



## 2024 Candidate Survey on the Environment

David Alexander, Democrat  
House District 58

### 1) Open Question:

I have not served in the Connecticut General Assembly since 2017. Thus, I have not had the opportunity to advocate for environmental issues at the state legislature recently. However, from 2018-2019 I was enrolled in a masters program at Arizona State University focused on environmental sustainability policy. As part of my coursework, I participated in a large environmental sustainability consulting project for the city of Glendale, Arizona. Within this project, I was assigned with coming up with recommendations for Glendale regarding the construction of energy efficient municipal buildings. My research on this topic led me to learn about the good work that Nashville, Tennessee has done regarding the construction of environmentally sustainable municipal buildings. My research showed that the initial cost of constructing environmental sustainable buildings is a little more expensive upfront compared to the construction of conventional buildings. However, the entire cost within the life cycle of an environmental sustainable building is a lot cheaper than conventional buildings. This is due to the massive savings made from heating and cooling costs associated with these environmental sustainable buildings and especially the savings gleaned from using a lot less water with these buildings. These buildings help lower the carbon footprint, and they actually save municipalities a lot of money. Glendale, Arizona appreciated this, and they took me up on my recommendations. In 2019 I carried on with my studies by enrolling in a masters program at the Goldman School of Public Policy at UC, Berkeley, and I continued studying about environmental sustainability policy while at Berkeley. This led me to learning about and advocating for Cap and Trade policies when it comes to carbon pollution by private and public sector actors. I will advocate for both environmental sustainability municipal construction, and cap and trade carbon pollution policies if elected.

### 2) Climate:

**Will you support paying for increased investments in clean energy and our electric grid infrastructure to ensure a healthy environment that will reduce reliance on fossil fuel and nuclear energy (and ultimately reduce costs to ratepayers)?**

- Yes  
Yes, and the data shows that doing so will result in savings for Connecticut over the long run and an increase in the competitiveness of the Connecticut economy.

**3) Nature-Based Solutions:**

**Will you support a stand-alone bill that authorizes and prioritizes the use of nature-based solutions (forests, trees, wetlands, riparian buffers, healthy organic soils, and other natural ecosystems) as the preferred alternative, where appropriate, across all agencies?**

- Yes  
This is much needed. Data shows that carbon capture must be part of the environmental sustainability portfolio, and this requires the planting of a lot more trees. It also requires the expansion of bio diversification to include everything listed in this question.

**4) Clean Cars and Trucks Emissions Standards:**

**Do you support Connecticut's adoption of the latest California emissions standards for cars and trucks?**

- Yes  
I lived in California a few years back, and they are the national leader for environmental sustainability. All states should follow California's lead.

**5) Environmental Rights Amendment:**

**Will you support an Environmental Rights Amendment to our State Constitution?**

- Yes  
I have never thought about this until reading this just now. I like it a lot. Amending the State Constitution will likely produce pro-environmental caselaw within state legal courts to include the Connecticut Supreme Court.

**6) Food Waste Diversion:**

**Will you support designating food scraps as a "recyclable" item and requiring large-scale food generators to create plans to donate edible food?**

- Yes

Doing this will lower the carbon footprint and also feed more hungry people.

**7) Neonicotinoids:**

**Will you help push for legislation to ban the sale and use of neonics for non-agricultural use in Connecticut?**

- Yes  
Anything that massively lowers bee, insect and bird populations is dangerous due to how it disrupts the biosphere. Thus, this should be a priority issue next session.

**8) Rodenticides:**

**Will you support banning the use of certain rodenticides, with a few well-defined exceptions, to help prevent the deaths of its unintended victims?**

- Yes  
Anything that massively lowers hawks, owls, raptors, foxes and pet populations is dangerous due to how it disrupts the biosphere. Thus, this should be a priority issue next session.

**9) Environmental Justice:**

**Will you support a legislative fix to Connecticut's Environmental Justice statutes to include all polluting facilities?**

- Yes  
This is a national problem. It is very common for polluting plants to be located in low-income communities or communities of color. When living in Berkeley, California, I traveled up north to see how the refinery plants sent polluted air to nearby Richmond, a community primarily consisting of African Americans. This upset me, but it's common all over the country. All polluting facilities need to be included in the Environmental Justice statutes. One reason why I like amending the State Constitution is that it would increase the opportunities for legal cause of actions within the Connecticut court system for these types of issues.

**10) Bears:**

**Will you support legislation that requires humane responses to conflicts with wildlife such as providing better support for the public seeking help, removing attractants, minimizing shooting incidents, and strengthening programs to deal with orphaned wildlife?**

- Yes  
I agree with this. It helps keep the biosphere stabilized.

**11) Tree Cutting Protocols:**

**Will you support legislation to require stronger science-based tree cutting protocols based on conservation values?**

- Yes  
I am a data driven person, and I support science-based tree cutting due to this.

**12) Ranked Choice Voting:**

**Should Connecticut pursue Ranked Choice Voting?**

- Yes  
Yes. I am a big supporter of RCV. It works very well in Alaska, and Connecticut should adopt this system. RCV produces elected officials who best represent the will of the voters.

**CANDIDATE COMMITMENT TO WORK ON ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION**

If you support any or all of our top priority legislation during the 2025 session, will you add your name as a legislative co-sponsor?

- Yes  
I will co-sponsor any of the bills that address these issues.

Will you plan to attend our annual Environmental Summit in January?

I would like to attend the annual Environmental Summit because it will give me an opportunity to learn more.

If requested, will you meet with CTLCV at least once during the legislative session to review priority legislation?

- Yes  
I will be glad to meet whenever is convenient if elected because it will allow me to learn more about how I can advocate more for environmental policy.