

# Shaina Smith

## RI State Representative, District 41



### QUESTION 1

Rhode Island's shoreline will face a variety of challenges in the coming decades: rising sea levels, loss of coastal habitats, and the development of offshore wind. It is important that the decisions of our coastal regulators be made by experienced professionals with expertise on coastal matters and guided by sound science. For several years, Save The Bay and others have advocated for eliminating the politically-appointed Coastal Resources Management Council and renaming it the Department of Coastal Resources, with decision-making authority resting with a Director, similar to other state agencies. Will you support legislation to reform CRMC by eliminating the politically-appointed council?

**YES**

### QUESTION 2

Despite decades of public education and volunteer cleanups, litter and marine debris continue to be problems along our shore and throughout the watershed, with beverage containers being one of the biggest contributors to the problem. A recent study by researchers at URI found there is now roughly 1,000 tons of microplastic on the bottom of Narragansett Bay. Beverage container deposit laws (also known as "bottle bills") have been proven to be one of the most effective policies to both reduce litter and improve recycling. Would you support legislation to create a recycling refund system for beverage containers in Rhode Island?

**YES**

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

If not already an offering for schools, consider providing free field trips for all Title 1 schools and/or a pilot program for schools to apply for classroom scholarships for free field trips. This allows otherwise disadvantaged communities and children from below poverty level standards the opportunity to explore environmental and marine topics. Also, consider classroom contests outside of the drawings that encourage the recycling of bottled containers for families/students, with the classroom collecting the largest amount of bottles and recycling them, receiving some field trip/education incentive. I would also suggest looking at California's SB 54, which requires that by 2032, the industry must sell 25% less single-use plastic packaging and food ware in the state, make all single-use packaging and plastic food ware recyclable or compostable, and recycle 65% of single-use plastic packaging and food ware.