



2024 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Kara Rochelle, Democrat
House District 104

1) Open Question:

Most of my work has been around environmental justice and brownfield clean-up, as my district has long suffered from its industrial past. I have a strong voting record on environmental issues, and in 2025 I would like to find ways to tie economic redevelopment dollars for communities like mine to environmentally-friendly benchmarks. For example, ensuring that the land the state is cleaning up and redeveloping for this town does not then get re-used for environmentally unfriendly purposes, and that whatever does go on there has both a green energy component and promotes clean air, greening in general, etc. We suffer from high asthma rates and health issues related to our industrial past, and the path forward must include improving the environmental health of this region.

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

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?

- Yes

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

7) Neonicotinoids:

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

- Yes

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

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

11) Tree Cutting Protocols:

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

- Yes

12) Ranked Choice Voting:

Should Connecticut pursue Ranked Choice Voting?

- Yes

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
I would co-sponsor most of them, vote yes on all.

Will you plan to attend our annual Environmental Summit in January?

- Unsure
Will depend on date and my work schedule, but I will absolutely come if I'm available.

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

- Yes