

**ARLETTE Hidalgo**

RI House

District 12

QUESTION 1

Do you support reforming the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) by eliminating the politically appointed council and replacing it with a Department of Coastal Resources?

ANSWER: **Unsure**

I support ensuring that our coastal management system is effective, transparent, science-based, and adequately funded. I am open to considering proposals that improve accountability, coordination, and decision-making, including potential structural reforms. However, before supporting the elimination of the CRMC Council or merging the agency into the Department of Environmental Management (DEM), I would want to carefully review the evidence, consult with coastal experts, municipal leaders, environmental organizations, fishermen, businesses, and residents who would be affected. My priority is not preserving any particular government structure, but ensuring Rhode Island has a coastal management system that protects our environment, strengthens community resilience, and serves the public efficiently and transparently.

QUESTION 2

Would you support legislation to create a recycling refund system for beverage containers in Rhode Island?

ANSWER: **Unsure**

I support policies that reduce litter, improve recycling, and protect Narragansett Bay. Beverage container deposit systems have shown positive results in many states, and I am open to supporting a well-designed recycling refund program after reviewing the specific legislation, implementation plan, and its impacts on consumers, municipalities, small businesses, and recycling infrastructure. My priority is adopting solutions that are effective, equitable, and practical for Rhode Island.

QUESTION 3

Please share any additional ideas or priorities you would have as a state legislator to improve and protect Narragansett Bay and its watershed.

ANSWER:

Reducing stormwater runoff and preventing pollution from entering our rivers and the Bay.
Investing in green infrastructure and climate resilience to address flooding and sea level rise.
Continuing efforts to replace lead service lines and improve water quality.
Supporting environmental education and community partnerships that encourage stewardship of our waterways.