

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: ctlcv@ctlcv.org

Candidate Name: Elizabeth "Betsy" Ritter

Running for: House Senate District No: 20 Party: Democrat

Candidate/Campaign Mailing Address: 24 Old Mill Road, Quaker Hill CT 06375

Phone: (860) 444-1700 Website: www.RitterforSenate.com Email: BetsyRitterforSenate@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 Currently incumbent State Representative

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:				
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?		See com m	

Comments: I am not interested in giving up any opportunities to reduce our use of federal funds. I would support border tolls to help us fund transportation infrastructure.			
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:			

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Question</i>	<i>Support</i>	<i>Uncertain</i>	<i>Oppose</i>
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:				
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 Yes if it is to limit further than required, not loosen.:				
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: Important that we also look at ways to keep updating our standards in a more timely manner as conditions change.				
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: This is the first time I've seen this proposal – would definitely be interested in more information. Not sure how we can effectively do this as a single state so I am interested in more details before making a commitment. This sounds very dangerous.				
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:				
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:				
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:				



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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?

I am particularly interested in pursuing the work we finally started on state-wide water planning. I would like to build on this year's bill with a stronger plan to move ahead.

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

Long Island Sound; watershed preservation/protection; land conservation (Oswegatchie Hills, The Preserve); and the Connecticut, Niantic, and Thames Rivers.

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
- ___ Transportation
- ___ Pesticides
- 1 Water Source Protection
- ___ Microbeads
- 2 Conservation Lands

3 Energy

Toxins

Property Tax Reform

___ Other (please explain)

Comments: VERY TOUGH to make these determinations and to rank them – they are all important.