



2022 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Tony Hwang Republican
Senate , 28

OPEN QUESTION

Bipartisan environmental leadership, open space preservation, clean water and riverways and climate change impact are deeply important to me as a citizen and policy maker. I will remain focused on all of the above issues for the upcoming 2023 legislative session, if I am re-elected.

1) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:

- Yes
The recent SCOTUS decision undermining the federal EPA is devastating to reduce polluting energy facilities in CT and throughout the US. I will support fighting the siting permitting process that will build polluting facilities in an environmental justice community as well as “every” community in Connecticut and neighboring states.

2) WASTE MANAGEMENT:

- Yes
I would support and encourage industries & business to independently adopt and accept extended producer responsibility (EPR) in addition to our municipal governments. I will volunteer to help draft legislation that would help all impacted shareholders move toward increased recycling rates, diverting compostable food waste and help to stop creating new waste at the “source”.

3) POLYSTYRENE:

- Yes
I will support legislation to reduce polystyrene pollution by requiring end users to stop using styrofoam and single-use styrofoam food containers by 2024. To be fully effective, we must encourage and provide cost and phase in support as businesses & municipalities make the transition to remove convenient single use plastics and expanded polystyrenes in every aspect of our lives.

4) PFAS:

- Yes

I would support a ban to restrict PFAS chemicals in textiles, upholstered furniture, carpets and cookware similar to what is being done in other states like New York, Maine and Colorado and encouraging other neighboring states like Rhode Island, Massachusetts & New Jersey to jointly ban to restrict PFAS as well. We also need to fund education and awareness programs on the public health danger of PFAS.

5) NEONICOTINOIDS:

- Yes

I would support legislation that bans or significantly limits the sale and use of neonicotinoids in CT.

I would like to work with and learn from the recently formed working group of all shareholders to research and use their recommendations to guide policy makers on how to best restrict their use.

6) RODENTICIDES:

- yes

I would support restricting the use of certain rodenticides in outdoor areas like parks and other public spaces. I would look to municipal, wildlife rehabilitation and environmental biologists to provide guidance on public policy.

7) DIESEL BACKUP GENERATORS/DATA CENTERS:

- Yes

Data center are an important future economic development area but their energy intensive use are a concerning environmental and pollution emission factor. I would support local, state and federal collaboration to establishing emission and exhaust standards for diesel and alternative energy generators that data centers are allowed to use in CT.

8) BEARS:

- yes

I would support legislation that creates a working group, representing all impacted shareholders, that will include environmental and animal welfare groups along with DEEP and wildlife biologists and municipal leaders to make policy recommendations on humane, long-term solutions to avoid conflict with wildlife due to increased development & encroaching animal habitats and public safety.

9) TREE CUTTING PROTOCOLS:

- Yes

I will support legislation that requires strong science-based tree cutting protocols based on conservation values. Prior and proper notification on impacted private property owners is fundamental to respecting personal property rights as well.

10) COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY:

- Yes

I will support legislation to allow, but not require, municipalities to establish a dedicated fund for community sustainability projects including support for parks and green spaces, tree planting, farmland preservation, protection of water resources, climate resilience & mitigation and housing assistance through a limited conveyance fee on buyers of real estate. Emphasize that it is at the discretion of local municipalities to assess such a fee.

11) RIPARIAN BUFFERS:

- Yes

Thanks to the leadership of WestCOG and its Plan of Conservation and Development's endorsement of legislation to protect riparian corridors (buffers) along CT rivers and streams to preserve, sustain and protect our riverways.

I would support state level legislation, at the suggestion of a working group of all impacted shareholders, that would create a comprehensive and sustained creation of riparian buffer areas especially in areas of high use and vulnerable riverways.

12) RANKED CHOICE VOTING:

- yes

- I support the most engaged voter participation in our electoral process and Rank Choice Voting (RCV) is a voting option that can increase voter & alternate political party choice and possibly increase voter turnout.

I could support this innovative form of "instant runoff" election.

However, any new innovation in election voting methodology must be based on a trusted, efficient administration of vote collection and registration and remove any doubt of voter fraud and suspicion.

It is imperative that any voting protocol changes must also be passed by both House and Senate legislative bodies by a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority, rather than a simple majority.

