

2014 Candidate Survey



CONNECTICUT LEAGUE OF
CONSERVATION VOTERS

- BEFORE YOU COMPLETE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE, PLEASE SAVE IT TO YOUR COMPUTER AND USE THAT FILE TO RETURN TO US.
- Please complete this survey by August 1, 2014.
- Email your completed survey to: ctlcvt@ctlcvt.org

Candidate Name: Cecilia Buck-Taylor

Running for: House Senate District No: 67 Party: Republican

Candidate/Campaign Mailing Address: P/O. Box 1121, New Milford CT 06776

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Are you enrolled in the Citizen's Election Fund for public campaign financing? Yes No

Do you have a primary? Yes No

Are you an incumbent? Yes No

Part 1: If elected, what position do you expect to take on the following environmental issues?
Please mark boxes named "Support," "Uncertain," and "Oppose" with an x.

Topic	Question	Support	Uncertain	Oppose
Parks	Would you support state park and forest revenues going to park and forest operations and maintenance rather than to the General Fund?	Yes		
Comments:				
Transportation	CT is one of the 10 states most dependent on federal funds as a percentage of their transportation expenditures. More than half of the states and localities have moved forward on increasing their funding share. Do you favor this and how might we do it in CT?	Yes		

Comments: <i>Our Governor and those that represent us in Washington need to continue aggressively pursuing our fair share of federal funding. I strongly believe that the state should stop raiding the Special Transportation Fund to make up for shortages in the General Fund. The White House issued a report that said that 41 percent of our roads are in poor condition. All revenues in the Transportation Fund should stay in the Special Transportation fund to be used for transportation purposes and I have supported measures to make that happen. Unfortunately, that provision does not go into effect until July 2015. I have already seen where something is kicked down the road and when it gets near its effective date another law is passed delaying implementation. I support working to find ways to guarantee that what is supposed to go into the Special Transportation Fund does go into that fund and to possibly increase that amount.</i>				
Property Tax Reform	CT's property tax burdens small towns, strangles cities, undermines mass transit and drives sprawl. Would you be an advocate on behalf of the environment in the tax reform debate, especially with regards to property tax?	Yes		
Comments: <i>I support more money for cities and towns from the State. We have attempted to re-create the Municipal Revenue Sharing Account. It had been created by the Governor and then abandoned. I believe this would have been a good first step to providing municipalities with a portion of the state sales tax and helping to reduce property taxes. The Democrats rejected this proposal. So much like the money that is taken from the Special Transportation Fund to shore up the General Fund, the portion of the sales tax that they had promised to send to municipalities also goes to the state's General Fund.</i>				

Topic	Question	Support	Uncertain	Oppose
Pesticides	The American Academy of Pediatrics and many other science and medical institutions have warned that pesticides (including herbicides) are harmful to human and ecological health. CT has a ban on use of lawn care pesticides on grounds of elementary and middle schools. Would you support legislation to extend this ban to high schools and public parks where children play?		U	
Comments: <i>It is my understanding that none of the recommendations from the AAP actually calls for a ban on these chemicals. AAP did make recommendations as to ongoing research, marketing, labeling, etc. that may provide better initiatives to follow.</i>				
Pesticides	Should towns have more authority to limit or guide pesticide applications within their borders, including roadside spraying and applications of pesticides in wetlands and surface water?	Y		
Comments: <i>In general, I believe that towns should have more local control as to what occurs within its borders. A difficulty, however, that may occur is where there is a significant amount of state owned property, perhaps leading to inconsistent and conflicting regulations for adjoining properties.</i>				
Water Source Protection	CT normally uses decades old data for setting standards and guidance for stormwater management. Would you support requiring the state to upgrade its standards using scientifically validated, up-to-date statistics on volumes of water associated with extreme storms and annual precipitation?	Y		
Comments: <i>We should always have the most up-to-date and unbiased statistics that we can reasonably get, within the constraints already existing as to our state budget. Decisions as to whether our standard need to be upgraded would depend on the results obtained from the more recent studies.</i>				

Microbeads	Many personal care products such as shampoos and toothpaste are being manufactured using tiny plastic microbeads. Once microbeads are washed down the drain, they can enter lakes, rivers, and eventually the ocean through sewage overflows or pass through sewage treatment plants. Microbeads, like other plastics, can absorb toxic chemicals. They can be mistaken for food by aquatic life and can be passed up the food chain to larger fish, wildlife, and humans. Would you support legislation to protect our waterways from this new environmental threat?	Y		
Comments: <i>But only after companies have been encouraged to take action on their own. One way to do this is to support consumer initiatives that would reduce the sale and profitability of these items. Some manufactures (such as Connecticut-based Unilever) that use microbeads are already taking steps to remove them. However, they may need a few years to phase them out. If the non-legislative effort does not lead to the correcting behavior, then we can take another look at what can be done to compel a ban on the products.</i>				
Conservation Lands	Would you support passing a state Constitutional Amendment to better protect state conservation lands from being given away for non-conservation purposes?			N
Comments: <i>An amendment may not support the goal provided since state lands could easily be reclassified as non-conservation lands. Once the land is reclassified, it could be used for whatever purpose the state decides.</i>				
Energy	Would you support policies or legislation to protect and expand the state's cost-effective energy efficiency programs opposing any attempts to raid the CT Energy Efficiency Fund for state budgetary needs?	Y		
Comments: <i>Proposals have been made in past budgets by Republican. They were rejected by Democrats. Unfortunately, as with the Special Transportation Fund and the Tobacco Settlement Fund, moneys from the Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority (CEFIA) have been raided by the Democrats.</i>				
Energy	While other states promote shared net metering and sub metering for solar, fuel cell and other distributed renewable sources, CT imposes regulatory barriers that effectively prevent development of these projects in our state. Would you support legislation that removes these barriers and enable clean renewable distributed generation to move forward?	Y		
Comments:				
Toxins	Would you support legislation that requires the Department of Public Health to identify chemicals of high concern to children, manufacturer disclosure of those chemicals and a process for recommendations to reduce exposure?	Y		
Comments: <i>As long as businesses are involved in the process and have input during the identifying of products, including the opportunity to appeal in cases where their products are identified. The somewhat conflicting policies of the public health concerns versus continuing damage to our economy need to be balanced. We also need to make sure that the regulations are not too burdensome to be regulated and enforced by DPH.</i>				



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Part 2: What environmental issue has lacked the attention in Connecticut that it deserves? As a legislator, what will you do to change that?

Having a large Brownsfield site in my district, I believe that the remediation of Brownfields needs more attention from the state. We should shift money from First Five (and other boondoggle efforts) to be a lot more proactive with cleaning brownfields. House Republicans have proposed a more aggressive approach to the old Norwich Hospital property. We also proposed the 1,000 acres campaign to provide funding with the goal of remediating 1,000 acres of brownfields in Connecticut.

Part 3: What are the environmental priorities in your district?

Besides as noted above (Brownfield sites), an additional environmental priority would be to preserve and protect our water resources, including Candlewood Lake.

**Part 4: If you are elected, what would be your top environmental priorities for the 2014 legislative session?
Please identify up to three and rank the three in order 1, 2, or 3:**

- Parks
- 1 Transportation
- Pesticides
- Water Source Protection
- Microbeads
- 2 Conservation Lands
- Energy
- Toxins
- 3 Property Tax Reform
- Other (please explain)

Comments: