

2010 Candidate Survey



CONNECTICUT LEAGUE OF
CONSERVATION VOTERS

Thank you for completing CTLCV's 2010 Candidate Survey.

Instructions:

1. **Please complete the survey online.** This copy is for reference or working copy only. Visit www.ctlcv.org/survey for links to the online survey.
2. **Your password** for access to the online survey is in the email message we sent you on June 29, 2010.
3. **Please complete your survey by:**
 - July 9, 2010 if you wish to be considered for early endorsement for the General Election.
 - July 23, 2010 for candidates who are not in a primary.
 - August 13, 2010 for candidates who are in a primary.
4. **Lead versus Support:** Before selecting what role you will play on each issue listed below, please note that:
 - "LEAD" means you will actively advance this issue during the legislative session.
 - "SUPPORT" means you will vote for or co-sponsor the pro-environment position.
5. **If you cannot complete the survey online,** please type your responses into this document, save it to your computer and email it to us at ctlcv@ctlcv.org. You may provide comments on a separate page at the end of this document. We strongly advise all candidates to complete the survey online. If you must complete a *paper* survey, please mail it to us at 553 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105 allowing sufficient time for it to be received by the appropriate date above.

| | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Candidate Name: _____ | | | |
| Seat Running for: | <input type="checkbox"/> House <input type="checkbox"/> Senate | District No: _____ | Party: _____ |
| Candidate/Campaign Mailing Address: _____ | | | |
| Candidate/Campaign Email Address: | _____ | Phone: _____ | Website: _____ |
| Are you enrolled in the Citizen's Election Fund for public campaign financing? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | | | |
| Are you on the ballot in a primary election? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | | | |

Part 1: If elected, what position do you expect to take on the following environmental issues?

| <i>Topic</i> | <i>Question</i> | Lead | Support | Uncertain | Oppose | Comments? |
|---|---|------|---------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| <p>1. DEP Operations</p> | <p>What role will you play in restoring DEP's general operating funds to previous levels?</p> <p>According to a Council on Environmental Quality report, Connecticut's funding allocation for DEP operations is one of the lowest in the nation as measured by percentage of the state's overall budget.</p> | | | | | |
| <p>2. Community Investment Act</p> | <p>What role will you play to maintain current dedicated CIA funding levels?</p> <p>The Community Investment Act (CIA), enacted in 2005 as Public Act 05-228, supports open space, brownfield remediation, dairy farms and farmland, and historic preservation. It is regarded nationally as a model program.</p> <p>For more background here, here and here.</p> | | | | | |
| <p>3. Energy Efficiency Fund</p> | <p>What role will you play in restoring the \$28.7 million per year that is slated to be taken from the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund for eight years?</p> <p>The CT Energy Efficiency Fund is primarily made up of monies collected through a 3/10 of 1 cent per kilowatt hour surcharge on electricity use and yields benefits equivalent to many multiples of that amount. The Energy Efficiency Fund provides energy efficiency services and education products that help consumers save millions of dollars in energy costs, support thousands of jobs here in Connecticut and is the cheapest way for us to achieve the environmental requirements that clean our air and reduce global warming pollution.</p> <p>For more background information, click here and here.</p> | | | | | |
| <p>4. Clean Energy Fund</p> | <p>What role will you play to maintain current dedicated funding levels for the clean energy fund?</p> <p>For more background information, click here and here.</p> | | | | | |

| <i>Topic</i> | <i>Question</i> | Lead | Support | Uncertain | Oppose | Comments? |
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| 5. Medical Waste Disposal | <p>What role will you play in regulating or otherwise controlling the disposal of excess or expired pharmaceuticals to protect our waterways?</p> <p>Despite its alarming consequences to humans and wildlife, the presence of medical waste and pharmaceuticals in our waterways and water supply continues to go unaddressed.</p> <p>For more background information, click here. See also DEP fact sheet.</p> | | | | | |
| 6. Riverfront Protection | <p>What role will you play on a statewide system of protective vegetated buffers along the state's rivers and streams (with exemptions for built up areas and agriculture)?</p> <p>"Runoff" from streets, driveways, parking areas, and yards pollutes Connecticut's rivers and streams. It harms fish and other river inhabitants, plant life and drinking water, and eventually the Long Island Sound. Buffers prevent polluted runoff from entering rivers. Legislation proposed in 2008, 2009 and 2010 would have provided for 100-foot vegetated buffers along rivers and streams statewide, with exemptions for built-up areas, redevelopment and agriculture.</p> <p>For more background information, click here.</p> | | | | | |
| 7. Transportation & Mass Transit | <p>What role will you play in shifting more of Connecticut's transportation funding from highway expansion projects toward transit projects (including bus, rail and light-rail)?</p> <p>Connecticut allocates about 54% of its transportation capital funding to highways and bridges, with nearly 47% of that amount dedicated to expansion projects. In contrast, mass transit projects get about 39% of our transportation capital funding, while bicycle and pedestrian projects get 1.1%.</p> <p>For more background information, click here.</p> | | | | | |
| 8. Inland Wetlands | <p>What position will you play in clarifying the authority of the state's inland wetland commissions with respect to 1) state commitment to</p> | | | | | |

| Topic | Question | Lead | Support | Uncertain | Oppose | Comments? |
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| | <p>protecting wetlands, and 2) the right to consider credible testimony from knowledgeable witnesses in addition to applicants' paid experts?</p> <p>Wetlands provide fish and wildlife habitat, protect water quality, store and recharge our water supply, protect shorelines and control erosion and protect us from floods. Wetland plants and soils naturally store and filter nutrients and sediments. Wetlands soak up water in heavy rains and hold it in the ground. This water can then recharge wells and streams in hot, dry weather. Connecticut has already lost approximately 75 percent of its original wetlands, and the recurring cycles of flood and drought make it clear that we cannot afford to lose any more.</p> <p>More background information is available from EPA, DEP and CACIWC.org.</p> | | | | | |
| <p>9. Community Green Fund</p> | <p>What role will you play on legislation enabling local communities to collect a real estate transfer fee from buyers to create a dedicated "community green fund" for environmental programs (such as brownfield remediation, sewer upgrades, energy conservation, alternative transportation, clean air and water initiatives, and preserving open space, farmland and parks), and create the green jobs associated with implementing them?</p> <p>Many Connecticut communities would like to undertake environmental programs but lack funding for them, except by raising the property tax rate or cutting elsewhere in the budget, neither of which are popular. This new approach would have to be approved by the municipality.</p> <p>For more background information, see page 15 of briefing book and 2009 legislation.</p> | | | | | |
| <p>10. Toxics</p> | <p>What role will you play on additional legislation that enables state agencies to restrict the most harmful chemicals from consumer products, particularly children's products?</p> <p>Public Act 2010-164 created a Chemical Innovations Institute to assist businesses in promoting safer alternatives to toxic chemicals and enhance access to international markets for Connecticut-manufactured products, and put Connecticut at the forefront of green chemistry and clean technology</p> | | | | | |

| Topic | Question | Lead | Support | Uncertain | Oppose | Comments? |
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| | <p>development. However, more remains to be done to get toxics, especially those in children's products, out of the marketplace.</p> <p>For more background information, click here.</p> | | | | | |
| <p>11. Hydropower</p> | <p>The Connecticut Clean Energy Fund's grants for hydropower facilities and most state-owned dams require compliance with Low-Impact Hydropower Institute standards.</p> <p>What role will you play in requiring other new and upgraded hydropower facilities to meet the standards of the Low-Impact Hydropower Institute?</p> <p>For more background information, click here.</p> | | | | | |
| <p>12. Rollbacks and Waivers on Environmental Standards</p> | <p>What role will you play to oppose rollbacks, waivers, and the weakening of Connecticut's existing environmental laws and regulations?</p> <p>Lax regulation and oversight produces the results we see in the Gulf of Mexico, at the Kleen Energy plant, at the West Virginia coal mine explosion, and in the financial industry meltdown that triggered our economic recession. Yet, many business and industry advocates pushed to curtail or eliminate environmental laws and regulations, and weaken the enforcement powers of the DEP in the name of economic progress. The worst was avoided in 2010 through negotiation, but there will be similar battles in 2011.</p> <p>For more background information, click here and here.</p> | | | | | |
| <p>13. Smart Growth & Plans of Conservation & Development</p> | <p>What role would you play regarding state legislation that provides incentives for, or requires, towns to follow smart growth principles in their development decisions?</p> <p>Smart growth principles are aimed at creating sustainable communities through state and local policies.</p> <p>For more background information, click here, here, and here.</p> | | | | | |

| <i>Topic</i> | <i>Question</i> | Lead | Support | Uncertain | Oppose | Comments? |
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| 14. Annual Land Transfer Act | <p>With respect to proposed transfers of state land, what role will you play in requiring any transferee to follow an environmental impact evaluation process comparable to that which the State must follow?</p> <p>State development requirements, guided by the CT Environmental Policy Act, include an Environmental Impact Evaluation, public review, alternative land use options, protection of natural, archeological and cultural resources, and full mitigation of adverse impacts to these resources. Municipalities currently must approve site development plans that conform to the zoning regulations, but none have such a process for environmental protection or mitigation to meet the State's conservation and development goals.</p> <p>For more background information, click here and here.</p> | | | | | |
| 15. Property Tax Reform | <p>What role will you play in legislation to reduce municipal reliance on property taxes?</p> <p>It is widely acknowledged that the extent of our reliance on the property tax to fund municipal government operations contributes to sprawl and unstrategic development. Numerous studies and groups, including CT's Blue Ribbon Commission on Municipal Opportunities and Regional Efficiencies (MORE), have examined alternatives to, and reform of, Connecticut's property tax system to diversify municipal revenue streams.</p> <p>For more background information, click here, here and</p> | | | | | |
| 16. Pesticides | <p>What role will you play in preserving Connecticut's landmark legislation that bans the cosmetic use of lawn care pesticides at schools and day care centers?</p> <p>Pesticides are toxic chemicals that have long lasting effects on our land, water, air, wildlife - - and especially on growing children. In 2005 the Connecticut General Assembly passed landmark legislation banning the cosmetic use of lawn care pesticides at schools grade 8 and under, and also at nursery schools and day care centers. The law was originally slated to take effect in 2008, giving school staff and landscape professionals three years to transition their fields to a more natural turf management scheme.</p> | | | | | |

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| | <p>Various organizations around the state have held training sessions about organic turf management and the CT DEP has produced an informational video on the topic. In response to concerns raised by opponents of the original bill, the general assembly has extended the effective date of this legislation several times. A last minute attempt to reverse the ban failed during the 2010 Session, and the law goes into effect July 1, 2010.</p> <p>For more background information, click here and here.</p> | | | | | |
| 17. Pesticides | <p>What role will you take on legislation that enables cities and towns to control the use of pesticides within their municipal boundaries?</p> <p>Under current law, local municipal governments are prohibited from passing laws to control the use of pesticides on private lands.</p> <p>For more background information, click here.</p> | | | | | |

| Open-Ended Questions | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 18. Energy Policy | How do you think Connecticut's energy policy could be improved to make it more sustainable? |
| 19. Nuclear Energy | What is your position on expanding nuclear energy in Connecticut? Do you support it? Do you oppose it? Why? |

Part 2: If you are elected and you could choose only one environmental issue to address, which *ONE* of the following issues would be your priority for the 2011 Legislative Session?

| Issue | In addition to the role you checked in Part 1, please further describe the role you will take on that issue. |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Land Transfer Act | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clean Energy & Energy Efficiency Funding | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Green Fund | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Investment Act | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DEP Funding | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inland Wetlands | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Waste Disposal | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pesticides | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Property Tax Reform | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Collaboration | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Riverfront Protection | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rollbacks and Waivers on Environmental Standards | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Smart Growth | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toxics | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation & Mass Transit | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other – Is there a different significant environmental issue confronting your constituency? | |

Thank you for completing our survey!