



2024 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Christine Cohen, Democrat
Senate District 12

1) Open Question:

Throughout my 4 year tenure as Chair of the Environment Committee and now as I serve as Chair of Transportation, the environment remains my biggest priority. I am so proud to have led the passage of the initial PFAS ban, banning single-use plastic bags, revising the bottle bill for the first time in decades, and the Connecticut Clean Air Act. Now, as Transportation Chair I have been focused on decreasing the carbon emissions from the Transportation sector and ushering in a speedy transition to electric vehicles. This past session I was a fierce and vocal advocate for adhering to the California emission standards, and while I am disappointed we were not successful, I am eager to return to the legislature to lead the passage of meaningful and broad climate action.

I have long worked alongside CTCLV in our shared efforts to secure a cleaner, greener future and I would be honored to once again earn your endorsement.

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

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

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 Chair of Transportation, I am eager to return to the legislature to continue this fight for common sense and effective solution to the carbon emissions from the Transportation cycle.

5) Environmental Rights Amendment:

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

- Yes

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

7) Neonicotinoids:

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

- Yes

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 was the first to introduce this legislation when A Place Called Hope initially presented it to me as both a constituent and a fierce advocate for our wildlife. I have been disappointed by its stalled passage, but will continue to introduce legislation and fight for its final passage.

9) Environmental Justice:

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

- Yes

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

11) Tree Cutting Protocols:

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

- Yes

I have been working with DOT to get the agency to establish a new way of thinking and new policies around clear cutting. As a result, we passed important dollars for science-based carbon sequestration and release standards to allow for proper replacement planning when tree removal is necessary. We should look to carbon capture replacement and an increase in pollinator pathways when a one to one replacement is not possible.

12) Ranked Choice Voting:

Should Connecticut pursue Ranked Choice Voting?

- Yes

I continue to be interested in the concept of ranked choice voting and I am encouraged by the idea that its implementation could benefit candidates that are more representative of voter's interests, as opposed to fringe candidates that benefit from the current system.

I do have concerns about the demands this could put on our local registrars of voters and would like to ensure a phase-in that allows for proper training and allocation of state resources to help with the transition.

I look forward to seeing the recommendations of the bipartisan working group established by Governor Lamont this year and exploring how ranked choice voting could work in Connecticut.

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

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

- Yes

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

- Yes