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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: Laura Devlin

Running for: House Senate District No: 134 Party: Republican

Candidate/Campaign Mailing Address: PO Box

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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?	X		
Comments: Yes. Our state parks and forests are wonderful resources that can also help support our state's economy as a recreational and travel destination.				
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: Connecticut should continue to fight for its share of federal funding and it's incumbent upon our Governor and US Senator and Congressman to do so. I am encouraged by the "lock box" provision for the state's transportation fund, but the delay in implementation was wrong and should be removed. Since 2010 \$189 million has been diverted from transportation improvement projects - there should be no delay in securing funds collected for transportation being solely invested in our desperately needed transportation improvements. The state should also prioritize its transportation investments based on the economic return and opportunity. For example, would the \$567 million that is being spent to build a 9-mile high-speed bus lane between New Britain and Hartford have been better spent on Metro North, which from Fairfield County – NYC is the most widely used commuter line the nation?			
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: Local municipalities are overly dependent on property tax revenues, which are further stressed by unfunded mandates put on these municipalities. It's important that the need for economic growth and the use of land is balanced with the need to protect the environment and its natural resources.			
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: The AAP favors the application of least toxic pesticides by using IPM principles. I support IPM – including for schools which includes reducing pesticide use, incorporating organic strategies and enabling effective treatment for pests where needed.			
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:			
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: In concept, I totally support this – but there lacks specificity in terms of why we use the standards we do, what are the pros/cons of changing? For example, it seems reasonable that we should use the most up to date standards – so why don't we? In doing so, the cost/benefit needs to be considered, based on limitations of our state budget, and decision-making should be based on sound science.			
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: It is important to protect our waterways. Many companies such as P&G, Unilever (CT) & Johnson & Johnson are already phasing microbeads out of their manufacturing processes, and many other companies don't use them at all. Before a ban is put in place, I would want to understand the timelines underway to phase out use of these products and avoid potential impact on jobs and the economy. I would support establishing a date by which companies would no longer use these products. If companies do not phase out we should consider legislative options, including banning their use.			
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:			
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 would support ensuring funds are not raided for other purposes, and would support program expansion through use of the designated funds – not through increasing taxes.			
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: In concept, I totally support this and it seems a logical position. I also believe it is important to consider both sides of an issue, so I want to know what reasons would be offered to <i>not</i> support legislation to remove these barriers and enable clean distributed generation.			
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: It would be important for manufacturers to be a part of this discussion. The safety of children is paramount, and that's why decisions based on sound science are so important. To have products approved for use manufacturers must provide safety/exposure data and MSDS for each product produced must be provided – these spell out safety and usage. Arbitrary decision-making could have negative impact on jobs and the economy while doing little to improve the safety of children.			



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

Long Island Sound requires more attention and I believe there are many areas where the Connecticut General Assembly should increase their focus to protect the environment and CT citizens.

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

1. Transportation – ensuring appropriate investment in Metro North and our roadways by encouraging federal transit investments and securing the state's transportation fund so it is not longer raided and used for other purposes.
2. Monitoring the utility-driven tree removal and the impact that will have environmentally. As a local legislator, I am working closely with our Town officials and committees, other legislators and neighborhood groups to ensure our residents are informed and aware of their rights.

3. Located where we are on Long Island Sound with waterways including Mill River, Ash Creek, Pine Creek, and other inland wetlands, the preservation of wildlife and fish/shellfish, recreation and the overall beauty of these areas. Storm water runoff is a concern that affects all of the above.
4. Green energy – Fairfield has been a leader in encouraging green energy use, this is important to continue to foster.

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

Comments