

**Victoria Gu**

RI Senate

District 38

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: **Yes****QUESTION 2**

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

ANSWER: **Yes****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:

Westerly, Charlestown, and South Kingstown are at the frontlines of climate change. Sea level rise, tidal flooding, and severe weather events are affecting our groundwater and infrastructure. Septic systems are in danger of failing more often. Summer droughts have caused some households' wells to go dry. Our coastal ponds are warming, and that is affecting the marine ecosystem. Climate change is here, and we have a limited time window to act.

Just in Dec 2023/Jan 2024 alone, we've seen repeated and severe flooding and erosion along our coasts and rivers statewide. In 2023, Representative Spears and I introduced and passed the Act on Coasts, which will require the state to create a coastal resiliency plan and update it every two years. To implement the plan, we advocated for additional climate resiliency funding that will be in the Green Bond this November and available to all cities and towns to apply for. Rep. Cortvriend and I also introduced a managed retreat bill to help towns create plans for voluntary buyouts and restoration of coastal environments, where appropriate. We have to do more to adapt so that we don't lose the places we love in South County