



2020 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Eleni Kavros DeGraw Democrat
House , 17

1) 100% Zero Carbon:

Do you support codifying this legislation?

- Yes

2) Environmental Justice:

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

- Yes

We need to be clear in our focus on social justice and environmental equity and this is a good step.

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

Just the other night, I had a conversation with a voter on just this issue. It won't be popular in terms of buying and selling homes, but it will be effective.

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
My opponent opposed this bill.

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
This seems like a no brainier to me.

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)?

- Yes

8) Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS):

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

- Yes
We especially need to do this in light of recent spills in many towns in CT. Canton is very concerned about this because of the Farmington River spill last year.

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

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?

- Locally I worked on trying to get Avon to take up the issue of preventing fracking/fracking waste (sadly, the Town Council played hot potato and pushed off to the state). Through my organization ForwardCT, we have held multiple forums on electric cars, composting, organic gardening, pollinator pathways, etc. My top environmental priority will be prohibiting PFAS and preventing other harmful chemicals from entering our waterways. I am increasingly concerned about PFAS in relation to how it leaches into food as well. I know that Sen. Blumenthal is taking the issue up at the Federal level and am hoping we can dovetail on that in the legislature.

Additional Comments:

- Thank you for the opportunity to apply for the endorsement.