



2020 Candidate Survey on the Environment

**Baird Welch-Collins Democrat
House , 38**

1) 100% Zero Carbon:

Do you support codifying this legislation?

- Yes

2) Environmental Justice:

Do you support the provisions that were contained in the Environmental Justice legislation?

- Yes

3) Municipal Funding Option :

Would you support legislation to allow, but not require, municipalities to establish a dedicated fund for local open space, farmland, water resources climate mitigation strategies through a limited conveyance fee on buyers of real estate?

- Yes

4) Bottle Bill :

Do you support modernizing Connecticut's bottle bill by 1) expanding the list of beverage containers accepted, 2) raising the deposit amount on covered containers, and 3) raising the handling fee paid to authorized dealers for each container they collect?

- Yes

5) Climate Change Education:

Do you support a requirement to teach climate change education in public schools?

- Yes

6) Transfer Act:

Do you support switching to a release-based cleanup program that would require sufficient DEEP oversight, mandated reporting of all cleanups and other safeguards to ensure a successful program that increases the number of sites cleaned?

- Yes

7) MDC Water:

Would you support legislation to require rates set by MDC to be approved by PURA (the state regulatory authority that sets rates for private water utilities)?

- Yes

8) Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS):

Do you support advancing legislation that would prohibit PFAS chemicals wherever possible?

- Yes

9) Chlorpyrifos:

Will you support legislation to ban the sale and use of Chlorpyrifos in CT (as was the intent of House Bill 301 considered earlier this year)?

- Yes

10) No New Gas Infrastructure:

Will you oppose a tax on CT ratepayers to fund new gas pipelines?

- Yes

Open Question:

What environmental issues have you worked on? What will be your top environmental priority for the 2021 legislative session?

- Over the course of my two terms on Waterford's Representative Town Meeting and three terms serving as treasurer of Waterford's Flood and

Erosion Control Board, I introduced and fought for a municipal ban on single-use plastic bags, a municipal ban on fracking waste, and remain an ongoing proponent of open space and land conservation. I have consistently fought to require developments to address non-point source pollution and runoff and personally participated in numerous protests for a clean energy economy and sustainable development. In my personal life, I have focused on food sustainability through gardening and beekeeping and most recently, purchased a 100% electric car for my transportation.

My top environmental priorities for the 2021 legislative session will be fast-tracking CT's transition to a clean energy economy, taking aggressive action to protect green spaces, and banning the pesticides and fertilizers poisoning our waterways.

Additional Comments:

- As a personal note: I want to thank your organization for the work you are doing to protect our state. I became involved in politics largely due to my passion for environmental conservation and it is always a big morale boost to see the fantastic work the CTLCV is doing.