



SPORTSMAN'S ALLIANCE of MAINE

205 Church Hill Road, Suite 1, Augusta, Maine 04330-8210

Telephone: (207)623-4589

e-mail: david.trahan@sportsmansallianceofmaine.org
www.sportsmansallianceofmaine.org

Elements for 2014 Legislative Questionnaire

*All Candidate Endorsements are at the SAM Boards Discretion
Surveys are due by July 25, 2014

Name: _____ District #: House _____ Senate _____

Address: _____ Town: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Grade Scoring Point Range

100	A+
90-99	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
50-59	F

*Candidates must answer each question to receive credit toward the overall grade. There will be an automatic 5 point reduction for each unanswered question. If a candidate does not understand the question, needs more information, please contact the Executive Director, David Trahan at: 691-0367 or david.trahan@sportsmansallianceofmaine.org. If there is some question as to the answers or a need for follow-up, the SAM Board may request an interview with the candidates.

- SAM supports trapping as an important tradition and conservation tool. States like Massachusetts and Colorado who have banned trapping now confront significant furbearer populations, like beaver, fox, coyote, and other predator populations that have reached nuisance levels.

Do you support trapping? If no, please explain:

Yes _____ No _____ Other _____

- SAM has been leading efforts across northern Maine in partnership with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and other organizations to restore our deer population and to protect those sensitive populations from predation.

Do you support efforts to maximize the deer population's potential and to also make use of hunting and trapping opportunities to control predators like the Eastern coyote? If no, please explain:

Yes_____ No_____ Other_____

- Currently, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife receives \$100,000 per year to control coyote predation in and around deer yards in areas where the deer population is far below desired levels, (mostly in remote northern, eastern and western Maine. The predation control program is designed to minimize coyote predation problems late in the fall, just prior to winter; thus reducing predation on deer.

Will you vote to continue this important coyote predation control program?

Yes_____ No_____ Other_____

- Maine enjoys one of the strongest moose populations in the country, and provides incredible opportunity for people to watch, photograph, and hunt this majestic animal. Some have proposed taking advantage of Maine's strong moose population in a different way—to introduce wolves back into Maine. Not only to protect our moose population, but also fragile populations of deer and other vulnerable species. SAM opposes the introduction of wolves to Maine and this concept in general.

Do you support introduction of wolves into Maine? If so, please explain:

Yes_____ No_____ Other_____

- SAM has led the effort for years to enhance Maine's legendary cold water fisheries by fighting to modernize our antiquated hatchery system.

Would you support a conservation bond issue that would be presented to the voters of Maine to bring our hatchery system into the 21st Century and greatly enhance the economy of rural Maine? If no, please explain:

Yes_____ No_____ Other_____

- SAM supports opportunities for sportsmen to access public lands. Do you support efforts to enhance sporting opportunities on public lands? If no, please explain:

Yes_____ No_____ Other_____

- SAM helped lead efforts to change the Land for Maine’s Future Program to target and elevate deer wintering areas for purchase or easement in an effort to restore the white tailed deer populations in areas like Northern, Eastern and Western Maine where populations are far below desired levels. This successful change in priorities has led to companies like Plum Creek and Trust for Public Lands to enter into negotiations to protect some of the most important deer and trout habitat in the state. Several other projects are also being considered to protect deer yards deemed priorities by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Will you support funding the Land for Maine’s Future Program and vote to maintain this important habitat protection and investment provision?

Yes_____ No_____ Other_____

- SAM supports efforts to encourage private landowners to keep their lands open to outdoor recreation opportunities for the public. Maine is unique in the provisions of law that support permissive trespass while protecting landowner rights. In many states, land is deemed off-limits unless posted as open—the so-called “reverse-posting” action designed to keep sportsmen at bay. SAM opposes reverse posting.

Do you oppose reverse posting? If no, please explain:

Yes_____ No_____ Other_____

- SAM opposes the proposals by RESTORE: The North Woods and Roxanne Quimby to establish a National Park in northern Maine. A national park would mean the end to not only sporting access for hunting, trapping, but would also severely limit snowmobiling and recreational vehicle opportunities as well.

Do you support or oppose the establishment of a new National Park? If you support, please explain:

Support_____ Oppose_____ Other_____

- SAM has long supported the right of law-abiding citizens to keep, bear, and use firearms. Do you support the right to keep and bear arms under the 2nd Amendment of the United States Constitution and Article I, Section 16 of the Maine Constitution? If not, please explain:

Support_____ Oppose_____ Other_____

- Last year the legislature passed and the governor vetoed a bill to expand criminal and mental health background checks to all private firearm sales. Among the several reasons 2nd Amendment supporters oppose such a provision is over concerns that a data base of all firearms owners would have to be established to confirm all background checks had been conducted, one step away from a gun registration program.

Would you vote to expand background checks to private firearm sales?

Yes_____ No_____ Other_____

- Outdoor conservation in Maine is the primary mission of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, which is a General Fund agency whose revenue is largely restricted to the amount of money generated by the sale of licenses, registrations, and permits that passes through the General Fund. This amount of revenue is enhanced by matching funds from various Federal accounts that are very activity-specific. Nonetheless, all funds together only fund about 80% of IF&W's

activities—the remainder is not funded, and the cost of those activities is absorbed by scarce dollars provided by sportsmen. IF&W’s revenues have, when adjusted for inflation, declined nearly 30%, and the department has shrunk—some 30 fewer game wardens protect our outdoor heritage now as opposed to 1973—and yet in the same time, IF&W has taken on endangered species management, the moose hunt, the turkey hunt, the any-deer permit system, snowmobiling, whitewater rafting management, and a host of other policy areas. SAM has supported a number of initiatives over the years that would provide additional funds, including one that would have allocated additional dollars from the General Fund to close that gap and a constitutional resolution that narrowly failed in the Legislature that would have provided for a dedication of a portion of the sales tax to fund outdoor conservation.

Will you support such a constitutional provision? If not, how do you propose providing more funding to the Department?

Yes _____ No _____ Other _____

_____ Constitutional Provision dedicating a small percentage of the sales tax to IF&W.

_____ Straight General Fund Appropriation

_____ Other, please explain:

- Across America, our sporting traditions face tremendous pressure. Many well-meaning people have been misled by animal-rights pressure groups like People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) in order to establish policies that harm agriculture, silviculture, and the sporting heritage of the outdoors. In 2004, Maine voters supported sportsmen, the rural economy, and our outdoor heritage in voting to reject a statewide referendum pushed by front groups for these organizations that would, if passed, have banned the three most effective methods used for hunting bears in Maine, baiting, hounding and trapping. Maine’s bear population is the largest in the lower 48 states and is regarded as the most scientifically managed in the

nation. Now, the Humane Society of the United States has once again placed a citizen initiative question on the November 2014 ballot.

Do you support or oppose the referendum to ban baiting, hounding and trapping?

Support_____ Oppose_____ Other_____

- During the recent campaign to collect signatures to place the bear baiting, hounding and trapping question on the ballot, the Humane Society of the United States employed paid, non-resident professional signature gatherers teamed up with Maine resident “witnesses” to solicit petition signatures. This exploitation of Mainers right to petition violates the intent of the Maine Constitution, Article 4, Part Third, and Section 20, which defines “circulators” of petitions as:

“means a person who solicits signatures for written petitions, and who must be a resident of this State and whose name must appear on the voting list of the city, town or plantation of the circulator's residence as qualified to vote for Governor;”

Legislation has already been introduced for the upcoming session to clarify this important provision and to exclude the use of paid non-residents to solicit citizen initiated petition signatures and clarify that using Maine resident as “witnesses” does not meet the qualifications of Article 4, Part Third, Section 20.

Would you support legislation that clarifies it is unlawful to use paid non-residents to solicit citizen initiated petition signatures?

Yes_____ No_____ Other_____

Please return completed questionnaire to:

SAM
205 Church Hill Road, Suite 1
Augusta, ME 04330