



## 2020 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Lisa Thomas Democrat  
Senate , 35

### 1) 100% Zero Carbon:

**Do you support codifying this legislation?**

- Yes  
The proposed Killingly plant is of deep concern to many eastern CT voters.

### 2) Environmental Justice:

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

- Yes  
In your legislative testimony, you state: "Hartford is currently home to an aging, high-polluting trash incinerator that city residents would like to see closed. This state-run incinerator serves 70 Connecticut towns and is the county's second largest air polluter. A key piece of the solution would involve investment in multi-stream recycling and composting services. Only then can Hartford communities breathe easier." The state-run incinerator plant is currently on its last legs. This is the time to develop more sustainable, just and environmentally friendly solutions. I am ready to be part of the team that does that.

### 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  
During my time on the Coventry Town Council we established an Open Space line item in our Capital Improvement Planning budget. We also leveraged state open space grants, Farmland Preservation Trust, Joshua's Trust and other sources to acquire open space parcels and protect farmland.

**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

I strongly support this in spirit. I would like to know more about impact on distributors and redemption centers.

**5) Climate Change Education:**

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

- Yes

And, as a 35 year public school teacher that is a curriculum mandate that I can wholeheartedly support.

**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

**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

I teach in Windsor. My students and colleagues who live in the community were pretty rattled by the PFAS spill.

**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)?**

- Uncertain

I support this in spirit. However, your testimony does not give me insight into impact on our farmers in eastern CT. They are already struggling to maintain their family farms. I would want to know more about impact on them, as well as what support will be included in the bill to help farmers transition to safer alternatives.

**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?**

- As noted earlier, I have worked on municipal open space land acquisition and preservation of agricultural land. In addition, as a Councilwoman one of my first initiatives was for Coventry to accept the Governor's 20% by 2020 Clean Energy challenge. We have solar installation on our school roofs, as well as on other municipal buildings, and have leveraged grants to install EV charging stations and purchase EV vehicles. Beyond my work as a Councilwoman, I have a vested interest in clean water in eastern CT, as well as in environmental education.

**Additional Comments:**

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