

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: ctlcvt@ctlcvt.org

Candidate Name: David Pinney

Running for: House Senate District No: 52 Party: Democrat

Candidate/Campaign Mailing Address: PO Box 943, Somers CT 06071

Phone: 860-394-9871 Website: www.davepinney.com Email: david.pinney@cox.net

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

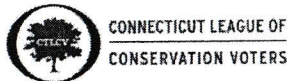
Part 1: If elected, what position do you expect to take on the following environmental issues?
Please mark boxes named "Support," "Uncertain," and "Oppose" with an x.

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: Connecticut already has a relatively high tax and fee structure tied to retail gas pricing; we need to commit more of this to transportation infrastructure support. Projects like the busway to New Britain can help people get to work while living in already developed areas. These projects need to take higher priority in state bonding efforts.</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: As First Selectman of Somers, I became quite familiar with the negatives associated with such a heavy reliance on local property tax. I would work to shift more of that burden to an income-based approach to funding state and local budgets.</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:				
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:				
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:				
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:				
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:				

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:				



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

While enthusiasm for local agriculture is growing, I don't believe there is enough realization of the environmental benefits that come from supporting economically viable farms as a means of keeping land in productive use and less susceptible to development. I would work to expand the infrastructure and options for small farms to bring an increasing variety of plant and animal based agricultural products to market.

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

Preserving open space; supporting working farms; protecting water quality

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

- Conservation Lands
- 1 Energy
- Toxins
- Property Tax Reform
- 3 Other (please explain) expanding and more precisely targeting support for local working farmers to develop an ever-increasing array of financially viable products

Comments:

In regard to energy, my goal would be to support continued and expanded efforts for private and public projects converting to renewable energy sources, primarily solar.