



2020 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Kathleen McCarty Republican
House , 38

1) 100% Zero Carbon:

Do you support codifying this legislation?

- Yes

I am a strong advocate for a 100% zero-carbon electric grid by 2040. I have and will continue to support legislation that helps Connecticut achieve this laudable and necessary goal.

2) Environmental Justice:

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

- Yes

One of the major priorities that should be considered by siting decisions should be consideration on the site selection and its impact on public health. This is particularly relevant for low-income and communities of color.

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

While I am generally opposed to conveyance fees, as long as the buyer is given the option and this proposal is not a municipal mandated program, I can support it. I believe it is essential to preserve as much open space, water resources and farmland as possible in our state. Acquiring an independent resource of funds for preservation of lands while still maintaining local control of resources at the discretion of the local municipality is one avenue to meet this goal.

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

We need to find a comprehensive solution that protects our redemption centers and retailers who are struggling to stay viable.

5) Climate Change Education:

Do you support a requirement to teach climate change education in public schools?

- Yes

As the ranking member on the education committee, it is my understanding that the vast majority of our schools are currently following the Next Gen science standards curriculum which already includes climate change education. House Bill 5215 was attempting to align the practice with the statute. I would have supported this legislation. It is critical that all of our students, at all levels are taught about climate change and its impact on our environment. As a former twenty-year member of the Waterford Board of Education, I am extremely proud of the students at Clark Lane Middle School whom CTLCV credits for their Reforest the Tropics initiative.

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

If a release-based clean up program results in more clean-up of toxic sites that benefits the environment and guards public health then it should be debated in the legislature. I am interested in learning more about the program.

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
Guarding our state's public water supply through conservation efforts should not result in an increase in rates for customers. PURA currently sets rates for private water utilities, I would be interested in learning more this proposal.

8) Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS):

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

- Yes
As a member of the Public Health committee, we have heard extensive testimony on the adverse impact of PFAS on our health, our environment and drinking water.
PFAS is found in firefighting foam and because of its use the chemical is now found in drinking water. It is important that PFAS be prohibited in firefighting foam. HB 5288 had a public hearing in March before the Capitol shut down. I am supportive of HB 5288 that would implement a plan to test our water supplies to ensure that they are free from toxic chemicals.

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
We need to find a safe pesticide for use by our farmers on foods and crops.
Research has shown that chlorpyrifos poses serious health risks to humans especially to our youngest children and adolescents who experience an increase
in neurodevelopmental disorders and brain development. The EPA had banned the use of chlorpyrifos but has since reinstated its use. It is necessary to ban chlorpyrifos while finding a solution that will work for our agricultural industry in order to protect both our health and the environment.

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?

- Millstone Power Plant is in my hometown of Waterford. It produces 90% of the carbon free energy for this state and contributes over 1.5 billion to Connecticut's economy. I introduced and sponsored legislation to prevent Millstone from closure and to protect this carbon free resource. I supported Connecticut's procurement of 2,000 MW of offshore wind as I am a strong advocate for decarbonizing our state's electric grid. In the next session, I will advocate for and support Connecticut's Long Island Sound Blue Plan and the Community Investment Act as well as legislation that continues to protect public health and the environment

Additional Comments:

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