



## 2024 Candidate Survey on the Environment

**Robert "Kyle" Hoggard, We The People  
House District 33**

### 1) Open Question:

While I worked in healthcare to create a reputable health equity portfolio, I led initiatives that improved health and equity, which often intersect with environmental health issues such as access to clean air and water, reducing pollution, and ensuring safe living conditions. As an alum, I've mentored candidates through the Run For Something (RFS) community. RFS is dedicated to recruiting and supporting young and diverse candidates for down-ballot races, with the aim of building sustainable power for Democrats in all 50 states---many of these candidates have been climate activists. If I'm fortunate to be elected, I will focus on the chaotic development issues in the 33rd District. I will push for strategic development plans that prevent chaotic growth, ensure environmental sustainability, and protect community resources. With the current development on Newfield Street causing concerns among residents about traffic, school commute times, and general strain on community resources, it is crucial to implement measures that balance growth with environmental sustainability.

- Actions:

- Advocate for stricter zoning laws and comprehensive urban planning to manage development responsibly.

- Promote green building practices and infrastructure improvements that minimize environmental impact.

- Engage with community members to ensure that development plans meet both environmental and social needs, protecting the quality of life for all residents.

My top priority will be to increase investments in clean energy and our electric grid infrastructure to ensure a healthy environment that will reduce reliance on fossil fuel and nuclear energy. While my opponent, on the other hand, works for the biggest barrier to a greener economy in CT (Eversource). More 60% of Eversource's energy generation is reliant on natural gas, fossil fuels. Rep. Chaffee is unable to fight for a greener economy in CT.

## **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  
My top priority will be to increase investments in clean energy and our electric grid infrastructure to ensure a healthy environment that will reduce reliance on fossil fuel and nuclear energy. While my opponent, on the other hand, works for the biggest barrier to a greener economy in CT (Eversource). More 60% of Eversource's energy generation is reliant on natural gas, fossil fuels. Rep. Chaffee is unable to fight for a greener economy in CT.

## **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!

## **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 strongly support Connecticut's adoption of the latest California emissions standards for cars and trucks. These standards have been instrumental in helping us meet federal air quality requirements and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. With the current light-duty vehicle standards set to expire in 2025, it is crucial that we update our regulations to include new standards for medium and heavy-duty vehicles, as our neighboring states have already done. Adopting the latest California emissions standards will ensure we continue to make progress in protecting our environment, improving public health, and combating climate change.

## **5) Environmental Rights Amendment:**

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

- Yes

I strongly support adding an Environmental Rights Amendment to our State Constitution. While Connecticut has significant environmental laws at both the state and national levels, our constitution currently lacks a clear statement of environmental rights. This amendment would mandate our state government to equitably protect the rights of all people to a healthy environment. By focusing on environmental protection during the planning and decision-making stages, we can proactively avoid environmental issues and ensure sustainable development. Furthermore, this amendment would empower communities and future generations to hold the state accountable for upholding these essential rights. Establishing environmental rights in our constitution is a crucial step towards safeguarding the health and well-being of all Connecticut residents and preserving our natural resources for the future.

**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 strongly support designating food scraps as a "recyclable" item and requiring large-scale food generators to create plans to donate edible food. Diverting wholesome food from landfills and incinerators to families in need is a practical and compassionate solution. Donations of nonperishable and unspoiled perishable food from homes and businesses can significantly help stock the shelves at food banks, soup kitchens, pantries, and shelters. This initiative not only addresses food insecurity but also reduces the environmental impact and costs associated with waste management. By implementing these measures, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of Connecticut residents and promote a more sustainable and equitable food system.

**7) Neonicotinoids:**

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

- Yes

I strongly support pushing for legislation to ban the sale and use of neonicotinoids, or "neonics," for non-agricultural use in Connecticut. These poisons are the most widely used and unnecessary class of pesticides in the country, contributing to the massive decline of bee, insect, and bird populations. They also cause extensive water and

soil contamination, ecosystem-wide harm, and pose significant human health concerns. Despite their widespread use on golf courses and urban landscapes for ornamental purposes, the federal government has not adequately regulated these chemicals. Therefore, it is essential that Connecticut take decisive action to protect our environment and public health by banning neonics for non-agricultural use, following the example set by other proactive states.

#### **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 strongly support banning the use of certain rodenticides, with a few well-defined exceptions, to help prevent the deaths of unintended victims such as Connecticut's Birds of Prey, hawks, owls, raptors, foxes, pets, and other wildlife. As rats and mice develop tolerance to the poison and consume it without dying immediately, they become a lethal meal for predators and other animals. Effective alternatives to these harmful rodenticides exist, making it unnecessary to continue their use. Despite strong bipartisan support for a ban during the 2024 legislative session, the pest control industry's influence led lawmakers to take no action. It is imperative that we take decisive steps to protect our wildlife and pets from the painful and unnecessary deaths caused by rodenticide poisoning.

#### **9) Environmental Justice:**

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

- Yes

I strongly support a legislative fix to Connecticut's Environmental Justice statutes to include all polluting facilities, not just new ones. In 2008, Connecticut took a crucial step by passing a landmark environmental justice law to prevent the disproportionate siting of polluting power plants, incinerators, and similar facilities in low-income or communities of color. The 2023 legislative enhancements further empowered at-risk communities, increased transparency, and addressed systemic racial inequities in siting decisions. However, the last-minute amendment that excluded existing facilities weakens the law's effectiveness. Including all polluting facilities in the legislation is essential to ensuring comprehensive

protection for vulnerable communities and upholding the principles of environmental justice. This fix would solidify Connecticut's commitment to equitable environmental stewardship and safeguard the health and well-being of all its residents.

**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

I strongly endorse legislation that mandates humane responses to conflicts with wildlife. Such legislation is crucial in providing better support for the public when seeking help, removing attractants that draw wildlife into human-populated areas, minimizing shooting incidents, and strengthening programs to care for orphaned wildlife. These measures not only protect wildlife but also enhance community safety and promote ethical treatment of animals. By fostering coexistence and reducing conflicts, we contribute to a more balanced ecosystem and uphold our responsibility to protect and preserve our natural environment. This legislation aligns with our broader environmental and ethical goals, ensuring a sustainable and humane approach to wildlife management.

**11) Tree Cutting Protocols:**

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

- Yes

It is absolutely unacceptable that Governor ordered staff to cut more than 180 trees in his backyard. He needs to reimburse the taxpayers and because of this action he is showing that he is unfit to be in office. He refuses to support a greener economy.

**12) Ranked Choice Voting:**

**Should Connecticut pursue Ranked Choice Voting?**

- Yes

The We The People party firmly supports ranked choice voting so much that we have it in our party rules. We cannot wait to tell more voters about the movement we've started.

**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