



## **2020 Candidate Feedback Form**

Since 2003, Conservation Voters of South Carolina has worked to protect the air, land, and water of South Carolina through bipartisan and pragmatic political action. Our PAC supports candidates for office that are dedicated to conservation values and legislation that protects the South Carolina we love.

This feedback form is designed to help us understand your views regarding some of the most important conservation issues our state faces. Feedback form responses, past conservation record(s), and candidate viability will all be taken into strong consideration regarding potential endorsement by CVSC PAC. Typically candidates will not be endorsed by CVSC PAC without completion of this form or an interview with CVSC staff.

CVSC and our partners know that South Carolina voters will make clean energy and conservation a priority voting issue in 2020. Candidate positions on issues such as protecting public health, building a clean energy future, and protecting the places that make SC unique will help voters decide how to cast their ballots this election.

We recognize the varying dynamics in districts across South Carolina and, as such, will not publicize responses without approval from candidates. For candidates choosing not to respond, CVSC PAC may note this in our public materials.

Again, thank you for taking the time to respond. You are welcome to attach a statement to provide additional specifics for any of these questions.

For more information or to submit your form please email John Tynan at [john@cvsc.org](mailto:john@cvsc.org). To learn more about CVSC, please visit [www.cvsc.org](http://www.cvsc.org)

## Background

*Please include a copy of your most current resume or bio*

Candidate Name	
District	
Party Affiliation	
Occupation	
Campaign Address	
Campaign Website	
Phone	
Campaign Manager	

### Previous Elections

Have you ever run before? If so, which office(s) and what was the outcome(s)?	
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### Campaign Logistics

Do you accept PAC donations?

Yes	
No	
Unsure	

Additional Comments:

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How much have you currently fundraised?

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## Issues

What are the three top issues facing the people of your district?

1.
2.
3.

**1. In your opinion, what is the most pressing conservation issue facing South Carolina?**

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**2. Offshore Drilling:** Do you support drilling for oil and gas off of South Carolina's coast?

Yes	
No	
See Comments	

Comments:

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**3. Clean Energy:** The VC Summer nuclear debacle has made it clear that energy decision-making in South Carolina is flawed and that South Carolina lacks a long-term vision for our energy future. For the last 10 years, South Carolina has pursued a strategy to put all of its "energy eggs in the nuclear basket," with recent developments showing the perils of this undiversified strategy. Clean and renewable energy can act as a hedge against price volatility in the electric sector, keeping bills low for ratepayers, creating clean energy jobs in SC, and reducing reliance on fuels from unstable foreign countries.

CVSC is committed to a clean energy future for South Carolina. In 2014 and 2019, South Carolina passed legislation to expand the solar energy and inject competition into the energy marketplace in South Carolina. However, barriers still remain to taking advantage of solar and other renewable energy sources.

**Do you support growing South Carolina's solar industry and supporting other clean energy sources such as wind power and energy efficiency?**

Yes	
No	
See Comments	

Comments:

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**4. Clean Energy:** In multiple polls, CVSC has found that voters support bold clean energy policies and goals for South Carolina by a 2-to-1 margin. Voters know that clean energy growth and energy competition lowers power bills, reduces air and water pollution, and creates jobs – a win-win-win for our state.

**Will you support bold clean energy goals for South Carolina like transitioning to 100% clean energy by 2050?**

Yes	
No	
See Comments	

Comments:

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**5. Land Protection:** South Carolina is blessed with an abundance of unique properties and iconic landscapes that make our state special. Recognizing the value to our quality of life, air and water quality, and economic development, state leaders have long invested in both public and private land protection through programs and agencies like the SC Conservation Bank. The Conservation Bank is a state agency that uses a voluntary and competitive grants process to protect a mix of public and private properties like farmland, urban parks, wetlands, and historic places. Over the last 15 years, the Conservation Bank has protected over 300,000 acres as part of its mission.

**Do you support state investment in public and private land protection through initiatives like the Conservation Bank?**

Yes	
No	
See Comments	

Comments:

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**6. Land Protection:** Rapid land development has affected the health of our state's waterways and has led to the loss of forestlands, farmlands, wildlife habitat, beaches and public areas for outdoor recreation. Experts have recommended protecting significant amounts of land and ocean to prevent future degradation of our natural resources, economy, and wildlife. Currently South Carolina has protected 12% of its area.

**Do you support a conservation vision for South Carolina that seeks to protect 30% of the State by 2030?**

Yes	
No	
See Comments	

Comments:

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**7. Water Protection:** Water touches our lives in a wide range of ways – from every glass of water we drink, to the places we fish and swim, to the irrigated vegetables we eat, to the

products we use made with water. Clean water and healthy rivers for all uses ensures that each of these activities are maintained.

**Will you commit to supporting efforts that seek to protect and improve the quality and quantity of our water resources, balancing human and environmental needs without contributing to sprawl or overuse?**

Yes	
No	
See Comments	

Comments:

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**8. Water Quality:** Will you work to reduce pollution in our rivers, lakes, and other drinking water sources?

Yes	
No	
See Comments	

Comments:

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**9. Citizens' Rights to a Clean Environment:** The permitting process is a long and complicated process that allows limited amounts of legal degradation of our air, land, and water to occur. Through the existing permitting processes, less than 1% of permits granted in South Carolina are appealed or challenged. These permit appeals typically occur for the projects with the most egregious and damaging environmental impacts. Recently, however, there have been numerous efforts strip the rights of citizens to engage in the public permitting process and limit individuals' access to the permitting process.

**Do you support the existing provisions of state law that protect citizens' rights to engage in permitting and decision-making processes, especially when proposed projects impact quality of life and harm the environment?**

Yes	
No	
See Comments	

Comments:

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**10. Citizens' Rights to a Clean Environment:** Will you support efforts to restore protections or establish new protections to ensure all citizens' have reasonable and timely access to participate and influence the decisions that affect the health of their community and the environment?

Yes	
No	
See Comments	

Comments:

**11. Conservation and Development:** As South Carolina continues to grow and prosper, we seek to balance development with the protection of natural resources that provide the quality of life that fuels our state's prosperity.

**What are your views on the balance between the development and use of our natural resources with their conservation and protection?**

**12. Impacts of a Changing Climate:** What are your views on climate change and its impacts on South Carolina (sea-level rise, flooding, hurricanes, etc)?

**Thank you!**