**Stevenson Cherlynn Democratic Party State Representative 88**

EDUCATION. In an age dominated by complex science and technology, how can we ensure that students receive adequate STEM educations?

We must ensure that a rigorous curriculum is in place and that we have strong teachers to lead those. As with all things education related, funding is key. Adequate funding must be allotted so the most relevant and recent information is disseminated and cutting edge technological resources are available to students. Equally important, educators must have access to the ongoing professional development necessary to deliver said content.

· FOOD & WATER. How would you manage Kentucky’s agriculture so it provides healthy and affordable food grown in an ethical and sustainable way? What should government do to ensure access to clean water?

I think we need to consider restructuring subsidies to allow farmers to utilize safe practices and tax/credit policies to encourage the diversity of family farms rather than corporately owned farms. Government and university research policies should aid in the development of sustainable alternatives and encourage reduced pesticide use.

I believe that clean water is a human right, not a privilege and the government needs to guarantee that for all citizens. While Kentucky has several laws and regulations surrounding the delivery of potable water, but we need more oversight where this is concerned. Martin County’s water issues are a perfect example, as the problem was allowed to fester for far too long.

· ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT: With nonrenewable resources on the decline in Kentucky, how do we create a sustainable Kentucky? What are your stances on: hydraulic fracturing, nuclear, and renewable energy sources? What are your views on climate change, and how would they affect your energy policies (if at all)?

We must add renewables to our energy portfolio. Kentucky’s market is dictating the fact we have to begin making the move to renewables from fossil fuels. I am in full support of efforts to being solar energy to our state. Eastern Kentucky, in particular, has the perfect locations due to the mountain top removal. With the continued progress on the solar front and continued challenges for nuclear energies, I would prefer we make our investment priorities in the solar arena. While natural gas is cheaper than coal, it still offers environmental concerns. As we look to the future, Kentucky must diversify. As someone who believes in climate change, I will always consider the human and environmental factors of every issue.

· ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY: How do you balance economic stability with environmental health and conservation?

We must have the political will to make policies that encourage both. We need to ensure that natural resource utilization follows laws and are aimed at economic growth that is for the welfare of all, not just a few. And it can be done. Recently, Indonesia adopted an economic strategy that was pro-poor, pro-job creation, pro-growth, and pro-environment. From 2009-2013, they had an average economic growth rate of 5.9% and their poverty rate declined from 19.4% to 11.3%. (http://www.oecd.org/greengrowth/economic-growth-can-complement-environmental-conservation.htm)

· SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY. How will you foster a culture that respects scientific evidence and protects scientists? What role(s) specifically, if any, should government play in stimulating innovative science and technology so we continue to benefit from them?

We need to elect those who will make decisions based on scientific truths when making legislation, then be sure the public knows when that happens, and again when it is successful.

The government absolutely has a role to play in stimulating innovation and it is a large one. So much of our daily lives are affected by the scientific and technological advancements that were discovered using government support and government funded research and development. (iPhone, anyone?) Currently, only a small percentage our federal budget is allocated for R&D, and only a small portion of that is dedicated to science and technology. We can and should do better.