



2024 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Steve Meskers, Democrat
House District 150

1) Open Question:

I'm a big supportive of clean water and clean air limiting environmental pollution funding and upgrading our sewer treatment plants to restore the quality of the water in the sound and increases Waste diversion.

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

If the payment income from the general fund our consumer are strapped . The assessments on peoples utilities bills are causing much hardship and need to be considered. The income tax is a much more progressive source of revenue and should be used to fund or policy initiatives.

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

4) Clean Cars and Trucks Emissions Standards:

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

- Unsure

Again, I am concerned of the cost of the changes and I believe we need to roll out of infrastructure to be able to adapt to both hybrid and

all electric vehicles that will take time. I think in most cases we need to engage in the Connecticut based solution.

5) Environmental Rights Amendment:

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

- Yes

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
I have supported various food, waste, diversion initiatives, and will continue to do so

7) Neonicotinoids:

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

- Yes
We definitely need to limit their use and control the impact on our insect populations.

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
There may need to be some carve out first for farms and certain congregate housing so that we can control the populations of rodents, but we need to significantly limit the usage of rodenticides.

9) Environmental Justice:

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

- Yes

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 do believe that the public health endanger will increase as the population of bears recover, and we have to be careful in our management of the wild population

11) Tree Cutting Protocols:

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

- Yes
I find that the tree cutting activity is aggressive and is generally not well supported by the public or my constituents

12) Ranked Choice Voting:

Should Connecticut pursue Ranked Choice Voting?

- Yes
I Think rank choice voting is the way to enhance our democracy.

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?

- Unsure
As the legislation moves forward, the structure of how we pay for the regulations is going to be critical to my support

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