



## 2024 Candidate Survey on the Environment

**Nick Simmons, Democrat**  
**Senate District 36**

### 1) Open Question:

As Deputy Chief of Staff to Governor Ned Lamont, I championed the transition to clean energy in Connecticut. I helped to facilitate the electrification of our bus fleet, but my biggest project involved the development of the New London pier as a national offshore wind hub. This pier is expected to play a vital role in fighting against climate change, bringing power to 1 million+ homes in the Northeast. It simultaneously is expected to boost the economy—adding 400+ construction jobs in the near-future, 80-120 offshore wind-related positions, and popularizing local establishments.

I will continue to make fighting against climate change and investing in clean energy a priority in the 2025 legislative session.

Given the urgency of the climate crisis, I am first and foremost committed to shoring up our defenses against flooding. Nearly half of all the homes in Old Greenwich, Tod's Point and Byram are at risk for severe flooding. I am committed to finding solutions to protect our communities and coastline, which requires more funding to safeguard our coastline and critical infrastructure from severe weather and flooding.

I also believe that we have an opportunity to invest in smart energy solutions to grow our economy and lower costs for consumers. Connecticut stands at the forefront of an economic opportunity to lead the national clean energy transition. Our state's deep water ports and top-tier educational and workforce systems position are unique advantages. We are well positioned to invest in battery technology, hydrogen hubs, and electric charging infrastructure. As State Senator, I will ensure that our legislature makes smart investments and targeted subsidies so that we can reduce energy costs for families while simultaneously seizing economic opportunities. This will create thousands of new jobs while actively combating climate change.

### 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  
RCV is a crucial reform that I fully support to improve our electoral system. This system encourages more positive campaigning and gives voters more choices. By implementing RCV, we can create a more representative democracy where elected officials reflect the true preferences of the electorate. According to the Ranked Choice Voting Resource Center, RCV has already been implemented in 62 jurisdictions across the United States and is therefore a proven alternative to our current voting processes. RCV can help level the playing field for independent and minor party candidates, providing them with a fairer chance to compete and contribute to our political discourse. See my op-ed on RCV here:  
<https://ctmirror.org/2024/07/17/a-call-for-ranked-choice-voting-in-ct/>

**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