



## 2024 Candidate Survey on the Environment

**Christopher Rosario, Democrat**  
**House District 128**

### 1) Open Question:

As a state representative, I've advocated for:

Climate change education in schools

Protecting Long Island Sound and the Bridgeport ecosystem

In the 2025 legislative session, my top priority will be comprehensive climate change legislation, focusing on mitigation, adaptation, resilience, and sustainable economic growth.

### 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

I fully support investing in clean energy and grid infrastructure to address the climate crisis. Connecticut's future depends on it. I will champion legislation that prioritizes a swift transition to renewable energy sources, promotes sustainable solutions, and holds utilities accountable for their role in this transition. The cost of inaction far outweighs the cost of investment. Let's work together for a healthier environment and a more sustainable future.

### 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 fully support the use of nature-based solutions to address the interconnected crises of climate change and biodiversity loss. Establishing an interdisciplinary scientific advisory council to inform

state policy is crucial. I will champion a stand-alone bill that prioritizes nature-based solutions, such as forests, wetlands, and healthy soils, as the preferred alternative across all agencies. Let's harness the power of nature to mitigate climate change and protect Connecticut's natural beauty for future generations.

**4) Clean Cars and Trucks Emissions Standards:**

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

- Yes

My concern is that the adoption of California emissions standards may disproportionately burden lower-income and urban communities, and I want to ensure that the implementation is fair and equitable for all. However, I support adopting the latest California emissions standards for cars and trucks, as long as measures are taken to address these concerns and make the transition to cleaner vehicles accessible and affordable for all.

**5) Environmental Rights Amendment:**

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

- Yes

I support an Environmental Rights Amendment to our State Constitution, recognizing the right to a healthy environment as a fundamental right. This amendment would ensure that our state government prioritizes environmental protection and holds itself accountable for upholding this right. I'm encouraged by the success of similar amendments in other states like Pennsylvania, Montana, Vermont, and New York, and I believe it's time for Connecticut to join them in enshrining this important right in our constitution.

**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

As an urban legislator, I've seen firsthand the devastating impact of food deserts in my community. It's unacceptable that thousands of tons of food are wasted each year while our neighbors struggle to put food on the table. I strongly support designating food scraps as a 'recyclable' item and requiring large-scale food generators to create plans to donate edible food. This common-sense solution will

help divert food waste from landfills, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and most importantly, provide nutritious food to those who need it most. Let's work together to create a more sustainable and equitable food system that benefits all Connecticut residents.

**7) Neonicotinoids:**

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

- Yes

I wholeheartedly support the ban on neonicotinoids for non-agricultural use in Connecticut. The harmful effects of these pesticides on our environment, wildlife, and human health are staggering. By adopting alternative, eco-friendly practices, we can maintain our green spaces without putting our ecosystem at risk. I applaud the efforts to promote sustainable land management and encourage responsible practices among golf courses and urban landscapes. Together, we can create a healthier, more sustainable future for our state. Let's take action to protect our environment and public health - let's ban neonics in Connecticut!

**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

I am acutely aware of the devastating rodent infestation crisis gripping Bridgeport, where my constituents are suffering greatly. Properties are being overrun, homes are being invaded, and families are living in fear of disease and property damage. As their representative, I am committed to finding solutions that address this crisis head-on. While I strongly support banning harmful rodenticides that kill our wildlife, I also urge us to act with equal urgency to develop and implement effective, eco-friendly alternatives that will finally bring relief to our besieged community. We need a comprehensive approach that includes increased funding for pest control services, public education campaigns, and collaborative efforts with local stakeholders. Bridgeport deserves better, and I won't rest until we've won this fight against rodent infestation and ensured a safe, healthy environment for all our residents.

**9) Environmental Justice:**

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

- Yes

I wholeheartedly agree that environmental justice is a critical issue that requires immediate attention. The fact that low-income and communities of color have been disproportionately affected by polluting facilities is unacceptable. While the 2023 legislation was a step in the right direction, the exemption of existing facilities is a significant loophole that must be closed. I strongly support a legislative fix to include all polluting facilities, both new and existing, to ensure that every community has the same right to clean air, water, and land. It's time to put the health and well-being of our most vulnerable populations first and address the systemic racial inequities that have perpetuated environmental injustices for far too long.

**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 strongly support legislation that prioritizes humane responses to conflicts with wildlife, including bears. It's crucial to recognize that we are the ones encroaching on their natural habitats through overdevelopment in rural and natural areas, putting them in harm's way. Instead of perpetuating a culture of fear and lethal control, we must take responsibility for our actions and work to coexist with wildlife. By providing education, resources, and support for the public, removing attractants, and minimizing shooting incidents, we can reduce conflicts and create a safer, more compassionate environment for both humans and wildlife. Let's prioritize humane solutions that align with the values of our communities and protect the well-being of our fellow creatures.

**11) Tree Cutting Protocols:**

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

- Yes

I fully support legislation that mandates stronger, science-based tree cutting protocols rooted in conservation values. It's essential to recognize the vital role trees play in maintaining ecosystem balance,

mitigating climate change, and enhancing community aesthetics. For every tree cut, requiring the planting of five new trees in rural and urban areas will significantly improve neighborhood canopies and biodiversity. This 5:1 replacement ratio will ensure that our communities benefit from enhanced air quality, shade, and wildlife habitats. I urge utility companies and DOT to adopt responsible tree management practices that prioritize conservation and sustainability. Let's work together to create a greener, healthier Connecticut for future generations.

## **12) Ranked Choice Voting:**

### **Should Connecticut pursue Ranked Choice Voting?**

- Unsure  
I appreciate your enthusiasm for Ranked Choice Voting (RCV), but I have concerns about its potential impact on urban monolingual communities in my district. However, I have been in contact with the Governor's Working Group to find a solution that makes RCV fair and equitable for all communities. I'm committed to ensuring that any voting system changes prioritize voter accessibility, inclusivity, and representation for marginalized communities. Let's work together to create a more inclusive 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?

- Yes

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