



2020 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Bryan Anderson Democrat
House , 119

1) 100% Zero Carbon:

Do you support codifying this legislation?

- Yes

I will advocate and vote for codification of the policies outlined in the Governor's Executive Order.

2) Environmental Justice:

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

- Yes

As stated elsewhere, I know all too well the risks attendant with residential neighborhoods being co-located with industrial plants.. Children are still subject to being poisoned by lead paint and lead-laden soil. Coal-fired plants and fossil-fuel dependent commercial and industrial operations are clear and present danger for young people and their families, as studies have recorded the high rates of asthma among children. Having been raised nearby the Winchester gun factory, I'm very well aware of the air pollution created by their use of coal, as well as the spent coke deposits placed into a landfill on which our house was built, in addition, to the middle school being built on a filled ecosystem.

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

I will strongly support a municipal funding option through the real estate conveyance fee to allow local governments to acquire and protect watersheds, farmland, and open space. Milford now requires

developers to pay into an open space fund that is used for acquisition and maintenance of public lands.

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

As I indicated elsewhere in this questionnaire, as Senate staff, I was an original proponent of the Bottle Bill, strategized with Betty Gallo, Mary Mushinsky and others to successfully petition the bill out of the Environment Committee and lobby for its adoption. The Bottle Bill and Climate Change curricula are my two highest priorities for 2021. It's a job creator, in addition to having a positive effect on environmental practices.

5) Climate Change Education:

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

- Yes

I strongly support this measure, will advocate for its adoption, and have made the issue a centerpiece of my campaign talking points. As a retired Bronx-based teacher, I developed and taught Science curriculum that introduced students to climate change. Living in a shoreline community hard hit by TS Irene and Sandy, as well as "Snowgedden," it is essential that municipalities have more resources and funding to develop resiliency goals.

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

This is largely a matter of environmental justice, oversight, and accountability. I served as a New Haven Alder, and was empowered with zoning responsibilities for our political subdivision. As an elected Milford Alderman, I would often advocate for residents before the

Planning and Zoning Board, including opposing a new cell phone tower and digital electronic billboards. The house where I grew up was built on a landfill used by the Winchester factory. My middle school was built on a swamp. Toxic sites are often located in lower-income neighborhoods comprised of POC. Residents need information, to be at the table, and to have their voices respected in a public process that mitigates harmful conditions.

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

I have witnessed and have cheered on efforts to advocate for MDC ratepayers who were asked to make provisions for Niagara, a private bottler receiving a 20% discount while being subject to a rate increase. MDC decisions need oversight and an appeals process by an arbitrary public regulatory body.

8) Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS):

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

- Yes

I am strongly supportive of the outright ban of PFAS in consumer products and in foam sold to fire companies and would work to make it a legislative priority. I favor Bond funding for a new regional Valley Fire Training Academy with the proviso that it be a state-of-the-art facility that introduces participating departments to safer alternative methods of fire suppression.

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

I am active with the Milford Land Conservation Trust as a director. We have over 325 acres that we own and maintain. Not only will I work for this legislation, I will ensure Milford and Orange environmental activists come up to offer testimony and lobby for passage.

10) No New Gas Infrastructure:

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

- Yes

Absolutely. I strongly oppose the Killingly gas plant, and participated in the recent drive-by protest in Hartford at DEEP and the Governor's Residence. The Milford Board of Aldermen is on record as opposing fracking, permitting fracking waste deposits and hauling fracking waste through city limits.

Open Question:

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

- In New Haven, my efforts as an alder to recognize and promote a West Riverkeeper led to creation of an official position within the City Parks Department that created public programs and events which provided a new level of environmental awareness and positive outcomes. In Milford, I sponsored an ordinance that created an Open Space and Natural Resources Management position that has been particularly impactful. Similarly, I sponsored the Single Use Plastic Bag Ban Aldermanic Resolution which passed unanimously and was presented to the 2019 Environment Committee as testimony. I led successful community efforts to oppose UI conversion to 4000 Kelvin LED streetlights, I've worked to defeat billboard conversions four times now to electronic boards adjacent to residential property. I led the fight on the Board of Aldermen to successfully oppose the siting of a cell tower and insisted on public testimony being permitted. I authored an ordinance passed unanimously to ban commercial trucks weighing more than 15,000 lbs from overnight parking on residential streets, prompted by trucks that were leaking fuels and other fluids into watershed areas. I have worked to protect public access to land, water bodies, parks, and beaches.

My priority is an expansion in the Bottle Bill. Mary Mushinsky and I worked together to get the current law enacted. It's long overdue! My opponent is on Environment and Public Health. Her votes have been inconsistent and disappointing. I will be a strong advocate in its adoption, and resulting job creation.

Additional Comments:

- I wish to be appointed to the Environment Committee if elected.