



2020 Candidate Survey on the Environment

John-Michael Parker Democrat
House , 101

1) 100% Zero Carbon:

Do you support codifying this legislation?

- Yes

2) Environmental Justice:

Do you support the provisions that were contained in the Environmental Justice legislation?

- Yes

Especially in the wake of the important step forward with police accountability during the special session, I think it is so important to continue reminding folks of the intersectionality of racial justice—and environmental justice is such a critical (and potentially consensus-building) element of that work.

3) Municipal Funding Option :

Would you support legislation to allow, but not require, municipalities to establish a dedicated fund for local open space, farmland, water resources climate mitigation strategies through a limited conveyance fee on buyers of real estate?

- Yes

In the time of the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing and the increased used of our outdoor spaces, (something we see very clearly in Madison, my hometown) I think it's clearer than ever how important this issue is to the community—and so we must continue to pursue this opportunity.

4) Bottle Bill :

Do you support modernizing Connecticut's bottle bill by 1) expanding the list of beverage containers accepted, 2) raising the deposit amount on

covered containers, and 3) raising the handling fee paid to authorized dealers for each container they collect?

- Yes

5) Climate Change Education:

Do you support a requirement to teach climate change education in public schools?

- Yes

As a former teacher and current education non-profit leader, the connection to schools and students in our broader conservation work is very important to me.

6) Transfer Act:

Do you support switching to a release-based cleanup program that would require sufficient DEEP oversight, mandated reporting of all cleanups and other safeguards to ensure a successful program that increases the number of sites cleaned?

- Yes

7) MDC Water:

Would you support legislation to require rates set by MDC to be approved by PURA (the state regulatory authority that sets rates for private water utilities)?

- Yes

After last week's storm the broad conversation about PURA and utility regulation is heightened, and I believe this is the time to act and solve these kind of problems at a systemic level.

8) Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS):

Do you support advancing legislation that would prohibit PFAS chemicals wherever possible?

- Yes

9) Chlorpyrifos:

Will you support legislation to ban the sale and use of Chlorpyrifos in CT (as was the intent of House Bill 301 considered earlier this year)?

- Yes

10) No New Gas Infrastructure:

Will you oppose a tax on CT ratepayers to fund new gas pipelines?

- Yes

Open Question:

What environmental issues have you worked on? What will be your top environmental priority for the 2021 legislative session?

- Growing up and now living in Madison, I have a first hand understanding of the importance of coastal resiliency—not only to our shoreline, but, more broadly, our entire state. I've been inspired by and grateful for the recent leadership of elected officials in our community, from Senator Kennedy to, now, Senator Cohen, on these issues, and hope to have the chance to support and continue that work.

In our community, I've been a supporter of the Madison Land Conservation Trust—both as a citizen and as a user who enjoys hiking and fishing and spending a lot of time outdoors. And I was a part of the local support around the plastic bag ban and, here in town, banning the use of dangerous chemicals in road salt in the last few years.

And as I mentioned above, the opportunity to fight for broad racial justice and equity at this moment in time is among my highest priorities, and I am eager to support the climate and environmental pieces of that agenda.

Additional Comments:

- Thank you for the work you do, and for this opportunity to apply for your endorsement!