



2020 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Kathleen Stowe Democrat
House , 149

1) 100% Zero Carbon:

Do you support codifying this legislation?

- Yes

I support codification to ensure that CT residents and businesses have the opportunity to plan and prepare to achieve this important shift from a reliance on fossil fuels to cleaner energy alternatives.

2) Environmental Justice:

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

- Yes

All stakeholders should have a seat at the table when decisions impacting the health, safety and quality of life are under consideration. State lawmakers and industry should be fair and transparent in all deliberations.

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

Providing this funding option and allowing for local control to make the determination to implement or not makes sense. Many communities have also benefited from partnerships with land trusts to meet open space and conservation goals.

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?

- Uncertain

My understanding is that CT has a good track record with recycling which was the original intent of the bottle bill. I would have to dig a little deeper to understand why the redemption rate is so low. My preference is to change consumer behavior through outreach and education. A 10 cent levy on most beverages would likely impact lower income households which is of concern to me.

5) Climate Change Education:

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

- Yes

I am currently the Vice Chair of the Board of Education in Greenwich. I support a curriculum based on science and facts.

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

We have a responsibility to our children and grandchildren to remediate toxic sites expeditiously. If the current system isn't working, we need to fix it.

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

As explained above, residents should not be burdened with higher rates for the benefit of a private enterprise.

8) Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS):

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

- Yes

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?

- Uncertain

I would have to better understand the projection which calls for such a reduction in less than 10 years time, and to further understand the costs of implementing alternative energy resources and their funding sources. It is absolutely critical CT invest in and maintain its energy and electrical infrastructure.

Open Question:

What environmental issues have you worked on? What will be your top environmental priority for the 2021 legislative session?

- I have been involved on the local level with remediating playing fields at two schools which have been found to have toxic substances. I have three children and for the sake of their generation, we have to make meaningful and lasting changes in how we protect our natural resources and move to a clean energy economy.

Additional Comments:

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