



2018 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Theresa Govert (Democrat/Working Families)

House District 34

1) 100% Clean Energy by 2050:

Do you support transitioning to 100% clean energy by 2050 or sooner?

Yes

CT must be a leader in investing in renewable energy, creating new jobs, reducing air pollution, and lowering our energy costs. Currently, CT residents pay the highest electrical rates in the continental US, which makes moving towards renewable energy the moral and economically superior choice. One specific policy I'm interested in is allowed for "shared solar" which would allow residents who cannot host their own solar panels to buy into a community solar project. With of vision of transitioning to 100% renewable by the very latest 2050, we could add over 60,000 jobs in construction and operation in the clean energy economy and would need to invest in educational programs that would transition CT workers currently employed in the fossil fuel industry in guaranteed green jobs and also create opportunities for low-income communities. The move towards renewable energy would also need to include looking at how to financially support municipalities, businesses, and individuals in investing in conservation and efficiency.

2) State Water Plan:

Will you support the plan as submitted to the legislature and affirm that water is a public trust?

Yes

I wholeheartedly believe that water is a public trust and am deeply skeptical of any efforts to privatize water.

3) Municipal Funding Pilot for Open Space:

Would you support legislation that would allow, but not require, certain municipalities to establish a dedicated fund to protect local open space, farmland and water resources through a limited conveyance fee on buyers of real estate?

Yes

My family has been deeply involved in the purchasing of open space in the town of East Haddam and have spent much time educating our community on the environmental, tourism and economic benefits to local municipalities. I was worried about the potential impacts to first time home buyers and people with limited incomes but upon research of the bill believe the proposed pilot takes this into consideration. Case studies looking at this implemented in other townships across the United States report that realtors who were worried about the program saw that over time it maintained the rural quality of life, home values and protects farmland which are all areas of concern for people living in my district.

4) Plastic Bag Pollution:

Would you support a statewide ban on single-use plastic bags (or a ban/fee hybrid) to significantly reduce plastic bag pollution in our state?

Yes

5) Gas Pipeline:

Will you support the repeal of the pipeline tax established in 2015?

Yes

6) Carbon Pricing:

Would you support carbon pricing for Connecticut?

Yes

7) Additional Comments: