

OBERLANDER H150

2014 Candidate Survey



CONNECTICUT LEAGUE OF
CONSERVATION VOTERS

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- BEFORE YOU COMPLETE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE, PLEASE SAVE IT TO YOUR COMPUTER AND USE THAT FILE TO RETURN TO US.
 - Please complete this survey by August 1, 2014.
 - Email your completed survey to: ctlcvc@ctlcvc.org

Candidate Name: Jill Oberlander

Running for House District No: 150 Party: Democrat

Candidate/Campaign Mailing Address: Oberlander for Greenwich Campaign, 15 East Putnam Ave.,

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Are you enrolled in the Citizen's Election Fund for public campaign financing? YesX No _____
Do you have a primary? Yes _____ No X
Are you an incumbent? Yes _____ No X

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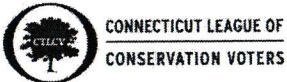
Part 1: If elected, what position do you expect to take on the following environmental issues?
Please mark boxes named "Support," "Uncertain," and "Oppose" with an x.

Topic	Question	Support	Uncertain	Oppose
Parks	Would you support state park and forest revenues going to park and forest operations and maintenance rather than to the General Fund?	X		

Comments:			
Transportation	CT is one of the 10 states most dependent on federal funds as a percentage of their transportation expenditures. More than half of the states and localities have moved forward on increasing their funding share. Do you favor this and how might we do it in CT?	X	
Comments: I support CT investing more in its transportation infrastructure. It is incumbent on the State to figure out dedicated funding sources to maintain and improve its transportation network – surface as well as transit. A up-to-date and reliable transportation network is critical to CT's economic health as well as the quality of life of CT residents.			
Property Tax Reform	CT's property tax burdens small towns, strangles cities, undermines mass transit and drives sprawl. Would you be an advocate on behalf of the environment in the tax reform debate, especially with regards to property tax?		X
Comments: I don't understand this question.			

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Question</i>	Support	Uncertain	Oppose
Pesticides	The American Academy of Pediatrics and many other science and medical institutions have warned that pesticides (including herbicides) are harmful to human and ecological health. CT has a ban on use of lawn care pesticides on grounds of elementary and middle schools. Would you support legislation to extend this ban to high schools and public parks where children play?	X		
Comments:				
Pesticides	Should towns have more authority to limit or guide pesticide applications within their borders, including roadside spraying and applications of pesticides in wetlands and surface water?		X	
Comments: My answer will depend on the specifics of the program/rule proposed.				
Water Source Protection	CT normally uses decades old data for setting standards and guidance for stormwater management. Would you support requiring the state to upgrade its standards using scientifically validated, up-to-date statistics on volumes of water associated with extreme storms and annual precipitation?	X		
Comments: I generally support using up-to-date metrics to determine what appropriate standards and guidance should be. However, I would need to see the details of the program / rules being proposed before supporting a change that could have a significant impact on localities.				
Microbeads	Many personal care products such as shampoos and toothpaste are being manufactured using tiny plastic microbeads. Once microbeads are washed down the drain, they can enter lakes, rivers, and eventually the ocean through sewage overflows or pass through sewage treatment plants. Microbeads, like other plastics, can absorb toxic chemicals. They can be mistaken for food by aquatic life and can be passed up the food chain to larger fish, wildlife, and humans. Would you support legislation to protect our waterways from this new environmental threat?	X		

Comments:			
Conservation Lands	Would you support passing a state Constitutional Amendment to better protect state conservation lands from being given away for non-conservation purposes?	X	
Comments: I support keeping state conservation lands protected for conservation purposes.			
Energy	Would you support policies or legislation to protect and expand the state's cost-effective energy efficiency programs opposing any attempts to raid the CT Energy Efficiency Fund for state budgetary needs?		X
Comments: I support an expansion of cost-effective energy efficiency programs. I need a better understanding of the State Energy Efficiency Fund, its funding sources and its uses, to appropriately answer this question.			
Energy	While other states promote shared net metering and sub metering for solar, fuel cell and other distributed renewable sources, CT imposes regulatory barriers that effectively prevent development of these projects in our state. Would you support legislation that removes these barriers and enable clean renewable distributed generation to move forward?		X
Comments: I support the utilization of certain renewable energy sources (water, solar, wind, electric). I need a better understanding of the barriers you refer to as well as specifics on which energy sources are covered to appropriately answer this question.			
Toxins	Would you support legislation that requires the Department of Public Health to identify chemicals of high concern to children, manufacturer disclosure of those chemicals and a process for recommendations to reduce exposure?	X	
Comments:			



Part 2: What environmental issue has lacked the attention in Connecticut that it deserves? As a legislator, what will you do to change that?

One environmental issue that has not received adequate attention is the proper disposal of hazardous chemicals. People routinely place products containing hazardous chemicals – insect sprays, paints, cleaning products, pharmaceuticals, batteries, etc. – into household trash. The chemicals from these products will eventually leach into our groundwater. While most municipalities offer a “Hazardous Waste” day once or twice a year, we must make more of an effort to educate the public about the importance of responsible disposal. And we must create more opportunities for responsible disposal, preferably with point-of-use collections.

Part 3: What are the environmental priorities in your district?

The environmental priorities of the 150th district in Greenwich are primarily keeping the Sound clean and safe, protecting shoreline homes from flooding and storms, and ensuring that all residents have access to clean drinking water, beautiful green spaces and a multitude of outdoor recreational facilities.

**Part 4: If you are elected, what would be your top environmental priorities for the 2014 legislative session?
Please identify up to three and rank the three in order 1, 2, or 3:**

- Parks
- 1 Transportation
- 3 Pesticides
- Water Source Protection
- Microbeads
- Conservation Lands
- Energy
- 2 Toxins
- Property Tax Reform
- Other (please explain)

Comments:

Transportation is one of my top legislative priorities. My professional background is in public transportation and I believe that investing in our transportation infrastructure and improving the quality of our roads and rails yields multiple benefits. My objective is to relieve congestion on our highways and provide safe, reliable train and bus service. This will not only improve our quality of life and attract more businesses to our community but will also result in the environmental benefits of lowered emissions from vehicles.

In addition to my focus on transportation, I will also work to protect our natural environment and ensure a safe and healthy future for ourselves and our children. These two areas – Environment and Health – are inextricably linked such that every measure that protects the environment also, ultimately, protects human health. For instance, limiting the toxins to which our children are exposed – either in toys and other household products or in pesticides sprayed on their playing fields – will lower their risk of a number of chronic diseases. Preventing exposure to these hazardous chemicals not only improves our children's lifelong health, but also improves the quality of our air and water supply. Protecting our water supply -- now and for future generations.