



2020 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Judd Melon Democrat
House , 34

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

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

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, it is maddening that it is not already required that climate change be taught in schools. Climate change is real, we need to teach everyone that, especially children.

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

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?

- I have not yet held elective office so I have not been able to directly vote on environmental legislation. I believe that CT needs to transition to renewable energy sources swiftly and that urgent investment in that transition would also create jobs and help our economy. We also need to facilitate retraining of fossil fuels workers into green energy jobs. From the perspective of residents, accessing green energy is also unnecessarily difficult, we need to make that easier. If the process for consumers were facilitated, many more of us would opt to even pay a bit more for green energy. The option to switch to green energy should appear on every utility bill.

Additional Comments:

- Bluntly, I believe in robust environmental policies and will consistently vote with CTLCV on the issues described above. My opponent in this race is Irene Haines who has a 58% rating from you. I am a progressive Democrat running in a district that leans conservative but which has a lot of bipartisan supporters of environmental conservation. I seek your endorsement because I genuinely believe that conservation of our environment is paramount (especially in the face of climate change) and I know that your endorsement could make a notable difference in this race. I support the CTLCV positions that are in this questionnaire and will do so publicly. I understand if you are hesitant to endorse me on the basis of viability as I am seeking to unseat an incumbent. I cannot guarantee the outcome of this race but I believe that the current political landscape gives us a chance to flip the 34th district since national politics will drive up the turnout of progressives and other Democrats this year. If we want to unseat the current 34th representative, now is the time to do so. The strength of her incumbency will only grow once she is reelected for the first time. Thank you for the opportunity to seek your endorsement and for the detailed explanation of the issues that are a priority to CTLCV.