



2024 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Aundré Bumgardner, Democrat
House District 41

1) Open Question:

As a member of the Environment Committee, I've been an outspoken advocate for climate action in CT. I was one of the earliest co-sponsors of HB 5004 and co-introduced the amendment that advanced out of the House. Additionally, as secretary of the BPRC, I played a role working with leadership with the goals of advancing the California Clean Cars and Trucks Standards in CT and making EV adoption more attractive to urban and BIPOC communities. Lastly, I am very passionate about wetlands and the protection of Long Island Sound. Next year, I hope to double down on these efforts!

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

As a State Rep. who represents a district where half is served by an investor-owned utility and the other half is served by a municipal public utility, I am very interested in seeing CT adopt policies that allow our communities to establish or join public electric utilities. New York adopted the labor-supported Build Public Renewables Act that can serve as a model for CT for that type of legislation.

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

I am very interested in taking a leadership role in this legislation. I have worked with local and state land conservancy and stewardship

organizations on nature based solutions as a State Rep, Town Councilor, and as a community member.

4) Clean Cars and Trucks Emissions Standards:

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

- Yes

As I mentioned before, I have been a major proponent of the Clean Cars & Trucks Emissions Standards.

5) Environmental Rights Amendment:

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

- Yes

I co-sponsored this legislation in 2023 and 2024

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

I have long been passionate about food waste diversion and establishing robust composting programs throughout our state. We have so much opportunity with respect to designating foods scraps as a "recyclable" item and requiring large-scale food generators like schools or hospitals to create plans to donate edible food and compost the rest. Additionally, I facilitated the continuation of the curbside compost program in Stonington that was funded through DEEP's sustainable materials management program. I also co-sponsored many iterations of legislation that would expand composting in CT over the past two years.

7) Neonicotinoids:

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

- Yes

I co-sponsored legislation that would ban the sale and use of neonics for non-agricultural use in CT over the past two legislative sessions.

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
I co-sponsored this legislation in 2023 and 2024.

9) Environmental Justice:

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

- Yes
I was very proud to co-sponsor the newest EJ Law in 2023.

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 did not legalize bear hunting as a member of the Environment Committee.

11) Tree Cutting Protocols:

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

- Yes
I have been very vocal about these issues with DOT as it has been a major cause of concern amongst my constituency. Over the last two legislative sessions, I have received dozens of emails from residents complaining about the clearing of healthy, native trees along within our communities.

12) Ranked Choice Voting:

Should Connecticut pursue Ranked Choice Voting?

- Yes
I have been an outspoken supporter of Ranked Choice Voting -- going as far as to write an op ed in The Day explaining why we should support it. Additionally, the Governor appointed me to his Ranked Choice Voting Working Group where we are exploring the adoption of some version of RCV for a limited number of elections in CT.

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
Of course! My track record already reflects that I will do this.

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

- Yes
I attended last year's summit and found it to be very informative!

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

- Yes
It has been a privilege working with the CT LCV team on climate action and I can't wait to see what we can do together to heal our earth beginning in 2025!