

2014 Candidate Survey

- 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: ctlcvc@ctlcvc.org

Candidate Name: Michelle Cook

Running for: House Senate

District No:

Party:

Candidate/Campaign Mailing Address: 499 Charles Street, Torrington, CT 06790

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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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 here. Do you favor this and how might we do it in CT?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments: Need more information

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? X

Comments: I support lowering property taxes and exploring other avenues for municipal revenues, would need specifics on any particular plan

Support Uncertain Oppose

Topic

Question

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?

Comments: I cosponsored legislation for a ban in elementary schools and middle schools. High Schools and Parks needs further exploration for impact on municipalities.

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? X

Comments:

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 X

Comments:

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 X

Comments: Need more information, I am interested to hear testimony at public hearing.

Conservation Lands Would you support passing a state Constitutional Amendment to better protect state conservation lands from being given away for non-conservation purposes? X

Comments: I need more information as to why this requires a constitutional amendment before committing.

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?	X
Comments:		
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?	X
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?	X
Comments: I support utilization of lists that already exist regarding dangerous chemicals		



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

Investment in clean automobiles and infrastructure and work to make state buildings more energy efficient and have them utilize more clean energy.

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

River clean up and Brownfield remediation.

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
- 2 Transportation
- Pesticides
- 3 Water Source Protection
- Microbeads
- Conservation Lands
- 1 Energy

Toxins
Property Tax Reform
Other (please explain)

Comments: