

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: ctlcvt@ctlcvt.org

Candidate Name: <u>Mae Flexer</u>	
Running for: <input type="checkbox"/> House <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Senate	District No: <u>29</u> Party: <u>Democrat</u>
Candidate/Campaign Mailing Address: <u>452 Main Street, Danielson, CT 06239</u>	
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Are you enrolled in the Citizen's Election Fund for public campaign financing? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Do you have a primary? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Are you an incumbent? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

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?	x		
Comments: As Chair of the Conservation and Development subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee, I worked toward this goal and will continue to advocate for this.				
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?			

Comments: I do favor increasing CT's share of transportation funding as I believe it is critical to the future welfare of our state's economic development. I think that the state can explore several options to increase funding through public-private partnerships and also incentive based programs that reward commuters for making smarter commuting choices.			
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 am very hopeful that the study that is currently being done on our state's tax system will lead to a discussion on how to finally reform our property tax system. The was one of the first issues that motivated me to get involved in politics and I will be a champion for a new system that protects our environment and finally addresses this issue.			

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Question</i>	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?	x		
Comments: I have consistently fought for this as a member of the House and I will continue to do so in the Senate.				
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: Yes, but only for more stringent restrictions than state statutes. Towns should not be allowed to weaken pesticide restrictions within their borders.				
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?	x		
Comments: Yes, I would support updating the standards the state uses to collect data around water associated with extreme storms and annual precipitation.				
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?	x		
Comments: I have read about this issue with great interest and I would like Connecticut to follow the lead of other states and address this issue.				
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 would like to learn more about this issue. I strongly believe that we need to protect these lands indefinitely but I am unsure that an amendment is necessary.			
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: I would support policies to protect and expand the state's energy efficiency programs. I think that the state needs to support policies that promote energy efficiency and make it an investment priority for the state.			
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?		
Comments: I would support policies promoting clean renewable energy. I think there are ways to set regulations on these energy sources for safety purposes that still allow them to develop and move forward as a part of the economy and energy source landscape of Connecticut.			
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 have been very disappointed that we have had little movement on this issue in the legislature and I will be a champion to move this forward in the next session.			



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

The issues of pesticide and chemical exposure have not gotten the attention that they deserve. I believe that these are important issues that must be addressed but unfortunately special interests and big corporations, in my opinion, have been able to win the debate in the General Assembly. I will be a champion on these issues and continue the advocacy I have done as a member of the House. We can no longer fail our children by not addressing these issues.

**Part 3: What are the environmental priorities in your district?
Priorities in my district are State Parks, Toxins and Pesticide Usage.**

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:

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

Comments: