



## 2020 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Christine Goupil Democrat  
House , 35

### 1) 100% Zero Carbon:

**Do you support codifying this legislation?**



During my time as First Selectman of the Town of Clinton we voted to approve the Fracking Ban Ordinance before the State. During my 8-year term on the Planning and Zoning Commission I wrote the 10-year Plan of Conservation and Development with a focus on coastal resiliency and creating natural buffers for storm surge.

### 2) Environmental Justice:

**Do you support the provisions that were contained in the Environmental Justice legislation?**

- Yes

As First Selectman of the Town of Clinton I participated in the conversation on repairing the outdated turbines at MIRA. I was opposed to the practice of burning trash that would further the social inequities for those communities impacted by the pollution.

### 3) Municipal Funding Option :

**Would you support legislation to allow, but not require, municipalities to establish a dedicated fund for local open space, farmland, water resources climate mitigation strategies through a limited conveyance fee on buyers of real estate?**

- Yes

I would support this initiative so that communities who are willing to work toward conserving greenspace can act more promptly to purchase those properties when they become available. An important step in this process is making sure your Plan of Conservation Development speak to those land acquisitions. While on the Town's Planning and Zoning Commission I drafted the Town Plan of Conservation and Development to focus on creating those continuous

areas of greenspace to allow for the habitats and migrations in our community and reduce light and noise pollution by creating buffers.

**4) Bottle Bill :**

**Do you support modernizing Connecticut's bottle bill by 1) expanding the list of beverage containers accepted, 2) raising the deposit amount on covered containers, and 3) raising the handling fee paid to authorized dealers for each container they collect?**

- Yes

**5) Climate Change Education:**

**Do you support a requirement to teach climate change education in public schools?**

- Yes

As a mother of two young boys it is imperative they learn about Climate Change. Their future is contingent upon the actions we take now by strengthening laws to protect our environment. Through environmental laws this next generation will embrace sustainable practices and community responsibility to make it part of their everyday lives.

**6) Transfer Act:**

**Do you support switching to a release-based cleanup program that would require sufficient DEEP oversight, mandated reporting of all cleanups and other safeguards to ensure a successful program that increases the number of sites cleaned?**

- Yes

With the Transfer Act there isn't a strong enough incentive and oversight for influencing development of brownfield sites. In many instances property owners prefer to pay the property tax over the cost of clean up or the complexities of a purchase and sales agreement. This Act would close that loophole and help Connecticut catch up with the rest of the United States.

**7) MDC Water:**

**Would you support legislation to require rates set by MDC to be approved by PURA (the state regulatory authority that sets rates for private water utilities)?**

- Uncertain

I prefer to see how PURA responses to the current Eversource rate increases before weighing in. I would support this initiative if I were confident PURA is going to be objective in setting those rates.

**8) Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS):**

**Do you support advancing legislation that would prohibit PFAS chemicals wherever possible?**

- Yes

**9) Chlorpyrifos:**

**Will you support legislation to ban the sale and use of Chlorpyrifos in CT (as was the intent of House Bill 301 considered earlier this year)?**

- Yes  
Just as a background while First Selectman I worked with an intern through the Regional Planning Agency to provide our Public Works Department a report on environmentally friendly practices to eradicate hogweed, bittersweet and other roadside invasives in lieu of using pesticides.

**10) No New Gas Infrastructure:**

**Will you oppose a tax on CT ratepayers to fund new gas pipelines?**

- Yes

**Open Question:**

**What environmental issues have you worked on? What will be your top environmental priority for the 2021 legislative session?**

- Other environmental issues I've worked on are related to the consent order on the Town of Clinton and implementing the facilities plan which would resolve the pollution. This was in coordination with the DPH and DEEP. The solution entails addressing public water supply to contaminated homes, pocket community systems, ordinances for septic maintenance and pump-outs.

The priorities I would like to tackle are related to the consideration or adoptions of new environmental and sustainable waste water technologies.

Currently municipalities are tackling the use of glyphosate on a one by one basis. The policies do not prevent the use of glyphosate on private land however. Our Regional Planning Agency has had the discussion on the possibility of a region-wide restriction. Currently DEEP is not proposing

any legislative changes to its use. Therefore the burden then falls to the municipality or region to address any such ban. This is an issue for the legislature and I would prioritize these restrictions in the upcoming session.

I would be happy to sit down with the CT League of Conservation Voters to discuss other priorities since there are many important issues we did not cover.

**Additional Comments:**

- Thank you for your time.