



2022 Candidate Survey on the Environment

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House , 83

OPEN QUESTION

As a millennial elected official, climate change is an issue that has defined my generation. I grew up in the rural part of the 83rd house district, the district which I am currently seeking election. The 83rd District is defined by its large open spaces and conservation areas-- Bicentennial Park (Berlin), the Quinnipiac River Gorge Trail (Meriden), and Lamentation Mountain (Berlin) are just a few of the pristine protected lands I enjoyed in my childhood and still enjoy as an adult. As a Berlin Town Councilor, I have sought to preserve the open spaces in my district and will continue to do so if elected to the CT House of Representatives. I have also advocated for more transit-oriented development and a broader selection of public transit or non-carbon emission transportation options in Berlin. We need safe, reliable methods of transportation beyond cars. Connecticut should continue to proactively explore these options to reduce our carbon footprint.

1) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:

- Yes
This type of legislation would reduce heavy concentrations of pollution in urban, low-income communities of color. I would support a bill that seeks not only to achieve socioeconomic justice by limiting these high-pollution facilities in these communities and advocating for a more responsible distribution of emissions facilities.

2) WASTE MANAGEMENT:

- Yes
I was disappointed to see that my hometown (Berlin) was not one of the participating municipalities in the CCSMM Report. However, Meriden is a participating CCSMM jurisdiction. It is critical that we have a plan in place for large-volume waste that is not easily broken down and processed. Legislation for tires and packaging waste would further support responsible waste management and could reduce costs on cities and towns as well. I would support this legislation.

3) POLYSTYRENE:

- Yes

While styrofoam is cheap for restaurants and schools, we can't take shortcuts when it comes to environmental safety. There are cheap alternatives to styrofoam that restaurants could utilize, such as paper or cardboard boxes. I would likely support this type of legislation.

4) PFAS:

- Yes

We cannot take for granted access to clean drinking water with limited levels of toxic chemicals and carcinogens. As we've seen in other states, unclean water can create both environmental and public health crises. I would support additional state funding for water testing and remediation for PFAS and I would support broader efforts to ensure these harmful substances do not contaminate our drinking water and pose a threat to the health and safety of CT residents.

5) NEONICOTINOIDS:

- Yes

6) RODENTICIDES:

- yes

In public parks and open spaces where hawks and other raptors hunt in large droves, yes, provided this legislation would be tailored to ensure that rodent infestations would be properly addressed in urban areas where they are higher in concentration.

7) DIESEL BACKUP GENERATORS/DATA CENTERS:

- Yes

We certainly need data centers as we continue to advance through the technological age. But that doesn't mean responsible, evidence-backed growth isn't feasible. Implementing policies that address the needs for these facilities while also ensuring they don't hinder the environmental well-being of our communities and drive up utilities costs is a wise decision for our legislature. I would be inclined to support these efforts.

8) BEARS:

- yes

Emphatically yes. Bears are my favorite animals. They are also frequent inhabitants of the woods in my backyard, as I grew up in a very rural part of Berlin. We have to find a way to cohabitate with bears, who are

an invaluable part of our ecosystem. So much of that depends on our own individual habits and decisions regarding our property-- improperly managing our trash, placing bird-feeders in our backyards, and feeding bears or other wildlife when we aren't supposed to are just a few ways in which our behaviors can mitigate risks associated with bears or other nuisance wildlife. Education is the best form of conflict resolution, particularly when it comes to avoiding harmful encounters with wildlife. I would eagerly support non-lethal, education-driven initiatives.

9) TREE CUTTING PROTOCOLS:

- Yes
Alterations to the environment, particularly in protected lands, must be evidence tested. I would support stronger, evidence-backed protocols for tree cutting.

10) COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY:

- Yes
I like this policy, as it strikes an effective balance between providing long-term, sustainable support for parks and other open spaces, while also affording municipalities the discretion to determine whether to implement this type of initiative themselves. At the local level in Berlin, much of our sustainability-oriented community development is achieved through state and federal grants. We wouldn't be able to undertake these projects without it. For an area that has such unique, well-maintained open spaces, this would be an important policy to advocated for in my particular district.

11) RIPARIAN BUFFERS:

- Yes

12) RANKED CHOICE VOTING:

- Uncertain
- I am open to ranked-choice voting as a principal and was encouraged to see many of this year's Democratic SOTS candidates discuss it in detail. It seems there is growing support for the proposal throughout CT, particularly as voters become more educated on how it works. Ranked-choice voting may also stimulate wide participation from candidates who may otherwise be deterred from the first-past-the-post system we have in place. I'm interested to see how the process plays out in various municipal elections across the country.

