



## 2022 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Mary Mushinsky, Democrat  
House District 85

### OPEN QUESTION

As former chair of the Environment Committee, I wrote the state's solid waste management legislation that included mandatory recycling, regional waste sheds, waste to energy facilities and state procurement of recycled content products. It processed all waste within the state for 35 years, but now the facilities are old, the regional agreements are falling apart and waste is being shipped to out of state landfills hundreds of miles away. The entire system needs to be rewritten next year. As chairwoman, I also wrote the first two climate change laws in the U.S. that included changes in building codes, state investment, CO2 baseline data, state procurement of cleaner cars, tree planting requirements and land use recommendations.

In addition, I guided passage of statewide aquifer protection, passed bills on endangered species protection, and successfully required water-conserving toilets. I created Incentive financing for municipalities to remove phosphorous in wastewater treatment which finally brought them into compliance with the Clean Water Act.

In my district and elsewhere, I have built, financed and supported bikeways and public transit. I supported bills to finance Transportation Climate Initiative and clean up diesel exhaust.

My top environmental priorities next session will be a new solid waste plan and continued efforts to reach our climate change goals through such tools as electrification, public transit and transit-oriented development.

The environment matters to me because, as a biologist, I'm acutely aware of the threats to life and the planet if we don't create a sustainable earth quickly.

### 1) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:

- Yes  
I would allow a new facility only if they agreed to remove older, polluting facilities and improve environmental conditions in the area.

### 2) WASTE MANAGEMENT:

- Yes

**3) POLYSTYRENE:**

- Yes

**4) PFAS:**

- Yes

**5) NEONICOTINOIDS:**

- Yes

**6) RODENTICIDES:**

- yes

I walk by these in Bushnell Park. Poisons should not be the substitute for frequent trash pickup.

**7) DIESEL BACKUP GENERATORS/DATA CENTERS:**

- Yes

I fought for this bill but lost it on the last day of 2021 session.

**8) BEARS:**

- yes

**9) TREE CUTTING PROTOCOLS:**

- Yes

**10) COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY:**

- Yes

**11) RIPARIAN BUFFERS:**

- Yes

I have fought for buffer protection for years, unsuccessfully. It keeps water clean and provides wildlife corridors. We may need to pay landowners to leave buffers alone.

**12) RANKED CHOICE VOTING:**

- yes
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