



2018 WISCONSIN CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE SECRETARY OF STATE

OUTDOOR RECREATION INCLUDING HUNTING AND FISHING IS A MULTI-BILLION-DOLLAR INDUSTRY in Wisconsin and the United States, supporting jobs and economic development in rural communities. But for many sportsmen and women, hunting and fishing are more than a pastime — they are a passion. Hunters and anglers care deeply about wildlife, habitat and the public lands they have used for generations. They also have a long track record of civic engagement.

For all of those reasons, the Wisconsin Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers developed a short general public interest questionnaire for every candidate listed in a contested 2018 general election race for Governor, U.S. Senate, Secretary of State, and State Treasurer. Our goal was to develop questions that affect all Wisconsinites, but which are not often considered during the course of a typical political campaign.

Two candidates are running to be Wisconsin's Secretary of State for the next four years. We submitted the same questions to each campaign on August 29th. We followed up numerous times in, equal measure, with emails, and phone calls to ensure they had received the questionnaire. We reminded each campaign a week in advance as the deadline to respond approached. Additional time was provided if requested.

For Secretary of State, we received responses from Democrat candidate Doug La Follette and Republican candidate Jay Schroeder.

The candidates' answers are on the following pages. We specifically asked the candidates to keep their answers short. We hope that Wisconsin voters of all political backgrounds will find the responses informative.

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers is a nonprofit charitable 501(c)(3) organization. We do not endorse or oppose any candidate or party for any political office. We do urge all eligible Wisconsin residents to vote.

DOUG LaFOLLETTE DEMOCRAT

WHAT ISSUES ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO WISCONSIN HUNTERS AND ANGLERS?

Certainly, clean air and water and access to land and water for recreation. Reasonable fees for hunting and fishing. And, like, everyone, good roads and schools.

ONE OF THE DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE IS TO SIT ON WISCONSIN'S BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC LANDS. WHAT IS YOUR VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS BOARD?

I think it is very important both as a source of funds for our schools and as a protector of lands in northern WI.

WOULD YOU LIKE OT SEE CHANGES MADE TO THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS? IF SO, WHAT CHANGES? IF NOT, WHY NOT?

I would not support changes. It has worked very well for over 100 years.

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT LANDS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE OPEN TO HUNTING AND FISHING?

Yes

IN THE PAST, SCHOOL TRUST LANDS HAVE BEEN SOLD TO GENERATE REVENUE. IN YOUR OPINION, SHOULD THIS PRACTICE CONTINUE IN THE FUTURE? IF SO, UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES? IF NOT, WHY?

In general, I would not support the sale of trust lands. Some trades for management consolidation can be considered.

WHAT IMPACT SHOULD THE ABILITY OF THE PUBLIC TO ACCESS AND USE THESE LANDS FOR HUNTING AND FISHING HAVE ON DECISIONS REGARDING THE FUTURE USE OF THESE LANDS?

Not quite sure I understand this question. I think the current system of management of these lands is working well.

JAY SCHROEDER REPUBLICAN

WHAT ISSUES ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO WISCONSIN HUNTERS AND ANGLERS?

I am one of you. As a licensed hunter and fisherman for many years I fully understand issues affecting hunting and anglers. I do not read it from a textbook I live it by doing hunting and fishing. Leaving something better than when I found it applies to everything I do, whether in raising a family, (4 children) my work or enjoying the great outdoors. My family has been enjoying these in Vilas County since 1939. It is a way of life, whether watching a Bald Eagle fly, a loon with their call late at night, or watching my children catch a musky. It does not get better than that.

ONE OF THE DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE IS TO SIT ON WISCONSIN'S BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC LANDS. WHAT IS YOUR VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS BOARD?

As a mortgage lender for over 14 years in Wisconsin, this will help me to evaluate the assets of the board and get the most return possible which, will enable us to fulfill the mission of providing loans to communities, granting as much money to the children's book fund.

In April of each year, available net earnings are forwarded to the Department of Public Instruction for distribution as public school library aid. These monies are the sole source of state funding for public school libraries and for many school districts is the only money available to them for library books, newspapers and periodicals, web-based resources, and computer hardware and software.

My opponent Doug LaFollette has spent over \$35,000 from this fund to travel all over the US and stay in 4 and 5 star hotels. I WASTE of valuable resources. This abuse of resources must

WOULD YOU LIKE OT SEE CHANGES MADE TO THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS? IF SO, WHAT CHANGES? IF NOT, WHY NOT?

A charter amendment or rule banning any member from using funds to travel the country and waste money. ROI return on investment to further the goals establishing this fund must always be paramount in being a good steward.

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT LANDS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE OPEN TO HUNTING AND FISHING?

Public means public. Who owns them get to use them Plain and simple so yes I agree.

IN THE PAST, SCHOOL TRUST LANDS HAVE BEEN SOLD TO GENERATE REVENUE. IN YOUR OPINION, SHOULD THIS PRACTICE CONTINUE IN THE FUTURE? IF SO, UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES? IF NOT, WHY?

Each evaluation of a decision must not only be made for a short term financial fix but what are the 30 year ramifications of a decision.

WHAT IMPACT SHOULD THE ABILITY OF THE PUBLIC TO ACCESS AND USE THESE LANDS FOR HUNTING AND FISHING HAVE ON DECISIONS REGARDING THE FUTURE USE OF THESE LANDS?

Immense, designated areas and lands are for eternity and allow future generations the ability to enjoy.

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