



2022 Candidate Survey on the Environment

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House , 81

OPEN QUESTION

As a Town Councilor, I worked hard to acquire public open space areas that all residents could access. In the center of Plantsville (village of Southington), I led the acquisition of a small gravel parcel that will be developed into a green space for all residents to enjoy in that commercial area of our town (Link to video: https://bit.ly/poulos_on_open_space). As a State Representative, I would promote initiatives for bolstering urban green space and other opportunities that give access to the environment to all, including economically disadvantaged communities. During the past legislative session, \$7.5M in state grants was established for the preservation of open space and the renewal of green spaces in urban areas. As a State Representative, I would work hard to make this funding accessible to all communities and also work to promote and increase access to already established municipal and state parks.

1) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:

- Yes
Connecticut is a leader in a "just" energy transition. Coal fire plants are closing and efforts to expand green energy are expanding. In keeping with the current movement, I would support these efforts not only for communities of color, but for the greater benefit of all CT residents. Since I am not an energy expert, I would rely on scientists, the organizations with which I am aligned, public hearings, and information presented by other legislators when considering my level of support for the specific components of any proposal before me.

2) WASTE MANAGEMENT:

- Yes

3) POLYSTYRENE:

- Yes

There are a lot of other recyclable and biodegradable alternatives than styrofoam. I would promote cost efficient, compostable, single use, biodegradable products.

4) PFAS:

- Uncertain

I am not sure of the economic impact on the businesses that produce textiles, upholstered furniture, carpets, and cookware. I would need more information to have a firm opinion. With the information I currently have, in lieu of a ban, I would promote cradle to cradle production chains, in which industries promote the recycling of used products for manufacturing new products of the same kind.

5) NEONICOTINOIDS:

- Uncertain

I recognize that pollinators are the foundation of the agricultural industry. Without bees we have no food. At the same time, the agriculture industry relies on pesticides to produce crops. Rather than ban the chemicals, I would lean towards supporting legislation that regulates pesticide use and promotes pollinator habitats and the acquisition of open space. The goal of this effort would be to minimize the negative effect of pesticides on pollinators. I would promote legislation that supports healthy and balanced agricultural systems, which are a food source for our state.

6) RODENTICIDES:

- yes

I attribute the the comeback of the bald eagle since the 1950s in CT to the Clean Water Act and the banning of harmful chemicals, such as DDT, that poison birds. We now we have a healthy eagle population in CT. I would support these restrictions.

7) DIESEL BACKUP GENERATORS/DATA CENTERS:

- Uncertain

My instinctual response is Yes, however I would have to know the exact circumstances of proposed legislation before committing to support these measures to the fullest degree.

I understand the desire to attract information technology companies and other business to our state. We need to balance the economic benefits that IT companies can offer with the green energy transition that is currently underway. Based on my current knowledge, I would

support legislation that would require (or incentivize) these companies to derive a threshold percentage of their energy from green energy sources, while reducing their amount of carbon emissions. I would rely on industry experts and scientists to offer input in order to establish a fair and healthy balance that supports both economic and environmental sustainability.

8) BEARS:

- yes

9) TREE CUTTING PROTOCOLS:

- Uncertain
While I support sustainable forestry, I also understand the need to mitigate power outage risks, especially when we are experiencing more frequent and more intense storms under climate change. As a coastal state, we are susceptible to more frequent and severe disturbances. I would support legislation that protects both forests and our communities. I would support a data driven approach for maintaining forests and tree coverage, while mitigating the risks, caused by climate change, of weather occurrences that lead to power outages.

10) COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY:

- Yes
Preserving open space and the creation urban forests are critical factors in ameliorating high summer temperatures and heat stress to our communities. I have read that urban forest cover across the northeast has declined by 36% during the last two decades. I would promote initiatives from the community to the state level that bolster urban green space, forest cover, and the acquisition of open space parcels.

I would support this approach to preservation, as I am a strong believer in local control of decisions that affect people within a community. I would advocate that municipalities could also determine what the "small" conveyance fee would be, if they were to chose to establish one.

11) RIPARIAN BUFFERS:

- Uncertain
My instinct is Yes, however I would have to have much more information and know the exact circumstances of proposed legislation before committing to support this proposal to the fullest degree. It would be important to consider how to manage a mandate impacting residents and property owners currently living in these areas. Financial support, education, programs to help willing property owners restore buffer areas, and the potential grandfathering or (partial) exemption for property owners would all be considerations.

12) RANKED CHOICE VOTING:

- yes
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