



2024 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Renee LaMark Muir, Democrat
House District 36

1) Open Question:

I supported the installation of solar panels on public land owned by Deep River and I installed solar panels on my home. I supported the pilot program in Deep River to remove food scraps from the waste stream and continue to participate in the program. I submitted written support for HB 24-5004 and to encourage the legislative leadership and governor to call for a special session to consider the bill. I support organizations to protect the Long Island Sound. My legislative priorities would include supporting the provisions in HB 24-5004 and any bills to protect the CT River and Long Island Sound. I

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

CT will eventually shift to electric vehicles in the next decade. We must begin to develop the infrastructure of charging stations to support the increased number of electric vehicles. I need to better understand de-regulation of utilities and the impact of raising rates but I support increasing the use of alternative energy sources and making those programs accessible and affordable to residents and small businesses.

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

Yes, I support stand alone bills and would wait to see which bills are raised by the Environment Committee.

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 understand this issue is very controversial and is used by opponents of climate bills. I would need to learn more about the specific raised, but I believe we need to focus on expanding the infrastructure of charging stations and affordability of electric vehicles.

5) Environmental Rights Amendment:

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

- Yes

I support the amendment but would like to better understand the liability issues that may impact the state. I know this an argument used to oppose this proposal.

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

Deep River and surrounding towns in the district are already have food scrap programs. I support these programs but recognize there have been issues with rollout and public acceptance of the program. I believe more public education is necessary and the program has to minimize costs to residents. I believe the program should be required by high volume food waste producers like restaurants, hotels, convention centers, etc.

7) Neonicotinoids:

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

- Yes

I would like to learn more about viable substitute for neonictinoids to help negotiate with businesses that oppose the ban to create a bill that will pass.

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 support all initiatives to protect wildlife. I would support a ban similar to that passed in CA, which appears to have been implemented successfully.

9) Environmental Justice:

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

- Yes
I would support expediting and improving the DEEP permitting process without limiting oversight and regulation and expanding the definition of a polluting facility. I believe this may help to gain support for this initiative.

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 will oppose any bills to create a bear hunting season and I will always support the humane treatment of bears and wildlife, I know bears are not encroaching use but rather we are encroaching on them. Public education is necessary and should be a priority in the state's response to this issue.

11) Tree Cutting Protocols:

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

- Yes
I would support a policy that considers public safety especially on highways and roads with an environmentally sound tree management program. I do support a strong policy to manage and repopulation of forests (e.g., saving ash trees and/or replacing dead trees).

12) Ranked Choice Voting:

Should Connecticut pursue Ranked Choice Voting?

- Yes

In general, i support this issues but would need to be better education on the intended and unintended consequences.

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