



2024 Candidate Survey on the Environment

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House District 142

1) Open Question:

EV Regulations: led Regulation Review Committees Efforts, HB5004: sponsor, Food composting: introducer. All of these initiative need to move forward and I will continue to work on championing these efforts to get them over the finish line in the 2025 legislative session.

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

We need to continue advocacy on these efforts, focusing on capital investments through bonding and supporting recurring general funds to ensure that we "put our money" in alignment with our goals of getting to net neutral by 2030.

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

We have a lot of opportunity in our state to utilize our natural resources to enable positive change to carbon neutrality and establish natural based solutions to address 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

Car and Truck emissions are the greatest contributors to greenhouse gases and one of the key areas that should be reduced to get to carbon neutrality. The market is going in this direction and nearly every auto manufacturer is looking to eliminate gas combustible engines by 2040 at the latest. This market switch and getting CT on board will offer consumer more choice that is costs effective.

5) Environmental Rights Amendment:

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

- Yes

I learned more about this in the 2023 legislative session at the LCV legislative briefing. I believe that there are many health concerns that our residents face that are a result from pollution in our atmosphere, from asthma and other respiratory issues to cardio-vascular concerns. This would be a way to ensure that a clean environment is taken into account for every key state policy.

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 been working with local environmental leaders in Fairfield County to increase funding, in the form of expanding the existing food scraps pilot program. I have advocated for additional bond funding to help towns establish sustainable food scraps program.

7) Neonicotinoids:

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

- Yes

This is a very important piece of legislation that is critical to keep our pollinators healthy and flourish which provides a better environment for our natural habitat.

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

It is critical to ban these poisons as there are many negative consequences to the full surrounding eco system. There are many

alternative solutions to manage the rodent populations and we should promote these and eliminate these toxic chemicals..

9) Environmental Justice:

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

- Yes

It is important that we continue the work to improve the environmental quality of all communities and moving the 2023 law further. We need to ensure that people thrive in their surroundings by implementing policies that promote clean air, clean water and free of noise pollution.

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

There are many alternatives in providing humane response to troublesome bear issues. We need to ensure that we fund programs that support these responses.

11) Tree Cutting Protocols:

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

- Yes

Connecticut naturally has a beautiful tree scape but we need to ensure that we manage the control of the cutting these trees. We need to add healthy forest strategies to our local Plans of Conservation and development.

12) Ranked Choice Voting:

Should Connecticut pursue Ranked Choice Voting?

- Yes

I am still learning about this policy and how it could work in practice but I agree that this policy is something that CT should continue to explore. I agree that this also would increase the voter engagement and provide more choices, which is really what democracy is all about.

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 have sponsored many of these key initiatives and will continue to do so.

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

- Yes

I have been many years - it is phenomenal!

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

- Yes

I appreciate your invites and really love your policy papers on your website.