



2022 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Mike Smith Democrat
House , 119th

OPEN QUESTION

If I earn the privilege of serving in the legislature I look forward to working hard to being a champion of a cleaner greener Connecticut. I grew up on the Milford beaches and playing in the Wepawaug river behind my childhood home. I am a 14 year Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma cancer survivor. I'm acutely aware of the importance of educational and recreational opportunities in our communities combined with the need to control pollution and be good stewards of our environment.

1) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:

- Yes
Ensuring our state is responsibly citing and managing all possible pollutants, from power plants to factories, is vital to ensuring all of Connecticut is a place folks want to live, work and play.

2) WASTE MANAGEMENT:

- Yes

3) POLYSTYRENE:

- Yes
I can't even begin to calculate how many items I've pulled from Long Island Sound over the years. We can and should do better at minimizing single use materials such as polystyrene.

4) PFAS:

- Yes
As a cancer survivor I'm very aware of the importance of reducing risk factors for our family, friends and neighbors. We need to work hard to reduce the prevalence of PFAS chemicals and other pollutants while increasing the public education campaigns about why they are

dangerous and important to reduce and remove from our communities.

5) NEONICOTINOIDS:

- Uncertain

I don't know enough about this particular issue but look forward to learning from and working with knowledgeable groups such as yourself to learn more about the risks and ways to reduce pollution in our state, Neonicotinoids included.

6) RODENTICIDES:

- yes

I had no idea that was the case, though it does make sense. Looking forward to learning more about these issues and ways to protect our environment.

7) DIESEL BACKUP GENERATORS/DATA CENTERS:

- Yes

I look forward to learning more about the possible renewable options for data centers and others to reduce their carbon and emissions footprint.

8) BEARS:

- yes

Being a good steward of the environment includes being a steward of the wildlife. Bears are majestic creatures who we need to live with. It's our job to reduce the risks of negative interactions.

9) TREE CUTTING PROTOCOLS:

- Yes

I am unfamiliar with the specific examples cited but am a firm believer in the importance of used science-based principals to inform land (and tree) management strategies.

10) COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY:

- No

The cost of housing is high enough in our state and in the communities I hope to represent. I cannot support an additional fee which makes it that much harder for a teacher to purchase a home in the community they work. I can commit to working with the chief elected officials and legislative bodies (Board of Alderman in Milford and Board of Selectman in Orange) to ensure

they understand the importance of allocating some of the property taxes for community sustainability projects.

11) RIPARIAN BUFFERS:

- Uncertain
I don't know enough about this issue to commit but look forward to learning more. Creating buffer zones around rivers makes a lot of sense for both environmental protection and flood zone buffer.

12) RANKED CHOICE VOTING:

- Uncertain
- I don't know enough about this topic to make an informed decision. I look forward to learning more about this and how ranked choice voting would work in Connecticut.