Critical scholars understand the politics of sustainability as the socioenvironmental arrangements that can offer previously excluded and silenced actors the power to shape their environments. This article is motivated by the central question of why electoral politics is largely ignored in these critical environmental analyses. We argue that the suspicion, and even disdain, of electoral politics as a form of co-optation and de-politicization leads to a misrepresentation of actually existing politics. To bring electoral politics squarely into environmental analyses, we look at the impact of the changing compulsions of political parties on the sustainability of an Indian city, Bengaluru, particularly in terms of water and sanitation infrastructure. We first develop the concept of “political land” to emphasize land control as a means of electoral power, which then frames environmental politics in specific ways. We use this concept to map the changing nature of electoral and environmental politics in Bengaluru before and after the 1991 economic liberalization reforms. Before liberalization, the state retained monopoly over rural-to-urban land redevelopment in an effort by political parties to appeal to workers seeking housing. After liberalization, the state focuses on the interests of farmers whose land is being absorbed within city boundaries. This shift is reflected in the changing backgrounds of elected representatives, who were earlier drawn from trade unions but now belong to a new class of “real estate politicians.” The changing electoral politics affects water and sanitation services. Using data from a multistage stratified random sample survey of 925 households in Bengaluru, we find that the households in parts of the city that emerged during the period when the state controlled land redevelopment had noticeably better water and sanitation services than the parts of the city that emerged under real estate developers. The dynamics of political land shows how land-based electoral politics have a discernible impact on the sustainability of cities; an impact that demands greater academic attention than scholars in both critical and development studies have been willing to provide.