



2018 WISCONSIN CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE STATE TREASURER

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 atypical political campaign.

Three candidates are running to be Wisconsin's State Treasurer 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 State Treasurer, we received responses from Democrat candidate Sarah Godlewski, Republican candidate Travis Hartwig, and Constitution Party Candidate Andrew Zuelke.

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.

SARAH GODLEWSKI

DEMOCRAT

WHAT ISSUES ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO WISCONSIN HUNTERS AND ANGLERS?

As a fifth generation Wisconsinite, I grew up in a family of hunters and fishers. I know that our state's public land is a crucial resource for hunters, fishers, hikers, and campers. As a member of the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, I'd continue the sustainable timber management program, expand access to public lands, and work to protect our environment through responsible investments. Furthermore, I'd actively seek input from Wisconsin sportsmen and women to ensure the office preserves and enhances Wisconsin's outdoor heritage.

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

The Board of Commissioners of Public Lands' role is to promote education, economic development, and protect our environment. As a proud Western Wisconsinite, I embrace our state's outdoor heritage and will use the BCPL's land bank authority whenever possible to expand access to public lands, while maximizing our investments in sustainable timber management.

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

I led the Vote No committee to save the Office of the Treasurer to ensure this important office would remain in our Constitution, and as a member of the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands. The Board should continue to serve as an effective steward of the 77,000 acres of school trust lands through sustainable timber management practices that preserve our state's rare and unique ecosystems. Because investing in our environment is critical to Wisconsin's future, I believe the Board should use the trust fund loan program to support environmentally sound projects like renewable energy and lead abatement.

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

Absolutely. Hunting and fishing are a part of our shared Wisconsin heritage, and the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands manages 77,000 acres, with a high percentage of unique ecological features that include class one trout streams and old growth forests. The BCPL has done a good job increasing access to public lands -- including by 28% in the last decade -- and as Treasurer, I'd continue those efforts.

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?

There are creative ways to generate revenue while protecting our state's land and expanding public access. The Board of Commissioners of Public Lands should continue to utilize its land bank authority to strategically exchange unproductive, isolated parcels of land for larger parcels that can expand the timber management program while increasing public use.

The Board should continue to enact Comprehensive Conservation Management Plans that preserve our unique ecosystems. This effective management tool has improved the overall timber base by 20% over the last decade, providing more revenue to public schools through the School Trust Lands, while preserving rare and unique ecosystems.

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?

Our school trust lands have unique ecosystems that have been protected for decades, and it's important that they continue to be publicly accessible. I believe that the goals of the timber management program and ensuring public access to school trust lands are complementary, and as Treasurer, would work to ensure all Wisconsinites reap the benefits of these important programs.

TRAVIS HARTWIG

REPUBLICAN

WHAT ISSUES ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO WISCONSIN HUNTERS AND ANGLERS?

Hunters and anglers have a proud heritage here in Wisconsin. They are the reason behind many of our conservation efforts and successes. As a long-time hunter and fisherman, I can personally say that we care about conserving our natural resources so that our legacy and activities can be passed on to future generations.

We care about protecting our 2nd amendment right to bear arms. We believe in promoting and protecting our natural resources and public land. Everyone deserves to have access to public land and to live in a clean environment. Although I strongly support economic growth and local jobs, we must not forget our natural heritage.

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

The Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL), is Wisconsin's oldest state agency. The BCPL controls close to 77,000 acres of public lands, more than \$1 billion in Trust Fund Assets, and provides income to support various educational beneficiaries each year, including our K-12 public libraries. As one of the commissioners, I would support policy that increases access to our public lands, creates a more robust and diversified Trust Fund portfolio and ultimately increases the available income that can be dispersed to our educational beneficiaries.

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

I want to continue Wisconsin proud heritage of conservation and protect our public lands. Not only am concerned about the management of our Trust funds, but I want to ensure that the organization is empowered to continue its agenda.

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

Absolutely.

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?

There seems to be no need for taking such extreme measures. I would only consider selling trust lands to restructure the land holdings to increase public access.

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?

In my view, it is the taxpayers land and we are just managing it. Whenever we take any action or have any discussion, we should consider the impact to men and women that we represent and are tasked with serving. In this situation, we are tasked with managing the public's land and funds. We need to be conservative stewards of our tax dollars and allow the public to enjoy the land that belongs to them.

ANDREW ZUELKE

CONSTITUTION

WHAT ISSUES ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO WISCONSIN HUNTERS AND ANGLERS?

I myself do not hunt or fish so, unfortunately, I would be guessing at any answer. I will say I do support hunting and fishing and support constitutional carry and the right to keep and bear arms according to Amendment 2 of our Bill of Rights. I oppose gun bans.

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

This Board is vitally important and it's a perfect fit to have the State Treasurer on this board because of loans. It is also important to support schools with this Board as a way to keep property taxes low. I and the Constitution Party support the end of a tax on property, but that is another subject. I support the existence of the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands.

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

I will say that if any loans should go only towards "...the support and maintenance of common schools, in each school district, and the purchase of suitable libraries and apparatus therefor." In one of the BCPL's biennial reports, loans went towards various private businesses in Oneida and other counties. Public lands should be for public purposes, private lands for public uses, so any BCPL loans or sales of lands should be for public organizations like schools. I oppose corporate welfare or crony capitalism. I support small businesses and true capitalism.

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

Yes, I certainly do. While the lands are being held in trust, they should be able to be fully utilized by the public.

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?

I would in so much as the revenue is used a) for public uses and b) the lands are sold "as a last resort" to raise revenue. Once the lands are sold, the BCPL can't get them back so selling the lands should happen only if there is no other way to raise the needed revenue (spending cuts in government, stop funding things which are wants and not needs of the government, etc).

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?

To the extent that hunters and fisherman make use of the lands, (should they be Wisconsin residents as these are Wisconsin lands, even though I know sportsmen come from out of state) I think any concerns of hunters and anglers should seriously be taken into account when new proposals for land use/restrictions come up for public review. Of course, all taxpaying, legal adult residents of Wisconsin should be able to weigh in on public land use as well, not just those who use the land to hunt and fish. I also support open records/open meetings laws and well-advertised public meetings.

Also, because there is fewer private lands available for hunting use, the need for sportsmen's accessibility to public lands become even more important, but I do champion private property owners' rights for owners to decide what to do with their properties, as does the entire Constitution Party of Wisconsin.

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