



2024 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Thomas Tesoro, Democrat
House District 123

1) Open Question:

As part of my role in my Company, I was actively involved in setting ESG standards for our business.

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

You can't deny reality. Climate change is happening and we have an obligation to address man-made pollutants before it is too late.

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

While it is only part of the solution, nature based solutions are an integral part of a comprehensive solution.

4) Clean Cars and Trucks Emissions Standards:

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

- Unsure

I need to study this proposal more carefully before making a final judgement. However, based on what I know now, I would support it.

5) Environmental Rights Amendment:

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

- Yes
This is common sense.

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
Once again, this is common sense. Wasting edible food while people are hungry makes no sense.

7) Neonicotinoids:

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

- Yes
The threat to the bee population is a threat to all of us. Non-agricultural use of these products is unnecessary when alternatives are available.

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
If there are less harmful alternatives they should be preferred.

9) Environmental Justice:

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

- Yes
It makes no sense to exempt existing facilities.

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
Unnecessary killing of wildlife is shameful. We should try all non-lethal means first.

11) Tree Cutting Protocols:

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

- Yes
I have seen some devastating tree pruning by UI and it needs to be regulated.

12) Ranked Choice Voting:

Should Connecticut pursue Ranked Choice Voting?

- Unsure
I am not familiar enough with the results of existing rank choice voting elections to make a determination at this time.

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
You should stand up and be counted for the things you believe.

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

- Unsure
Yes if I am not travelling for business.

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

- Yes