

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: Samuel P. Belsito

Running for: House Senate District No: 53 Party: Republican

Candidate/Campaign Mailing Address: 55 Lee Lane Tolland, Ct 06084

Phone: 860-872-4752 Website: _____ Email: tuxking1@msn.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: These are designated funds and should remain within the department where collected. Raiding designated funds has been used for years with no concern for the Department from which collected and should have been used.				
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: Our state has to set priorities in how it spends the Taxpayers Funds. A definitive program has to be worked out as to what issues will be put in the forefront. At this point in time our State is all over the place. Funds are very limited, instead of putting all collections from the Transportation taxes in the General Fund it should remain in the Transportation Fund to be used for transportation.</p>				
Property Tax Reform	<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>	X		
<p>Comments: I am very much in favor of property tax reforms. As with the State Government, most Towns are in runaway mode with no consideration for the Taxpayers. Their only interest is in collecting as much funds as possible. Unfunded mandates should be eliminated, they cause property taxes to increase without any say from the Taxpayers.</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: I firmly believe in a ban of pesticides and herbicides on grounds of elementary , middle schools and high schools. I further want a ban of pesticides and herbicides on "ALL" town and State property.</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: I would like to see a town wide authority to limit or eliminate use of all pesticides and herbicides within the towns and State.</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: I would approve an upgrade of standards in the State of Connecticut. This would upgrade storm water management and bring about great improvements as to how water is handled.</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: These beads are used for filler in the product and add no value to the product for the consumer. If the public was aware of the insert of micro beads the products they would not purchase them. This is all about the bottom line, in this case it is a hurtful situation.</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: As far as I am concerned, once a state conservation land, always a state conservation land. I would support this Constitutional amendment 100%</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: Yes, I would support policies and legislation to stop the Administration of the State from raiding the CT Energy Efficiency Fund. It is time to shut this administration and all administrations down who raid the funds that are for specific purposes.				
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: I would support the legislation that removes these barriers. There is no question about it, these barriers have to be removed and citizens should be rewarded for choosing renewable energy.				
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: I would support this legislation. The Department of Public Health should already be identifying these chemicals. I will support and sponsor legislation on this subject.				



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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? The issue that needs attention is the application of salt on our roadways. An example is the State of Connecticut uses 24 tons of salt per roadway mile. This salt can only go three places, into your soil, into your water or into your neighbor's water down stream. I will propose a law that will limit or eliminate the amount of salt used on our roadways.

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

The main environmental priorities in my opinion are the lack of plans for sewers and water systems.

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:

1. The reduction of the use of salt on all roadways in Connecticut.
2. The elimination of all Pesticides and Herbicides for use in Connecticut.
3. The water source protection should be a top 3 environmental priority.

Parks

Transportation

2 Pesticides

3 Water Source Protection

Microbeads

Conservation Lands

Energy

Toxins

Property Tax Reform

1 Other (please explain) salt used on roadways---it will destroy our water, our most important resource.

Comments: