



2024 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Steven Winter, Democrat
House District 94

1) Open Question:

During the last two legislative sessions, in my capacity as the City of New Haven's executive director for climate and sustainability I have submitted testimony advocating for increased funding for energy efficiency programs in the CLM program and state bond funds especially for income eligible residents, increased access to building and vehicle energy data for policymakers and advocates, extended producer responsibility, a zero energy stretch code, updates to the GWSA to include a 2050 net zero target with sector specific subtargets and regulations, interim targets, and legal enforceability, improvements to the environmental justice regulations on affecting facilities, funding to support municipal food scrap diversion, heat pump and energy storage deployment targets, and increased state incentives for commercial and institutional use of renewable energy resources, a future of gas proceeding at PURA, and ranked choice voting.

In 2025 the legislature needs to follow through with passing the key components of HB 5004 (updating GWSA, support and targets for heat pump and energy storage, green workforce planning and incentives, future of gas proceeding, etc). This would be my top priority.

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

In my role at the City of New Haven I've lead the effort to shift the City's fleet to electric vehicles, resulting in the purchase of 45 electric vehicles in 2023, including the City's first electric refuse/recycling vehicle.

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

I helped start Voter Choice CT, which advocated for ranked choice voting at the CGA from 2019-2022.

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