



2024 Candidate Survey on the Environment

MJ Shannon, Democrat
House District 117

1) Open Question:

Over the past two years, I have actively advocated for addressing water pollution and habitat loss by participating in beach cleanups and collaborating with organizations dedicated to environmental conservation. My research into how climate change and development impact our natural areas, along with visits to the Audubon Society, has deepened my understanding of wildlife protection. For the upcoming 2025 legislative session, my primary environmental priorities are tackling coastal erosion and further advancing my advocacy and knowledge on habitat loss. These issues are critical to safeguarding our coastal communities and preserving our natural areas for future generations.

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

Yes, I support increasing investments in clean energy and our electric grid infrastructure. As we continue to face the urgent challenge of climate change, it is time we transition away from fossil fuel and nuclear energy to more sustainable and renewable energy sources. These investments will enhance grid reliability, lower long term costs to ratepayers, and create new job opportunities in the clean energy sector.

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 will support a stand-alone bill that prioritizes nature-based solutions across all agencies because these approaches are crucial for long-term sustainability. By embracing nature-based solutions, we are investing in the health of our planet and communities, ensuring that our natural environments are preserved and that we have the resources needed 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
Yes, by adopting California's emissions standards for cars and trucks, Connecticut is taking a major step toward reducing air pollution and combating climate change. This move can position Connecticut to be a leader in the fight against climate change, opening the door for more initiatives to transition to cleaner transportation options.

5) Environmental Rights Amendment:

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

- Yes
Yes, I support an Environmental Rights Amendment to our State Constitution because it would guarantee every citizen's right to a healthy environment, ensuring that all citizens have access to clean air, water, and land. Enshrining these rights would not only strengthen existing environmental protections but also hold the state accountable for protecting natural resources for current and future generations.

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
Yes, classifying food scraps as a recyclable resource and requiring that large-scale food producers create plans for donating edible surplus can significantly reduce waste and combat food insecurity. This approach promotes sustainable habits and ensures that excess food benefits those in need, rather than ending up in landfills.

7) Neonicotinoids:

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

- Yes
Yes, I will help push for legislation to ban the sale and use of neonics for non-agricultural purposes in Connecticut to protect pollinators and other beneficial insects. We must limit the use of these chemicals to help preserve the state's ecosystems.

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 support Banning certain rodenticides to protect wildlife and prevent unintended poisoning of non-target species. This policy supports the preservation of ecosystems and encourages the adoption of more humane and eco-friendly pest control methods.

9) Environmental Justice:

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

- Yes
I support a legislative fix to Connecticut's Environmental Justice statutes to include all polluting facilities in order to address environmental inequities and ensure that all communities, particularly those disproportionately affected by pollution, are protected. By including all polluting facilities, we can be better at holding accountable those responsible for environmental harm and making sure there are comprehensive oversight and mitigation measures.

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, I support legislation that requires humane responses to conflicts with wildlife to prioritize the well-being of animals and promote coexistence. By providing better support for the public, removing attractants that draw wildlife into human areas, and minimizing shooting incidents, we can reduce unnecessary harm and create safer environments for both people and animals.

11) Tree Cutting Protocols:

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

- Yes
I support legislation to require stronger science-based tree cutting protocols to ensure our practices are informed by the latest research. By adopting these standards, we can better protect wildlife habitats, improve forest resilience, and enhance the overall health of our natural landscapes.

12) Ranked Choice Voting:

Should Connecticut pursue Ranked Choice Voting?

- Yes
Yes, ranked choice voting can enhance the democratic process by allowing voters to rank candidates in order of preference, leading to more representative outcomes. I believe this system can reduce the impact of negative campaigning and our elected officials will get broader support from the electorate.

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
Yes, I will add my name as a legislative co-sponsor because I am dedicated to supporting effective and impactful policies. By co-sponsoring top priority legislation, I will demonstrate my commitment to advancing critical issues and working collaboratively

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

- Yes
I plan to attend the annual Environmental Summit in January to engage with experts, learn about pressing environmental issues, and support efforts to advance sustainable policies. Attending the summit will help me stay informed and contribute to meaningful

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

- Yes
I will meet with CTLCV at least once during the legislative session to review priority legislation. These meetings will help make sure we

collaborate on addressing environmental issues and work together to advance more policies.