

# CTLCV Candidate Survey

Please complete this survey by July 30, 2016.



First Name: \*

Theresa

Last Name: \*

Tillett

Running For: \*

House

Senate

District Number: \*

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Party: \*

Democrat

Republican

Working Families

Other : 

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Campaign Mailing Address: \*

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Do you have a primary?

Yes

No

The issues described below are ongoing and likely to be on the legislative agenda for consideration in 2017. If elected, what position do you expect to take on the following environmental issues?

1. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT- To place a constitutional amendment measure on the ballot in 2018, the General Assembly must pass a joint resolution for a second time in the 2017-2018 legislative session. Senate Joint Resolution 36/Resolution Act 16-1 was passed by both chambers in 2016. Would you support passing a state Constitutional Amendment to better protect state conservation lands from being sold, swapped or given away without a public hearing and a 2/3rds vote by the General Assembly?

Yes

No

Uncertain

Question 1 Comments:

I would like an explanation as to why you feel that we need a Constitutional Amendment rather than to examine our current laws & either amend those or write legislation for the protections needed?

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2. PROTECTION OF CLASS I AND II LANDS- Connecticut has set the highest standard for drinking-water quality in the nation. Maintaining our high water quality relies on the protection of the recharge lands for reservoirs and wellfields, known as Class I and II lands. With increasing frequency, projects and legislation are proposed that would compromise protections for Class I and II lands, such as the legislative effort this year to allow rock mining in 100 acres of Class I and II land in New Britain. Would you oppose legislation that undermines traditional drinking water protections?

- Yes
- No
- Uncertain

#### Question 2 Comments:

I will need more information about this issue, I am unfamiliar with what it entails & what the proposal was/is that you are referring to but we must protect our natural resources in a way that meets both our current needs as well as future generations

3. WATER DATA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION- In 2002-2003, water utilities pushed through three security laws that require officials to redact (black out or delete) large quantities of information in documents, such as water supply plans. Basic data needed for comprehensive, statewide water planning mandated in 2014 (PA 14-163) is now being redacted from water utility records. During the 2016 session, state agencies (DPH, DPUC, DAS, DEEP) and the Governor's office attempted (unsuccessfully) to persuade water companies to cooperate in state water planning by releasing more data. Would you support legislation to allow these state agencies to make water utility data publicly available for planning purposes?

- Yes
- No
- Uncertain

### Question 3 Comments:

I feel that Transparency is Vital for the People to have Trust in their government & to be able to make Informed Decisions - I feel that no governmental or quasi-governmental agency which is funded by Taxpayers should have the ability to deny the public or legislators the ability to be informed about what the plans are either now or in the future for our water or any other natural resources - this is not an "option" type of position where the agency has a choice about what they will or will not be released but all information must be available to the public via video recorded public meetings on the website & all information about who, what, when, where & costs for any plans be made known & anyone in the public must be able to easily find the information on the website with a FoIA form on the website as a Requirement

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**4. WATER SUPPLY REGULATION-** Privatization of public water for private bottling and sale is happening in communities across the country. In 2015-2016, citizens' groups protested the unilateral decision of a CT regional water utility to sell a huge volume of water to a single new customer (a water bottling company). The volume—1.8 million gallons per day—was approximately equal to total residential water use in the service area. The new customer was given a specially created discount to encourage large water purchases, while at the same time rates for households were increased, and no provision was made for prioritizing supply in droughts.

This question has two parts:

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a. Would you support a permit requirement on new, supersized water diversions, for all new and existing customers asking for an additional 500,000 gallons per day above current use?

- Yes
- No
- Uncertain

b. Would you be in favor of regulating sales of our public drinking water supply to private for-profit water bottling companies?

- Yes
- No
- Uncertain

#### Question 4 Comments:

Our water is a PUBLIC NATURAL RESOURCE & Access to Clean Water at No Cost &/or Low Cost is a Basic Human Right For Living - I am concerned about the fact that this year much of the state is in various stages of drought conditions of some sort & how removing water from the aquifers will more adversely affect our state going forward. In other parts of the country it seems that where water bottling companies have gone in there in an increase of drought conditions & wells are running dry - I would like to see a study that is not funded by water lobbyists & a conservation plan in place that provides for the people in the state that first places restrictions upon any company that is taking water out & the state of CT citizens & farmers are given priority for all water needed for use for drinking, cooking, bathing & watering of gardens, crops & animals.

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5. REGIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS INITIATIVE- Connecticut receives revenues from auctions for emissions credits conducted by the nine-state Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). Under Connecticut statutes, these funds are dedicated to energy efficiency programs which help thousands of residents and businesses, and to the Green Bank, which leverages these funds to attract far more in private funding to finance renewable energy installations. Both programs create thousands of Connecticut jobs. Would you oppose any diversion of RGGI funds away from energy efficiency programs and the Green Bank?

- Yes
- No
- Uncertain

## Question 5 Comments:

I would require more information about this issue in order to answer but how will it effect the taxpaying families & businesses in CT is one of the questions that comes to mind

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**6. CLIMATE CHANGE-** The 2008 Global Warming Solutions Act (P.A. 08-98) mandates an 80% reduction in CT's greenhouse gas emissions below 2001 levels by the year 2050. The Governor's Council on Climate Change has been charged with developing strategies and interim targets to achieve that goal (Executive Order 46) and will issue a plan by the end of 2016. Would you support the adoption of new interim targets that will ensure CT is on a path to achieve the mandated 2050 emissions reduction goal?

- Yes
- No
- Uncertain

## Question 6 Comments:

I will require more information about this issue & how will new regulations affect families & towns both in cost & how they daily live now & in the future - What type & kind of regulations are being proposed & what will be the effects upon both the current but also future families, businesses & municipalities? Exactly how will these changes be beneficial rather than harmful to both humans & CT's wildlife in the land & waterways?

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7. PROJECT GREEN SPACE- Municipalities struggle to find adequate funding for open space acquisition and stewardship. Would you support enabling legislation that would allow municipalities to establish, if they choose to do so, a limited conveyance fee on transfers of real estate to provide dedicated local funding for land conservation, including farmland, forests and open space, and to fund land stewardship efforts, including in urban communities/public lands?

- Yes
- No
- Uncertain

#### Question 7 Comments:

I am wondering what other options there are for funding land stewardship because when adding additional fees to the sale / conveyance transfers of real estate you are hurting families & we do want to encourage stability in our towns & cities which is best achieved when families are taxpaying homeowners rather than renters who have less invested in the area & more transient

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8. PLASTIC BAG POLLUTION- Plastic pollution is a global environmental problem. Westport, CT and other communities across the country have begun to address this issue by implementing bans on single-use plastic bags, citing their contribution to clogged waterways, damage to marine life, and toxic pollution. Would you support a statewide ban on plastic bags similar to the successful ban in Westport?

- Yes
- No
- Uncertain



## Question 8 Comments:

I would like to know more information about recycling options for the bags, the new plastic bags in many stores like walmart have been thinned down so much due to regulations that it now takes 2-3 bags so they will not break or rip from the corners of the cereal boxes, most big chain stores no longer offer paper & some stores offering for "reusable" bags are so poorly put together that they are single use bags at a greater cost to the poor consumers - What more can be done to encourage recycling of the bags like the Recycling Companies/Plants being able to process the bags & stores having a collection bin at the front of the store to take in the bags & the bottle/can redemption centers also being drop off points for the plastic bags?

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**9. TIRE RECYCLING-** The value of scrap tire is declining and many post-consumer uses are going away. This is a recipe for illegal dumping which puts a financial burden on municipalities and can develop into a public health concern (tires are a breeding ground for mosquitos). Would you support full Expanded Producer Responsibility for tires--that involves producers and advocates--in designing the take-back program?

- Yes
- No
- Uncertain

## Question 9 Comments:

What will be the impact & costs upon the low income car owner if this is passed? What other options are there for recycling of old tires? What can be done to encourage to practice of "ReTreading" tires as a way to reuse the tires? What will be the costs & impact upon small businesses that sell auto-parts &/or do repairs?

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10. SOLAR ENERGY- Residential solar energy is rapidly expanding, and is an important source of clean energy and jobs. But CT's residential solar market is limited due to the high percentage (about 80%) of renters and homes shaded by trees. Other states have successful "shared solar" programs that enable people who cannot install rooftop solar panels to purchase a portion of electricity produced by a larger solar installation. Would you support legislation expanding CT's insufficient shared solar pilot to a full-scale, statewide program that allows all CT residents to access clean energy?

- Yes
- No
- Uncertain

#### Question 10 Comments:

I am very interested in Solar Power & would like to know what can be done to encourage homeowners to install panels that will enable them to be able to get off of the power grid so they are not being a drain on our aging system. Can we investigate having public buildings such as schools, hospitals & police stations etc to have installed panels on their rooftops to cut the bills for their facilities but also add power to the grid in their areas, maybe making a mini-grid for when there are power outages for extended periods at important buildings such as the water plants back in winter storm Alfred one of the water plants ran out of gas if I recall because the outage was longer than the plant had an emergency plan for. Parking lots & bus stops & street lights could also be covered with solar panels which provides shelter from the summer sun for the people & cars below & be a way to reduce energy usage. How can we expand solar usage without creating undue burdens upon taxpayers, homeowners, cities or towns? What regulations are preventing homeowners & businesses from being able to actually become fully off the grid via solar, wind & even hydro power?

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## 11. What environmental concerns are you most passionate about?

Having been raised on a farm I am very passionate about ensuring that our family farms will be able to continue to operate now & in the future. I do want to see encouragement of the small family farms via education in farming & animal husbandry in our technical high schools as a career option. I would also like to see more encouragement for homeowners to get sustainable & green options for their homes where possibly tax credits are given to the homeowners directly as has been done in the past for the purchase of energy efficient appliances & renewable heating options like wood/pellet burning stoves which reduce the need for oil heat & can heat a home in the event of an extended power outage. I also would like to see encouragement for Alternate Housing like the Tiny Homes & using recycled materials to build with as an encouragement for Home Ownership in addition to creative reuses of currently vacant large buildings (schools, old factories etc) as a way to preserve our CT History while offering co-op possibilities for those who are in need of creative spaces that is different than traditional housing. I am also interested in exploring recycling options as a way to both prevent landfill but is there a possible way for our citizens to make money in recycling items? How can items be reused to make better roadways, energy creation, new building materials etc. With some of the landfills now becoming close to being filled or already in the shutdown process we do need to look for ways that will creatively reuse what we have been producing that has seen the end of its current life into a new useful life.

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## 12. What are the environmental priorities in your district? Do any require a state legislative solution? If elected/re-elected, what will you do to address these issues in 2017?

My district includes Windsor & Bloomfield as well as the northern portion of the city of Hartford which are 3 of the towns served by the MDC & affected by the Niagara deal some are upset about the deal others are not certain what to believe & some think this will be good because jobs have been promised although there was a protest because at the time the local union wasn't included in the hiring process. The Parks in our state are an asset but sections of our state have parks that are in need of attention like parts of Keney Park & some of the smaller parks in Hartford - it is also concerning that camping was restricted this year in many of our state parks this summer which denied many families their vacation here in our state merely due to money mismanagement in the budgeting process.

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DO NOT LEAVE THIS FORM UNTIL YOU HAVE HIT THE "SUBMIT" BUTTON. If you have any questions or would like to submit additional information regarding your environmental record or positions, please email us at [ctlcquestionnaire@gmail.com](mailto:ctlcquestionnaire@gmail.com) or call our office at 860-236-5442. Thank you!



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