



2024 Candidate Survey on the Environment

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House District 111

1) Open Question:

Most recently, I advocated for the EV Infrastructure bill, as Vice Chair of Transportation, as well as multiple Climate related bills/issues, as one of the co-leaders of the Climate Caucus. Also in my capacity as VC of TRA, I worked on/for bills addressing clean air, and re-forestation.

I have also introduced multiple bills related to alternative heating/cooling and other green energy, as well as recycling.

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

Between the climate and the very real threat to our democracy we are in do or die mode this election cycle. If all federal environmental protections are stripped, as promised by the R Presidential candidate and his ilk, the last (and only) defense will be left to the individual states. We MUST ensure that every elected official in the CT GA understands the existential crisis related to Climate that is already here, and do whatever we can to reverse and adapt to it.

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

Conservation, restorative agriculture... these are a few of the solutions necessary to maintain/create carbon sinks, which are a

critical (and significantly less expensive) part of combatting Climate Change.

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 worked on this bill, and had the privilege of serving as the second seat as Chair Lemar led this bill to its passage.

5) Environmental Rights Amendment:

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

- Yes

I was very disappointed to see this get very little traction this year, and will continue to fight for it.

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

Too much waste, too many hungry people. This seems to me to be such an easy solution to implement. If we set up an interview, remind me to tell you about "Rock 'n' Wrap-it-Up" a program I worked on in 1995-1999 with the Hard Rock Cafe in Boston.

7) Neonicotinoids:

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

- Yes

I will continue my work to educate my colleagues on this issue, as well as to pressure our Federal representation to address this nationally, assuming we still have an EPA in January.

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

Again, as I stated for Neo-Nics.

9) Environmental Justice:

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

- Yes
We cannot keep failing the communities that suffer the worst and simultaneously have the fewest resources to fight.

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
Education is so important here.

11) Tree Cutting Protocols:

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

- Yes
Working on it!

12) Ranked Choice Voting:

Should Connecticut pursue Ranked Choice Voting?

- Yes
RCV allows voters to express their TRUE preference, and allows for a broader range of ideas to be shared -- particularly during the campaign process, and could potentially open up the field to folks who may never have considered running for office -- particularly pro-environment folks. Unfortunately, because of the toxic state of our elections process and political landscape, our benches aren't very deep in most communities. I truly believe RCV could encourage more folks to engage and (hopefully) run for all offices, and restore faith in the idea that every single vote matters.

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 always do!

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

- Unsure

Entirely schedule related, but I would certainly like to attend!

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

- Yes
Always available, as you have been for me.