



2024 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Maria Horn, Democrat
House District 64

1) Open Question:

I have sat on the Environment Committee throughout my time in the legislature because of its importance to my district, and because protecting the environment is a critical role of government. I [PFAS, spraying of herbicides in railroad right of ways, sustainable energy, cutting trees, municipal solid waste (\$ in bond package), CT Clean Air Act (speed up elect of state vehicles); salt in drinking water; climate-smart farming; land conservation - top priority is to get 5004 passed

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

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

4) Clean Cars and Trucks Emissions Standards:

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

- Yes

5) Environmental Rights Amendment:

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

- Yes

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

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

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

This is a yes, but. I do support "humane responses to conflict" but dangerous interactions between humans and bears have been a major problem in the district I represent. Every week (sometimes daily), I hear from constituents, many of whom are committed and knowledgeable environmentalists, who tell me harrowing stories about interactions with bears on their property and in their homes. This can not merely be dismissed as the fault of those constituents, who, yes, keep food in their kitchens, have screened porches, plant fruit trees next to their homes, etc. Science and data also demonstrate that every other New England state with a significant bear population has a hunt of some kind, and that they have fewer human/bear interactions despite sometimes significantly larger

bear populations. We cannot put our fingers in our ears and pretend this is not happening. Bears are beautiful, clever, and powerful creatures who are an important part of our ecosystem, and we should ensure their population remains wild and healthy.

11) Tree Cutting Protocols:

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

- Yes

12) Ranked Choice Voting:

Should Connecticut pursue Ranked Choice Voting?

- Unsure
"Unsure" isn't really accurate, but it was better than "yes" or "no." Ranked choice voting has the potential to moderate results, taking power away from extremists on either end of the political spectrum and rewarding those who work together with others, which is why I believe it could be very beneficial. At a time when false narratives have eroded trust in our voting systems, however, we should be careful about imposing a system which is more complicated and may appear less transparent. I believe we should study that, and come up with ways to education people about it, before we impose it.

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?

- Unsure

I will try, as it's always an excellent event, but sometimes my other legislative responsibilities make it impossible to attend a whole-day event.

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

- Yes