



2022 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Mary Welander Democrat
House , 114

OPEN QUESTION

As my committee assignments are Children (Vice Chair), Education, and Regulation Review, my time in the legislature has been spent focusing mainly on those issues, but I know that environmental issues are of great concern to many of my constituents. I have spent a good amount of time looking at clean air and clean water initiatives as those points in particular have a great impact on my district; if re-elected I will continue to work on those issues.

1) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:

- Yes

2) WASTE MANAGEMENT:

- Yes

3) POLYSTYRENE:

- Yes

4) PFAS:

- Yes

5) NEONICOTINOIDS:

- Yes

6) RODENTICIDES:

- yes

Assuming that the rodent population will increase with a reduction in rodenticide usage, I would support some restrictions as long as a

reduction in use doesn't create a public health concern, especially as the question is directly referencing public spaces. Hopefully a decrease in rodenticide usage would lead to population growth in the birds of prey who would help keep rodent populations down. Further information and data about this issue would be key in addressing this problem.

7) DIESEL BACKUP GENERATORS/DATA CENTERS:

- Yes

8) BEARS:

- yes
This information would be incredibly important for so many areas of the state, including my own. We have been seeing a drastic increase in sightings and interactions with bears and other wildlife in our district; having updated information for residents and town leaders on how to create strongly supported plans to address this would be invaluable.

9) TREE CUTTING PROTOCOLS:

- Yes

10) COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY:

- Yes
As long as this remains an option for municipalities to implement as they see fit and it would not create an additional cost or burden to the real estate agencies and agents (important small businesses in my community) I would support the concept. I would also be open to exploring different ways to create a funding stream for sustainability projects.

11) RIPARIAN BUFFERS:

- Uncertain
While I understand and support the strong benefits of a riparian buffer, I am hesitant to mandate an action that could, depending on the location, have a negative effect on family farms due to loss of usable land. I would prefer to support a policy that encourages (and possibly incentivizes) installing these buffers but does not mandate the process.

12) RANKED CHOICE VOTING:

- Uncertain

- Anything that supports and encourages involvement in voting and the democratic process is important to discuss. RCV offers a unique way for voters to support a variety of candidates; I think further discussion about this process would be helpful for voter education whether or not it becomes the standard practice. My concerns are overcrowded fields of candidates and a lack of understanding of the process during a time when too many people are questioning the legitimacy of elections as they are now.