

2014 Candidate Survey



CONNECTICUT LEAGUE OF
CONSERVATION VOTERS

- 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: Mary J Stone

Running for: House Senate District No: 23 Party: Democrat

Candidate/Campaign Mailing Address: Mary Stone 2014, P.O. Box 347, Old Saybrook, CT 06475

Phone: 860-434-7754 Website: None Email: MaryStone434@gmail.com

Are you enrolled in the Citizen's Election Fund for public campaign financing? Yes No



Do you have a primary? Yes No

Are you an incumbent? Yes No



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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments: I would support returning at least the projected budgetary amount for operations and maintenance, with a provision that revenues in excess of the required amount be placed in a designated fund to be used in years when revenues fall below necessary o. & m. expenses.

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?			
<p>Comments: It is obvious how much out-of-state traffic rides on Connecticut's federal highways. It is also apparent where big improvements must be made in order to keep traffic moving, improve public transportation, improve fuel efficiency, and lower fuel consumption, not to mention increase employment. So, YES, we do need to increase funding from all sources. Every new tax will draw opposition, but it's obvious that various forms of carbon taxation will have to be implemented to raise awareness about fuel consumption. As unpopular as it will be, Senator Chris Murphy has the right idea. My concern is that such taxes not be regressive for the working poor, especially those in landscaping, farming, trades, and other vehicle-dependent occupations.</p>				
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?			
<p>Comments: In the 23rd District (Old Saybrook, Old Lyme, Lyme, and coastal Westbrook), between 60% and 75% of local tax revenue is used to fund our local schools. We must move away from funding public school districts through local property taxes. This system is no longer working the way it was intended when it was implemented in the 1800s. It places an unfair burden on farmers and owners of large parcels, forcing many to sell, thus making it easier for developers to come in. Development further drives up the cost of public education for municipalities, thus creating a vicious circle.</p>				

Topic	Question	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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: Some pesticides are necessary, but not to the extent they are currently used. I do not want to ban all pesticides from all public parks, only from the areas where children and the majority of park users will be exposed to them.				
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: There should be some baseline state standards guiding a town's use of pesticides, while allowing some discretionary judgment specific to local conditions.				
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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: Much needed. How can planning cannot proceed without the best information available?				
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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: Our efforts must be coordinated with other states; otherwise, basic commodities will become more expensive for everyone. (Proctor & Gamble will not be making "Connecticut versions.")				
Conservation Lands	Would you support passing a state Constitutional Amendment to better protect state conservation lands from being given away for non-conservation purposes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: I agree that state conservation lands should not be given away for non-conservation purposes. Is a constitutional amendment really necessary? This would involve a lengthy, complicated process. How about strengthening existing legislation?				
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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: I oppose the raiding of designated funds for unrelated purposes, whether it's pension funds, highway funds, land conservation funds, or the Energy Efficiency Fund.				

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?			
Comments: I support the concept of lowering barriers to the distribution of renewable energy; however, I need to learn more about why the barriers were put in place.				
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?			
Comments: If there is further need to identify chemicals of high concern to children that is not being met by current legislation, I need to learn more about where that need exists. We already have a lot of legislation in this area. Does it need to be combined, simplified, rewritten, or strengthened? Let's try not to add layer upon layer of confusing, contradictory legislation.				



CONNECTICUT LEAGUE OF
CONSERVATION VOTERS

Part 2: What environmental issue has lacked the attention in Connecticut that it deserves?

We drive too much. We drive everywhere because no other alternative exists.

As a legislator, what will you do to change that?

We can increase public transportation options for relatively low cost, especially to major hubs like airports and train stations.

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

1. Protecting the Lower Connecticut River Valley.
2. Protecting our aquifers against overuse.
3. Protecting our residential wells against rising sea levels.
4. Solving the septic/sewage issues in Shoreline communities.

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

Comments: Please see my comments under your questions pertaining to these topics. Thank you for your consideration of these answers. Please don't hesitate to call or email if an interview would help your endorsement process.

Thank you,
Mary Stone