



## 2022 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Lisa Thomas Democrat  
Senate , 35

### OPEN QUESTION

As Coventry Town Councilwoman, currently Chair, I have led our town to: achieving 20% by 2020 alternative energy goal; achieving silver level sustainability; successful Solarize CT programs for residential properties; establishing our Coventry Lake Monitoring and Advisory Committee which has been instrumental in managing invasive hydrilla, obtaining state grants for treatment, and helping make sure we continue to include treatment in our town budget; protecting prime farmland in partnership with the CT Farmland Trust; establishing our Protected Spaces Committee to establish, map, and maintain our open spaces ; protecting corridors of open space - as identified in our Plan of Conservation and Development - in partnership with CT open space grants and with Joshua's Trust; transitioning town vehicles to all electric and hybrid; installing EV charges at town hall for public use; being proactive in responding to the looming waste management crisis. The most imminent environmental issue now and in the next legislative session is how CT will respond to waste management. It is absolutely not responsible to make shipping our garbage out of state a long term solution.

#### 1) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:

- Yes

#### 2) WASTE MANAGEMENT:

- Yes

I had the opportunity recently to join a Q&A session with Commissioner Dykes through CCROG (to which Coventry belongs) which provided very good overviews of the state's goals and gave me an opportunity to discuss the needs of small towns. The nips bottle legislation is providing our town with dollars that we will use for waste management education among other things as we put together our planned use of the funds.

#### 3) POLYSTYRENE:

- Yes

**4) PFAS:**

- Yes

I recently met with Commissioner of Ag and this was part of our conversation. PFAS is so very pervasive and difficult to contain. I'd like to see CT work with neighboring states on this issue.

**5) NEONICOTINOIDS:**

- Yes

**6) RODENTICIDES:**

- uncertain

I read the info in the ink that you provided. I absolutely support the spirit of this bill and would want to know more about the alternative pest control measures.

**7) DIESEL BACKUP GENERATORS/DATA CENTERS:**

- Uncertain

Again, this is a new issue for me. I read the information you attached and will certainly do my due diligence to understand how these data centers use energy and what the alternatives might be.

**8) BEARS:**

- yes

**9) TREE CUTTING PROTOCOLS:**

- Yes

**10) COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY:**

- Yes

I had not heard of this proposal before. It makes sense, as long as it is permissive. Some municipalities have been able to fund an open space line item in their capital plans or have established large funds through referendum and have dollars available. Other towns - like in southeastern CT - have private land conservation trusts that do incredible work. Each municipality should craft its own approach.

**11) RIPARIAN BUFFERS:**

- Yes

**12) RANKED CHOICE VOTING:**

- Uncertain
- I say "uncertain" only because my top priorities right now are getting the November ballot question for extended voting days passed, and to then work towards a constitutional amendment for no excuse absentee ballots. These measures are more understandable to the public and make voting far more accessible. These efforts aren't mutually exclusive.