



2022 Candidate Survey on the Environment

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Senate District 20

OPEN QUESTION

My top environmental priority will be working on climate change efforts. Climate change is real and we all need to be thinking about how all of our actions effect our climate. The environment matters to be because we cannot live without a healthy environment and I want to have a place I am proud of to leave to my children and grandson. As a New London City Councilor I have been proud to work on enhancing public transportation (Safe Ride) and to work on the State Pier project (encouraging sustainable energy production).

1) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:

- Yes
Environmental concerns disproportionately impact low-income communities and communities of color. This needs to end. Racism is a systemic problem and we need to intentionally and strategically break it apart to create meaningful change. The state legislature needs to lead this effort and help our municipal leadership make changes within all our communities.

2) WASTE MANAGEMENT:

- Yes
As a City Councilor I have sat at the table discussing our immediate need to deal with waste management in CT. This is a problem that cannot be pushed down the road any longer and must be dealt with head-on. We must think creatively and find ways to educate our citizens and hold producers responsible.

3) POLYSTYRENE:

- Yes
There are so many environmentally friendly sing-use food containers available, that using styrofoam has no excuse any longer.

4) PFAS:

- Yes
There may have been a time when one could claim ignorance when talking about PFAS chemicals. That time is long gone. These chemicals do not break down. The only thing they are going to do is continue to contaminate every part of environment. MTBE was removed over a decade ago and it is still lingering, but can we imagine where it would be today had it not been removed from gasoline when it was? PFAS is our MTBE, it needs to be removed from our products immediately.

5) NEONICOTINOIDS:

- Yes
Other countries we partner with on a regular basis have banned the use of these because they have determined how destructive they are to our environment. In addition, a number of crop pests have already begun to show tolerance for these chemicals. We can and must do better.

6) RODENTICIDES:

- yes
Similar to neonicotinoids, rodenticides are known to be extremely destructive to wildlife and even to our pets. We need to remove these from all public spaces and encourage the public to stop using them for personal home use.

7) DIESEL BACKUP GENERATORS/DATA CENTERS:

- Uncertain
I believe that we cannot discourage the building of data centers for precisely the reasons mentioned above, our country's use of information technology will continue to grow and we cannot be left out of that growth right now. I also believe that there are ways to build these centers so that they do not have the same energy and emissions impacts. The Inflation Reduction Act has quite a few incentives for corporations to choose sustainable energy options and I think that making those even more enticing might be a better way to reduce diesel generator use. These generators are loud and dirty and I do not want to continue to see them used, but I think there are many ways that we can go about that, part of which could be establishing emissions and exhaust standards but I think there needs to be more included.

8) BEARS:

- yes

We know that eradication of "nuisance" wildlife does not help the ecosystem or the environment. We must create policy that is protective of humans but also protective of wildlife.

9) TREE CUTTING PROTOCOLS:

- Yes

Trees are integral to our ecosystem and must be incorporated into every community plan. Strong science-based tree cutting protocols should already be in place and being that the DEEP and DOT are both responsible for maintaining much of the state-owned properties, they should have clear instruction and protocols for tree-cutting.

10) COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY:

- Yes

Community sustainability is a huge part of conservation and protection of our environment. Any help the state can give municipalities would be a step in the right direction.

11) RIPARIAN BUFFERS:

- Yes

Riparian buffers protect an area of our environment that is so frequently overlooked and the state needs to help in this area.

12) RANKED CHOICE VOTING:

- yes
- Ranked choice voting just makes sense and at a time when we are seeing a decline in voter participation, and an increase in voter apathy and an extreme increase in partisanship, we need to update our system. I support ranked choice voting.