101 Party: Democrat

Candidate/Campaign Mailing Address: 60 Wickford Place, Madison, CT 06443

Phone: 2039090048 Website: taubes2014.com Email: alextt@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

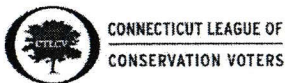
Part 1: If elected, what position do you expect to take on the following environmental issues?
Please mark boxes named "Support," "Uncertain," and "Oppose" with an x.

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:				
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: We should consider new revenues dedicated solely to transportation investments. Transportation investments, however, should be scrutinized for their environmental impacts. New highways or highway lanes, for example, can increase sprawl and congestion, and thus, emissions. Public transportation investments, however, are something that I strongly support.			
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: Absolutely. Overreliance on the property tax, and "fiscal zoning," discourages smart growth by putting municipalities at the whims of developers who are seeking to maximize profit, not consider ecological or conservation concerns. I support efforts to reform the property tax that will encourage the preservation of open space, compact "smart growth" strategies, and mass transit. These are issues that I'm passionate about and are what make me want to run for office.			

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Question</i>	<i>Support</i>	<i>Uncertain</i>	<i>Oppose</i>
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. We should explore banning them entirely.				
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. Again, we need to consider their use throughout the state, because these pesticides could get into the water we drink.				
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: Of course. Representing a coastal community (Madison) and a town with significant floodplain coverage (Durham), these are important issues to me.				

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. We need to consider the consequences of our actions.				
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, as the recent infamous "Haddam Land Swap" incident shows, conservation lands in the state need greater protection.				
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, absolutely.				
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!				
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.				



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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?

Mass transit and "green infrastructure" have been neglected in Connecticut for years. As a legislator, I will

make those issues a priority.

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

Resilience to threats from climate change and extreme weather events; groundwater quality; forest management; we also have one of the largest state parks, Hammonasset State Beach, in our district.

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

Comments:

It's hard to choose three areas that I would make top priorities. I fully believe that the legislature can make progress on the majority of issues listed here in the next few sessions.