



2018 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Laurel Steinhauser (Democrat)

House District 32

1) 100% Clean Energy by 2050:

Do you support transitioning to 100% clean energy by 2050 or sooner?

Yes

There is no reason why Connecticut shouldn't become the first state in the nation to reach the 100% renewable energy standard. Our communities are ready for cleaner energy - and lower electric bills - so we need to focus on increasing renewable energy production, increasing education and access to solar programs, and making our electric grid more resilient. A real commitment to clean energy is one of the most important investments our state can make right now in the future environmental and economic health of our state, and it will surely benefit all of us in the long run.

2) State Water Plan:

Will you support the plan as submitted to the legislature and affirm that water is a public trust?

Yes

Access to clean water is a basic human right. I will support the State Water Plan as written to ensure the protection of this public resource for the benefit of all our residents now and for generations to come.

3) Municipal Funding Pilot for Open Space:

Would you support legislation that would allow, but not require, certain municipalities to establish a dedicated fund to protect local open space, farmland and water resources through a limited conveyance fee on buyers of real estate?

Uncertain

We must work to expand our efforts to conserve open spaces, protect waterways, and mitigate the effects of urban sprawl and industrial pollution. If elected, I

would support legislation that thoughtfully addresses and funds this work. However, I am uncertain of whether additional taxation of cash-strapped homebuyers is the correct measure for funding these efforts. What is clear to me is an added conveyance tax may not be a burden on the wealthy but it would be a strain on the working class families and seniors in my district. I am open to learning more about this proposed conveyance tax, though I am also interested in exploring other ways to fund conservation efforts.

4) Plastic Bag Pollution:

Would you support a statewide ban on single-use plastic bags (or a ban/fee hybrid) to significantly reduce plastic bag pollution in our state?

Yes

I am very interested in exploring a ban/fee hybrid program and would look to other states and cities for guidance on what policies have been most successful. The popularity of the bagless grocery chain Aldi indicates to me that Connecticut residents are willing to consider reusable bag options, and I believe this could be an important step towards reducing plastic bag pollution.

5) Gas Pipeline:

Will you support the repeal of the pipeline tax established in 2015?

Yes

The tax payer subsidized pipeline expansion will not lower our electric bills and it has no benefit to the climate or the economy. I would support the repeal of the pipeline tax.

6) Carbon Pricing:

Would you support carbon pricing for Connecticut?

Yes

As Washington forfeits its leadership role on environmental protections, states must rise to meet the challenge. I support the concept of a carbon fee as a method of combating climate change and would insist that any new revenue be directed to providing low-cost renewable energy options directly to Connecticut consumers, not diverted to ongoing state government expenditures.

7) Additional Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to seek the endorsement of the CT League of Conservation Voters. I appreciate your consideration.