

2020 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Mary Welander Democrat House, 114

1) 100% Zero Carbon:

Do you support codifying this legislation?

Yes

2) Environmental Justice:

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

Yes

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

Would municipalities be able to set the rate individually, or would that be a flat determined rate set on the state level?

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

5) Climate Change Education:

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

Yes

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

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?

Yes

Open Question:

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

 While I haven't officially worked on any environmental issues as I have been focused more directly on education and gun violence prevention programs, I have always been a supporter of actions that create healthier, more environmentally sound spaces. My father was the Chair of his Conservation Commission for over 20 years, so these discussions and awareness have always been part of my life.

My top priority would be working to expand alternate energy production programs such as wind and solar.

Additional Comments:

• I am happy to continue this discussion if that would be helpful. Thank you for your time and consideration.