



2024 Candidate Survey on the Environment

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House District 106

1) Open Question:

In my role on the Legislative Council, my support for the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to enhance the public water supply was a critical step in ensuring that Fairfield Hills has the infrastructure for development, and by supporting the application for a historical credits grant to develop housing near this improved public water supply, I supported smart development that minimizes sprawl and protects open spaces.

In a rural town setting, where open land is often at risk of being converted into more developed areas, my advocacy for infrastructure improvements and thoughtful housing development contributes to preserving the natural landscape. I believe this approach emphasizes the importance of accessible public resources while maintaining the balance between development and conservation. We must recognize the interconnectedness of community planning, environmental health and a sustainable future for our town.

If elected to the state legislature, I think it is critical that we address the imbalance between energy supply and customer demand. Our energy costs are some of the highest in the nation, in part because of Connecticut's commitment to clean energy. I think it is important that we maintain our commitment while providing financial relief to customers so that we can all be committed to a sustainable future.

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

I support measures toward averting a climate crisis. I support clean energy, heat pumps, nature-based solutions, workforce training,

sustainable business incentives, and a study for the transition toward clean energy and infrastructure.

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

As a scientist, I support an interdisciplinary scientific advisory council and would be a willing participant.

Locally, I (unsuccessfully) advocated for maintaining our forestry regulations to allow local control over our forests and how they are harvested.

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 support the regulations that require auto and truck manufacturers to deliver increasing percentages of zero emission vehicles for sale in the state, providing greater availability to consumers. In this way, consumers have choices.

5) Environmental Rights Amendment:

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

- Yes

It is important that Connecticut policy reflect the public's desire to have environmental protections in place.

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

With a strong food waste prevention programs Connecticut can fight food insecurity, curb toxic emissions, and save our communities money on trash disposal.

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

9) Environmental Justice:

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

- Yes

I support the empowerment of communities in the decision-making processes for new and existing sources of pollution. Connecticut must address its legacy of injustice and prevent overburdening communities with inordinate public health and environmental impacts from affecting facilities.

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

Newtown is home to a significant bear population. On occasion, this has led to unfortunate conflicts. I advocate for increased resources and public education to help minimize dangerous interactions, shooting incidents and conflict.

11) Tree Cutting Protocols:

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

- Unsure

Tree cutting by the DOT and our utility companies is important to maintaining electricity supply. As weather incidents become more extreme and frequent, it is important that we ensure that we are protecting customers from extended blackouts while also ensuring that trees are maintained whenever possible.

12) Ranked Choice Voting:

Should Connecticut pursue Ranked Choice Voting?

- Yes
Ranked choice voting has the potential to increase voter participation in our elections. When people have choices, they are more likely to want to be part of the process.

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