



2024 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Jan Hochadel, Democrat
Senate District 13

1) Open Question:

As the Vice-Chair of the Environmental Committee, I have worked on many environmental issues. For the past two years, my focus has been on building carbon-neutral schools by accessing the Green Bank. I was also working to help the House Environmental Bill last year - it did not pass, but I hope it will be brought forward again this year.

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 was extremely disappointed in members of the Environment Committee that still believe there is no climate crisis. We need to stop arguing about policies that merely mitigate the change and take actions to recognize the crisis we are already in. And we need to pass legislation to address it!

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

Absolutely, the crisis cannot be tackled with one solution, we have to look at multi-pronged approach. We also need to hold state agencies accountable for the damage they are causing, such as cutting down too many trees on the highways,

4) Clean Cars and Trucks Emissions Standards:

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

- Yes

We also need to recognize that the vehicles that are best for the environment are financially beyond many CT residents, and consider how we can work to reduce the cost.

5) Environmental Rights Amendment:

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

- Yes

I strongly support the ideas behind the amendment, but I worry about building policy changes into the Constitution. We only need to look at red states to see where that can lead.

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 love this idea, the problems you identify are very important

7) Neonicotinoids:

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

- Yes

As a former science teacher, I used to teach what neonics are doing to the environment, especially to the bees, which are an integral part of our life cycle.

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 would vote for it because if I didn't my oldest daughter would never stop talking to me about it :) I have raised three children, but my oldest refuses to kill any insects and will take them outside; she will make calls when she sees animals that have been hurt on the side of the road; and she is distraught when any animal is harmed. I am very proud of her.

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

The Environmental Committee spent countless hours on bear-related issues during my recent term. We need to find humane solutions, including better educating the public about what attracts bears - like bird feeders and garbage cans - and reduce the attraction.

11) Tree Cutting Protocols:

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

- Yes

As I mentioned in a previous response, this is one of my pet peeves. I would absolutely support this.

12) Ranked Choice Voting:

Should Connecticut pursue Ranked Choice Voting?

- Unsure

My fear about rank-choice voting is that on one hand it may push elections toward the least objectionable candidate rather than the best candidate, and on the other it may make "game theory" too large a part of the election process. I am not against the idea per se, but would like more evidence of the impact it is having in states that use it before recommending it for 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?

- No

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

- Yes

I will plan to attend, but we will be in session

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

- Yes
Happy to meet anytime.