



2024 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Frank Smith, Democrat
House District 118

1) Open Question:

Environmental stewardship and combatting climate change is one of my top priorities, especially coming from the community with the longest linear shoreline in the state. I have cosponsored and actively worked with my colleagues in pursuit of many environmental initiatives, including but not limited to: Solar energy in schools, curbing the use of rodenticides, supporting riparian buffers, coastal and climate resiliency and others. One of my top campaign issues will remain combatting climate change, as it has been since my first campaign.

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

This is critically important. I expect that we will have the ability to do so while also providing relief to ratepayers.

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

I cosponsored a similar resolution during the last term.

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

I cosponsored similar legislation and was in conversations with my colleagues in the environment committee this past session. Looking forward to promoting this if I have the privilege of being reelected.

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 cosponsored this legislation last session and look forward to working toward this again if I have the privilege of being reelected.

9) Environmental Justice:

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

- Unsure

Likely supportive, but I'm not privy to the rationale for the exemption. Would like to discuss further with you.

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
Yes, but would also want to consider safety in high traffic areas as part of any changes.

12) Ranked Choice Voting:

Should Connecticut pursue Ranked Choice Voting?

- Unsure
this is a topic that I would like to discuss further, however, any proposal to give greater voice to our voters is something I would support

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