

2014 Candidate Survey

- 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: Keith Rodgerson

Running for: House Senate **District No:** 143 **Party:** D

Candidate/Campaign Mailing Address: 51 Sunset Pass Wilton CT

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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. My opponent Gail Lavielle has authored legislation attempting to liquidate public open space to fund unrelated projects. I believe that revenues generated from open space need to be used to preserve, operate and maintain public open space.	X		
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:	I favor increased transportation expenditures. My opponent authored legislation to suspend all state bonding for two years. I will be an advocate for state investment in infrastructure and TOD. I am not going to Hartford with an ideological disposition against investment.	X		
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	X	
Comments:	Yes. I would also advocate for tax incentives, financing and other initiatives that would support smart growth around transit. As an economic development professional, I understand intimately how critical these resources are.			

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Question</i>	<i>Support</i>	<i>Oppose</i>	<i>Incertain</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	X	
Comments:	Yes. My opponent on behalf of ALEC and the American Chemistry Council has been a strong advocate against any regulation that hampers the profit goals of corporations. She has filibustered initiatives meant to lessen the exposure of children to toxins.			
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	X	
Comments:	I support better disclosure, tighter regulations, and any initiative that undermines the PR campaigns of herbicide and pesticide makers. They wield too much influence over our lives.			
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	X	
Comments:	Yes and I believe in stronger regulations that help to mitigate the detrimental effect of large sprawled developments and associated runoff (Wal Mart, Surface Parking, Etc.)			
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?	XX		
Comments:	Yes. Unlike my opponent I will be a strong advocate for policies that benefit our environment and safety even if those policies infringe upon the will of business.			

Conservation Lands	Would you support passing a state Constitutional Amendment to better protect state conservation lands from being given away for non-conservation purposes?			
Comments:	Yes. My opponent authored legislation to sell state conservation lands for non-conservation purposes. I would oppose.			
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	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	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	X	
Comments:	Yes. My opponent has fought these measures in the legislature. As a PR executive with Wal Mart, Burson Marsteller, Shandwick and Philip Morris, she has been a staunch advocate against environmental health for 25 years in the areas of secondhand smoke, deforestation, sprawl, and the proliferation of nuclear and non-nuclear arms. As a legislator she has supported the rights of businesses over the rights of consumers and their health.			



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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?

Lead discharge by hunters. I will advocate against the NRA and Wal Mart push for high capacity magazines, uphold the Newtown legislation, and work towards common sense laws that will curb the distribution of neurotoxic chemicals in the watershed, open space, residential areas, etc.

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

Open space preservation. Water quality. Watershed preservation. Big box sprawl and a lack of permeable surfaces. Environmental contamination from manufacturers and unregulated pesticides/herbicides.

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

Comments: I try to focus on the issues that have the greatest impact on public health and welfare. All of these items are critical and under attack by ALEC model legislation and their immoderate advocates like my opponent Gail Lavielle, R-143.