



QUESTIONS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES COMMISSIONER NOMINEE

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THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES (DMV) COMMISSIONER (CGS §§ [14-3](#), [14-4](#))

- Enforces motor vehicle laws;
- Oversees the department's operations, contracts for services, hires consultants, and holds hearings;
- Issues drivers' licenses, commercial drivers' licenses, non-driver photo identification cards, motor vehicle registrations, motor vehicle titles, and other documents relating to licensing drivers and registering motor vehicles;
- Keeps operator license and vehicle registration records and conducts administrative hearings relating to license and registration suspensions or revocations and DMV-licensed businesses;
- Licenses and regulates various motor vehicle related businesses, such as dealers, repairers, recyclers, wreckers, manufacturers, automobile clubs, and driving schools;
- Administers registration-based enforcement systems relating to uninsured drivers, unpaid municipal property taxes, and unpaid municipal parking tickets;
- Administers the Connecticut motor vehicle exhaust emissions inspection program;

- Operates the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (truck weight and safety inspections and carrier follow-up), and conducts safety inspections of school buses, public service vehicles, totaled and rebuilt vehicles, and certain other vehicles;
- Implements state responsibilities regarding numerous federal mandates and interstate agreements on commercial vehicles, licenses, exchange of driver information, and other matters.

NOMINEE QUESTIONS

1. For the state's "Drive Only" program, which started on January 1, 2015, DMV issues driver's licenses to qualified applicants who either cannot establish legal presence in the U.S. or do not have a Social Security number. How many people have so far applied to the program? Is this more or less than DMV expected? If more than expected, has DMV been able to keep up with the number of applications? Have there been any problems in the program so far, and if so, how have they been addressed?
2. Is DMV satisfied with how its document verification process for the Drive Only program is working? Under current law, foreign birth certificates are not an acceptable form of secondary identification. Do you believe they should be?
3. Do you believe there are enough protections in place to prevent Drive Only license holders from using the license as a form of voter identification?
4. In 2011, DMV instituted its two-tier license renewal system, in which applicants seeking federally compliant licenses must provide specific documentation. How successful has the program been? How many drivers have opted to get the federally compliant licenses?
5. As Connecticut's population ages, so will its drivers. What is DMV doing to ensure that this population can continue to drive safely?
6. How successful has DMV's graduated licensing program been in reducing fatalities and accidents involving teenage drivers? Are there additional changes you would like to make in those laws?
7. What is the department doing to educate drivers about the danger of texting while driving?
8. There have been several proposals seeking to increase the penalties for people who text while driving, especially if their actions cause serious injury or death. Do you favor such a penalty increase? What can police do to better enforce existing laws?

9. DMV is moving towards a more modern, customer-friendly vehicle and licensing system. What benefits will state drivers and vehicle owners see as a result? How soon will they be able to see these benefits? How much will the system cost?
10. Some drivers have said they would like to be able to register three-wheeled vehicles in Connecticut. Does DMV agree these vehicles should be registered? What, if anything, is DMV proposing to accomplish this?
11. In recent years, the legislature has shortened license suspension penalties for people charged with driving under the influence but required more of those drivers to drive only cars equipped with ignition interlocks. How is this ignition interlock program working? Does DMV have sufficient resources to administer it?
12. Should any changes be made to laws governing handicapped placards and parking?
13. Several years ago, DMV ended its two-part registration renewal program as a cost-savings measure. Some legislators would like DMV to return to that system, saying the new system has proved confusing to some vehicle owners. What is your opinion?
14. You were recently appointed DMV commissioner. Are there any changes you would like to see made in the department's operation? Do you have enough staff?
15. What are the biggest challenges now facing DMV? How are you planning to address them?
16. Connecticut car dealers are opposing legislation that would allow Tesla Motors to sell its vehicles directly to consumers. Does DMV have a position on this issue?

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