



2024 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Christopher Rivers, Democrat
House District 48

1) Open Question:

Since, my public position for the last 2 years has been on my town's board of education, I've been advocating for far more support for renewable energy projects particularly at our town and school buildings.

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

As a former Eagle scout who loves conservation and a trained engineer that has experience around the world, I know we have to increase our investments in clean energy and our electric grid. This is an uphill effort thanks to the federal and global subsidies that go to the fossil fuel industry. As a state legislator, I can advocate for a change in the federal subsidies, but I'm happy to directly advocate for more state funding for clean energy in the meantime.

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 love the outdoors, and I want to see more of it. Government needs to take a leadership role here, so this is easy to support.

4) Clean Cars and Trucks Emissions Standards:

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

- Yes

Yes, as someone with two EVs, it amazes me of the personal and collective benefits of them. I think we can learn some lessons from CA, and do it even better.

5) Environmental Rights Amendment:

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

- Yes

I think we need people across the state to understand how to balance the need for resources and the reality that there are far better ways to use existing resources. We have policy work to do and we have education work to do.

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

We have a ton of farms where I live, and they are remarkable at recycling food byproducts. The more we can get them, the better we will all be. So, yes, and I'd prefer to reduce transportation by keeping it local if possible.

7) Neonicotinoids:

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

- Yes

Yes, where I live, we mostly have well water. I'm very concerned about any chemicals that are routinely being used that can impact the ecosystem and our water.

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

Yes, it amazes me that we take so much care on humane treatment of pets and not enough on wildlife. I grew up hunting so my family could afford to eat meat. I never liked it, but I learned very early on to treat all animals humanly.

9) Environmental Justice:

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

- Yes
Yes! My day job is working at a non-profit that is working to fix the systemic inequity in our state. I'm at this job because I believe in it, and part of that is more environmental justice.

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
Yes! Nothing really to add here.

11) Tree Cutting Protocols:

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

- Yes
Yes! I'd also like to see if it makes sense to upgrade our grid and find ways to remove the tree to powerline obstacle by putting more in ground under roads.

12) Ranked Choice Voting:

Should Connecticut pursue Ranked Choice Voting?

- Yes
As someone who was involved in science diplomacy work, I've seen rank choice voting work in other countries. I think CT should pursue it to allow more parties to participate and encourage elections to find more popular answers (and less hyper partisan answers).

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?

- Unsure
It just depends on my schedule since I also have a day job as well.

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

- Yes