

May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014 - Doug Schwartz - Director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

Subject Matter: This week on Dialogue Quinnipiac University Poll Director Doug Schwartz was the guest and he discussed their latest polls on politics and issues. Schwartz told that their latest poll on the governor's race still found a dead heat between incumbent Democratic Governor Dannel Malloy and the GOP endorsed gubernatorial candidate Tom Foley at 43% each. This would be a rematch between Malloy and Foley of the 2010 race which Malloy won in a close one by only some 6-thousand votes. Foley first though faces a primary challenge from two other Republicans in his own party from State Senate Republican leader John McKinney and Danbury Mayor Mark Boughton. Foley is a Greenwich millionaire and a former U.S. Ambassador to Ireland.

Q-Poll Director Doug Schwartz told that Governor Dannel Malloy's current job approval rating is 48% according to their latest poll. Since Malloy has been governor he's never been able to get above a 50% job approval rating. He says that stems from Malloy raising taxes across the board in his first year in office when the state was in a huge deficit. Schwartz says 60% of the voters still disapprove of the way Malloy handles taxes, the budget, and the economy. Many voters feel that the wealthy should be paying more of the tax burden and that there should have been more spending cuts. On the bright side however Schwartz told that their poll results find that 60% of Connecticut voters find Governor Malloy to be honest, trustworthy, and a strong leader. So the Q-Poll director says the rematch between Malloy and Foley will be interesting and perhaps another close one with Connecticut voters weighing their views and their policies and how they feel each will do leading the state forward.

On issues Q-Poll Director Doug Schwartz says they asked Connecticut voters their feeling on marijuana. The State of Connecticut has legalized medical marijuana and is setting dispensaries around the state. He told that 90% of Connecticut voters favor medical marijuana, while in the age range of 18-29 year olds 99% favor the state having legalized medical marijuana. Schwartz added that 69% of Connecticut voters also wouldn't mind having a medical marijuana dispensary located in their town. He says they also asked voters if they would favor legalizing marijuana for personal recreational use. Schwartz says in this regard Connecticut voters favor legalization 52% to 45%. Schwartz explained

May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014 - (Schwartz continued) - that younger age groups favor it more: 18-29 year olds 80%, 30-49 year olds support legalizing it by 57%, 50-64 year olds are 50% on it, while those over the age of 65 are mostly opposed to legalizing marijuana with only 34% supporting it for recreational use in Connecticut.

May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014 - Tom Tyler - State Parks Director.

Subject Matter: On this edition of Dialogue with the Memorial Day holiday weekend kicking off the summer parks season, State Parks Director Tom Tyler was the guest and told listeners what is happening. He informed people that this is actually Connecticut's 100<sup>th</sup> park summer with the first state parks purchased at the end of 1914 and into the spring of 1915. Tyler says in celebration of the centennial anniversary they do have a number of events planned. He urged listeners to check out DEEP's centennial website where they have a listing of events and a lot of "really cool" information about the history of the state parks. State Parks Director Tyler says they have their spring series of the Great Park Pursuit happening as part of their No Child Left Inside program. He says in addition they have a lot of special events including the Summer Sojourn. Tyler explained that this is a group that will trek from corner to corner across the state from the Northwest hills down to the Southeast corner. He says this is similar to what they did last year only it was crisscrossed in the other direction across the state.

State Parks Director Tom Tyler told that as part of the state's centennial parks celebration there will be a free parks weekend. He advised listeners that the last weekend of July will be free parks weekend where all park fees will be waived. Tyler says there will be no parking or admission fees charged for folks the weekend of July 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. As far as the spring Great Park Pursuit, Tyler explained that this started earlier in the month in May encouraging families with children to get outside and enjoy the state parks. He says this runs for seven consecutive Saturdays with a different event each weekend. Tyler says prior to the event they provide a series of clues leading up to where they are going to be that weekend. He says they encourage people to come out to one or many of them ... whatever people's schedules allow. Tyler says they are a lot of fun for families and it will conclude with an overnight campout at Uconn in Storrs.



May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014 - (Tyler continued) -

State Parks Director Tom Tyler says Connecticut really does have it all for people to enjoy with 107 state parks and 32 state forests with all kinds of things for people to do whether it be walking, hiking, swimming, boating, or camping. He told that 23 of the state parks have designated swimming areas with 10 of them having lifeguards. Tyler also informed listeners that there are over 14-hundred campsites at 14 state parks and forest campgrounds across the state. He says for those that don't really want to rough it, in the last few years the State of Connecticut has built some rustic cabins at many state parks. Tyler says these have proven to be extremely popular with people ... so much so that they actually had to create a 3-week limit on how long people could stay. He told that the rustic cabins are enclosed structures with bunk beds. The parks director says there are now 34 of them available to the public with 6 brand new ones at Hammonasset State Park in Madison.

State Parks Director Tom Tyler said for boating enthusiasts the State of Connecticut has 108 boat launches across Connecticut at lakes, ponds, rivers, and Long Island Sound. Then there are also historic sites like Gillette Castle in East Haddam, Dinosaur State Park in Rocky Hill, and Fort Trumbull in New London that is rich in history dating back to the American Revolution.

June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 - Suzanne Aresco - Leisure Travel Manager at Connecticut Triple-A.

Subject Matter: On this week's show Suzanne Aresco, Leisure Travel Manager for the Connecticut Triple-A, discussed the latest trends and travel issues for summer travel this year. Ms. Aresco told that river boat cruises, which became hot last year, continue to be very popular this year especially in Europe. She says there's been double digit growth with the companies that Triple-A does business with. Aresco says they keep adding new ships for Europe river boat cruises upping their capacity. She explained that for river boat cruises the ships are smaller, more intimate, and are not like the traditional ocean cruises to the Caribbean. Aresco told that the average passenger count for river boat cruises is about 150 people which dock at various cities in Europe.

June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 - (Aresco continued) -

Suzanne Aresco at Connecticut Triple-A told that because of the exceedingly long winter and very cool spring there was certainly a pent-up demand for people to get away this summer. She says people are taking longer vacation trips than normal, many 2 weeks or longer to be more immersed in their destination. Aresco told that the most popular destinations are Europe, the Caribbean and Mexico for sun and sand, Africa for safaris, Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and here in the United States Hawaii and for family vacations of course to Orlando, Florida to Disneyworld and Universal.

On the show Triple-A Leisure Travel Manager Suzanne Aresco told that for this summer costs for vacations are pretty stable. Although she did say that air fares can be expensive, and then sometimes there are the hidden fees for upgrades and baggage fees that can add up. The Department of Transportation is proposing a new rule that would require airlines to disclose a lot more than they do now. Aresco says that travel agents would welcome those new rules. One thing that Ms. Aresco did advise was for travelers to purchase trip insurance. She says she is a firm believer in trip insurance because they have had countless times when it has come to the rescue for travelers. Aresco says in fact she was just working on a situation where travelers lost their passports and driver's licenses and had no documentation to board a cruise. She explained though that the trip insurance is going to pay for additional hotel stays while they are in limbo waiting for replacement documentation and cover the change fees for the airline involved. So Aresco says there are a lot of unknowns that could happen such as you could get sick, trip delays, trip interruption, or any number of circumstances that the insurance is going to help you cover. She says some policies even cover if a family member gets ill and one is not able to take the trip due to having to care for that loved one such as an elderly parent.

Triple A Leisure Travel Manager Suzanne Aresco told that the best advice she could give to people is to know the experience that you are looking for. Is it a cultural vacation where you visit cultural historic sites, an adventurous vacation, or is it a sun and fun vacation that you are looking to experience. Aresco says knowing what you want to do on vacation will allow you and/or a travel agent to explore opportunities and options to satisfy those vacation desires.



June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014 - Dr. Phillip Armstrong - Director of the State of Connecticut's Mosquito Surveillance Program.

Subject Matter: On this week's show Dr. Phillip Armstrong, Director of the State of Connecticut's Mosquito Surveillance Program, discussed the start of this year's mosquito trapping and testing program. He told that the program has been in existence since 1997 and then when West Nile Virus first appeared here in North America in 1999 the program was expanded by adding additional trapping sites. Dr. Armstrong explained that they have a network of 91 mosquito trapping stations located throughout the state. He says the mosquitoes are trapped, brought back to their central labs in New Haven, and then they are tested for viral infection.

In Connecticut Dr. Phillip Armstrong told that there are two mosquito borne viruses that pose the greatest risk to people. He says the first is Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus and the second is West Nile Virus. He says the trapping and testing program gives us an early warning of virus activity and allows them to assess human risk based on the concentration of virus in mosquitoes themselves, which is the source of human infection.

Dr. Armstrong explained that West Nile Virus is an annual threat every summer. He says the infection for most people results in a flu-like illness with fever, headache, muscle aches, and often times a rash. Dr. Armstrong told that most of those infections resolve on their own...but some people go on to develop a neuroinvasive disease which is potentially lethal. He says this can cause encephalitis and meningitis. Dr. Armstrong says West Nile Virus is most severe in the elderly, but all age groups are at risk. The other virus Eastern Equine Encephalitis is the most dangerous mosquito borne disease in North America. Dr. Armstrong says it is extremely severe with about 30% of those getting it ...dying from it. Meantime he says for those who survive the infection a lot develop life-long neurological problems. So Dr. Armstrong says the Triple-E virus is an extremely serious disease, though fortunately he says Triple-E is fairly rare in Connecticut whereas West Nile Virus is fairly common and usually less severe. He says the peak time for West Nile Virus in Connecticut is between June and September. Dr. Armstrong says they have documented 114 human cases of West Nile Virus with unfortunately 3 deaths.

June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014 - (Armstrong continued) -

Dr. Phillip Armstrong explained that the mosquitoes which transmit West Nile Virus breed in urban storm drains and any standing bodies of water such as bird baths and catch basins. He says that's why it's important to get rid of these around the house. Dr. Armstrong also told that the mosquitoes which carry West Nile Virus breed best in hot, dry weather conditions. He informed listeners that West Nile Virus is now in all 48 of the continental U.S. states as well as up into Canada and as far south as Argentina in the western hemisphere. Dr. Armstrong encouraged people to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites. He told that the peak biting times for mosquitoes are at dawn and dusk and if you are going to be outside at those times to cover up with long pants and shirts and to use mosquito repellent containing DEET. Dr. Armstrong says many areas use larvicide to try and prevent mosquitoes from populating, though he says here in Connecticut spraying is only used as a means of last resort if there is an epidemic of human cases. He noted though that mosquitoes are the number one predator in the world with more people dying from mosquito borne illnesses than any other animal out there.

June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014 - Steven Reviczky - State Commissioner of Agriculture.

Subject Matter: On this Dialogue edition Connecticut Agriculture Commissioner Steve Reviczky discussed the state of affairs for agriculture in the state. He told that it was a cold spring so they had a bit of catching up to do, but things are now back on track. Reviczky specifically mentioned the state's hay crop, greens, and squash all doing well. He explained that one of the nice things that have happened in recent times is the ability to extend seasons as they now have farmers who are growing in high tunnels. Reviczky told that these are hoop houses made of metal and plastic. He says they provide for the soils heating up sooner so the seeds germinate and the plants grow. The state agriculture commissioner told that this allows some farmers to actually grow 12 months a year. So Commissioner Reviczky says that new technologies have allowed Connecticut farmers to adapt to our New England climate.

State Agriculture Commissioner Steven Reviczky told on the show that the



July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014 - (Reviczky continued) - number of Connecticut farms has increased by 22% over the past few years going from 4900 farms in the state to nearly 6000 farms currently which is pretty exciting. Commissioner Reviczky attributes this renewed interest in farming to people wanting to know where their food comes from. He explained that Connecticut has a high population with customers that are readily available close to farms and care about buying locally grown food and have the ability to pay for it. The state agriculture commissioner says in a lot of ways it's to be farming again. Commissioner Reviczky says Connecticut farmers are supplying food to restaurants and certainly the advent of farmers markets with almost 130 certified farmers markets in the state has given farmers the way to be in direct contact with consumers. He says people want to know their farmers and where their food comes from.

Connecticut Agriculture Commissioner Steven Reviczky also on the show talked about a different kind of agriculture that many people might not associate with agriculture, but it is: aquaculture for oysters and hard shell clams. He explained that the Department of Agriculture manages the leasing of state owned oyster beds in Long Island Sound. Commissioner Reviczky told that what people don't realize is that the largest farm in the State of Connecticut is actually under the water in Long Island Sound. He says there are tens of thousands of acres that the State Agriculture Department leases to private shell fishermen. Reviczky says though it **is** agriculture because they are planting seed, cultivating a crop, and then harvesting a crop. He says it takes a few years to get an oyster to be marketable size. The state agriculture commissioner says they have active production up and down Long Island Sound from Stonington to Greenwich.

However Commissioner Steven Reviczky told that one of the issues that they have been confronted with over the last couple of years is the emergence of vibrio bacteria because of the temperature rise in the Sound. He explained that vibrio is a naturally occurring bacteria that occurs in warm coastal waters and if the shellfish are not cooled down or gotten into refrigeration at 50 degrees within a certain period of time vibrio occurs. He says if eaten it can cause illness or in a worst case scenario even death. So now Reviczky says they have a robust program with a strict regimen that requires the shellfish be cooled down and into refrigeration. He says they actually suggest on-board refrigeration on the decks of the boats to do it more rapidly.

June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014 - (more Reviczky continued) -

State Agriculture Commissioner Steven Reviczky also talked about a couple of agriculture areas that he'd like to see expanded. One is wine farms for the fruit used in Connecticut wines. He explained that at this point at least 25% of the fruit used to make wine at Connecticut farm wineries needs to be either grown at the farm or grown in the State of Connecticut. Reviczky says at one time it had to be 50%, and he says he'd really like to see it go back to that figure. Commissioner Reviczky also says he'd like to see the Hartford regional food market expanded, as people come from all over the region to purchase fresh produce there.

June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 - Jonathan Peltó - Independent Candidate for Governor Hopeful.

Subject Matter: On this show the guest was Jonathan Peltó, who is trying to get on the ballot by getting enough signatures and raise enough funding as an independent candidate for governor. Peltó was a state lawmaker in the '80's and '90's but says he has been away from electoral politics for about 20 years. He says he has been writing a blog the last few years about Connecticut politics and government on especially public policy issues. Peltó says out of that came a recognition that there are a lot of people in the real world that are fed up with a lack of choice that they have when it comes to elections. He feels for all intensive purposes there's only the incumbency party not a 2-party system. Peltó says he's been a Democrat all his life but he disagrees with incumbent Governor Dannel Malloy on issues, so therefore he has created a new political party called the Education and Democracy Party and hopes to get on the fall ballot as a candidate for governor to affect change ... not as a spoiler.

Jonathan Peltó says he feels the Democratic Party has walked away from its roots and the creation of this new party is a way to shake up the establishment and to send a powerful message that the real people out there want to see some changes. He says now even trying to run for governor there are eye opening occurrences that show how regular people are omitted from the process when he was not allowed to speak to the AFL-CIO convention ... but Governor Malloy and the GOP endorsed candidate Tom Foley did speak to the labor convention. Peltó says he considers himself very pro union on many of the issues that are vitally



June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 - (Pelto continued) - important to working men and women and was dumbfounded by the fact that the unions refused to allow him to address the delegates. He says this shows that there is a political elite and insider's club and they don't want to hear from outsiders. Pelto says the parties talk about greater participation but when someone like himself wants to run they view him as a spoiler ... don't want him to run ... and are against him speaking to groups they are trying to get an endorsement from. He says this is true despite a lifetime record of having supported many of their causes, especially when he was a legislator.

Jonathan Pelto says he's running for governor because the state under Governor Dannel Malloy is not making steps in the right direction. He feels it's just the opposite that Connecticut is headed in the wrong direction and has convinced him that he needs to be out there talking about it. Pelto says he especially feels that Governor Malloy's education policies are totally misguided. He says Malloy is the only Democratic governor in the country that introduced legislation to do away with teacher tenure and to repeal the right of teachers to collectively bargain in turnaround schools.

Pelto also feels Governor Malloy has too much of a tilt towards privatized education rather than improving public education. He says Connecticut's school system is doing fundamentally very well with high test scores and the highest graduation rates. But he says there's a gigantic achievement gap between those communities which have resources and those that do not. Pelto told that the three most important barriers are poverty, language barriers, and not taking care of special education needs. He says none of that is helped by privatizing schools, and none of that is helped by the Common Core standardized testing "scheme" which Governor Malloy is pushing forward on. Pelto says under Malloy's plan we have more testing and less learning.

Gubernatorial hopeful Jonathan Pelto told on the show that he also didn't like the way Governor Malloy went about his record breaking tax increases. He says Malloy increased the income tax rate on everybody except for those making over a million dollars ... because he didn't want to punish success. Pelto however says asking people to pay their fair share is not punishing success. So he doesn't feel that Malloy had a fair taxation policy. Pelto says he doesn't apologize for supporting the state's income tax when he was in the legislature ... but he says it's

June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 - (more Pelto continued) - time to fix it and stop coddling the rich as they should be paying their fair share ... instead of overburdening middle class families.

Gubernatorial candidate Jonathan Pelto also told that he's in total disagreement with Governor Malloy on giving large tax breaks to businesses for jobs using taxpayer dollars and deciding which businesses will succeed. He says this is corporate welfare and that it's inappropriate and not working.

June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014 - Michael Lawlor - Governor Malloy's Top Criminal Justice Advisor.

Subject Matter: On this week's show Michael Lawlor, Governor Dannel Malloy's top criminal justice advisor, discussed improvements made to bring the state's crime lab back to full national accreditation. Lawlor says it is almost a night and day turnaround for the state's crime lab. He says in the summer of 2011 they became aware of the problems at the lab just a few months after Governor Malloy took office. Lawlor says the problem at the state's crime lab had been festering there for some 6 or 7 years. He explained that people had been retiring or leaving and had not been replaced and the management there was also not very good. Ultimately told Lawlor the state's crime lab lost its accreditation. He says that caused problems such as not being able to enter DNA into the national data base. Lawlor also told what would occur when criminal trials would take place attorneys would point out that the lab lost its accreditation when lab investigators would testify ... and that the jury might not be able to trust anything they say. So that was a huge problem told Lawlor.

Michael Lawlor explained that Governor Malloy convened a team to figure out what the problems were. He says #1 they were short staffed at the state's crime lab, #2 there was too much evidence that needed to be processed, and #3 there needed to be new management in there. Fortunately Lawlor told that they brought in Dr. Guy Vallaro from Massachusetts, who is a nationally known forensic scientist and a great manager, and he straightened things out. He says they reduced the backlog and the lab's accreditation was restored in 2012 and for the last two years the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory



June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014 - (Lawlor continued) - Accreditation Board found no deficiencies and the lab passed the audit on every single thing that they analyzed.

Michael Lawlor also discussed on the show the state's tough gun control law. He says the law that went into effect bans the sale of assault weapons and high capacity magazine clips in Connecticut. Lawlor did tell however that people who already had owned them legally could keep them ... they just had to register them with the state. He says that regulating ownership of firearms in Connecticut is going well with the bottom line being to have fewer murders in the state. Lawlor says while there are those who might philosophically disagree with the state law, it is working with fewer murders taking place. On the national side however he doesn't see Congress being able to come together to pass anything meaningful ... not even a universal background checks law.

On another matter concerning guns that has been occurring more and more is the issue of guns in domestic violence case with regards to restraining orders. Michael Lawlor told that with a temporary restraining order placed on someone that perhaps is going through a divorce or breakup, that person does not have to surrender their guns ... unlike when a permanent restraining order is issued. Unfortunately there have been cases recently where the man ... who did not have to give up his weapons when served with a temporary restraining order ... used the guns to kill the former partner or wife. Lawlor expects this situation to be addressed next year in the legislature. He says the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence has stated that it's a volatile time when someone is likely to act out their aggression and use those weapons against the spouse or girlfriend trying to get out of the relationship ... often times with tragic consequences.