



## 2024 Candidate Survey on the Environment

**Renee LaPalme Waldron, Democrat**  
**House District 51**

### 1) Open Question:

This will be my first time holding a state office. Locally in my hometown of Thompson I have been on the Board of Directors for Thompson Together, Inc. for 23 years. Thompson Together promotes and supports the community through capitalizing on the existing strengths of committed citizens to motivate positive action. We are a grassroots force who support a range of voices to act on their interests and implement initiatives that preserve our community's natural resources, build on its rich history, and balance economic development with preservation of the town's rural character. One of our most active subcommittees focuses on environmental initiatives. Each year, we sponsor a month-long roadside cleanup and have also organized river cleanups. A few years back, we initiated a nip collection program aimed at encouraging state legislation to either eliminate nips or add a bottle deposit. Although the legislation did not pass, our efforts led to the collection of nearly 50,000 nips from Thompson's roads in just six months. This experience has deepened my commitment to environmental stewardship and community engagement, which I will carry forward into my role in state office.

### 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

Reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and nuclear energy is imperative to combat the climate crisis. I support increasing investment in clean energy and our infrastructure to ensure a healthy environment for all residents of Connecticut.

### 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

I would support a bill that authorizes and prioritizes nature-based solutions where appropriate across all agencies.

**4) Clean Cars and Trucks Emissions Standards:**

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

- Yes

With the pending expiration of the light-duty vehicle standards, it is vital we adopt the newest California emissions standards for cars and trucks before that deadline.

**5) Environmental Rights Amendment:**

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

- Yes

I would support an amendment to the State Constitution to ensure the right of all people to a healthy environment. It is important to implement environmental protection at the planning and decision-making stages to avoid environmental problems.

**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

With 1 in 8 residents hungry or unsure of their next meal, it is imperative that we take responsible actions to address food insecurity. Large-scale food generators dispose of tons of food each year, much of which is still edible. Designating food scraps as a recyclable item and requiring these food generators to create plans to donate edible food is not only responsible but essential.

**7) Neonicotinoids:**

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

- Yes

i will help push for common sense legislation to ban the sale and use of neonics for non-agricultural use in Connecticut.

**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

It is our responsibility to preserve our environment and to protect wildlife from being unintended victims of certain rodenticides.

**9) Environmental Justice:**

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

- Yes

All Connecticut residents deserve to live in healthy environments, regardless of social economic status.

**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

As legislators, it is our responsibility to preserve our environment and protect wildlife to the best of our ability. This means taking proactive steps to conserve natural habitats, reduce pollution, and promote biodiversity. Protecting our environment is not only about preserving the beauty of nature but also about ensuring the health and well-being of our communities.

**11) Tree Cutting Protocols:**

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

- Yes

The conservation of trees and forest is vital to wildlife and the environment in general and will support science-based protocols.

**12) Ranked Choice Voting:**

**Should Connecticut pursue Ranked Choice Voting?**

- Yes

Ranked choice voting empowers the voter and I do believe it would increase turnout.

## **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

As a new legislator this will be an opportunity to listen and become more informed on the priorities of the CT League of Conservation Voters.

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

- Yes

I look at endorsements as partnerships based on shared values and goals. It is imperative to have open dialogue about the issues that are important to all of us.