



2022 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 who support 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 consideration regarding potential endorsement by CVSC. Typically candidates will not be endorsed by CVSC without completing this form or an interview with CVSC staff.

CVSC knows that South Carolina voters will make clean energy and conservation a priority voting issue in 2022. 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 regarding any of these questions.

For more information or to submit your form, please email John Tynan at john@cvsc.org. To learn more about CVSC, please visit 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. Clean Energy: The VC Summer nuclear debacle exposed flaws in South Carolina’s energy decision-making processes and showed that our state lacked a long-term vision for our energy future. Prior to VC Summer, South Carolina put all of its “energy eggs in the nuclear basket.” Now there is discussion of pursuing this same strategy for natural gas, despite the volatility of natural gas prices and associated risks from fuel price spikes. 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.

In 2014 and 2019, South Carolina passed legislation to expand the clean energy industry and inject competition into the energy marketplace in South Carolina. However, barriers still remain for South Carolina to take full advantage of solar and other renewable energy sources.

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.

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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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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3. 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, State Parks, and DNR. Recently, Governor McMaster and members in the General Assembly have called on state leaders to advance a bold vision for land protection and take steps to double the amount of protected land and water in South Carolina – protecting an additional 3 million acres.

Do you support adopting and implementing a conservation vision for South Carolina that doubles the amount of protected land and water in our state?

Yes	
No	
See Comments	

Comments:

Do you support state investment in public and private land protection through the Conservation Bank, State Parks, DNR, and other state agencies?

Yes	
No	
See Comments	

Comments:

4. Water Resource Protection in Rivers, Lakes, and Streams: 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 manufactured using water. Clean water and healthy rivers for all uses ensures that each of these activities are maintained. Additionally, ensuring that our state has a firm grasp on the **quantity** of water in our waterways and **demand** for this water will ensure South Carolina manages the allocation of water sustainably and effectively.

Will you support protecting the quality of our water resources and the ability of state agencies to manage water quantity in a way that balances human and environmental needs without contributing to sprawl or overuse?

Yes	
No	
See Comments	

Comments:

5. Clean Drinking Water: Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) are man-made chemicals that make products non-stick, stain repellent, or waterproof. PFAS have been dubbed “forever chemicals” because they do not break down in the environment. What's worse, these forever chemicals are toxic, building up in our bodies over time. Exposure to PFAS, even in small amounts, is linked to liver and kidney damage, developmental defects in children, and cancer. Alarmingly, these chemicals have already been found in high concentrations in South Carolina drinking water.

Will you work to ensure South Carolinians drink water that is free of PFAS and other toxic chemicals by providing funding incentives and/or regulatory guidance to DHEC, drinking water providers, and private well owners for their removal?

Yes	
No	
See Comments	

Comments:

6. Right 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.

Will you defend current laws that allow participation in the permitting process as well as work to restore/establish protections to ensure all South Carolinians 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:

7. Polluter Accountability. We have seen significant financial, public health, and environmental impacts when chronic polluters and other ‘bad actors’ come into our state – the Pinewood landfill, the Ridgeland C&D Recycling site, and the fire at Carolina Poly are just a few examples. In one instance, DHEC requested to use \$4.5 million of taxpayer funds to clean up the Ridgeland C&D Recycling site after the owner walked away.

These toxic disasters and associated cleanups have driven conversations in the General Assembly about how the state balances economic growth with protection of the environment, protection of public health, and limiting risk to of taxpayers. In short, without adequate polluter accountability protections, taxpayers will be on the hook for costly cleanups and communities will be at risk from contamination.

Will you support polluter accountability policies to show that South Carolina expects new industry and economic development to be responsible stewards of our environment, public health, and taxpayer funds?

Yes	
No	
See Comments	

Comments:

8. Addressing Disproportionate Pollution. CVSC believes that all South Carolinians deserve clean air and water, access to unspoiled landscapes, and the benefits of clean energy. Yet, rural communities, low-wealth communities, and communities of color are disproportionately affected by impacts from pollution and environmental degradation – they are more likely to breathe polluted air, live near toxic waste sites or coal plants, and to live in areas most at risk for sea level rise and extreme weather. To effectively protect the South Carolina we all love, we must acknowledge these discrepancies and take steps to address them.

Will you support efforts to address the disproportionate pollution burden shouldered by rural communities, low-wealth communities, and communities of color?

Yes	
No	
See Comments	

Comments:

9. 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?

10. 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!