

Colorado Conservation Voters

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Colorado Conservation Voters

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CCV works to turn conservation values into Colorado priorities. CCV advocates for conservation policies and informs the public about state policy decisions by producing the annual Legislative Conservation Scorecard and Governor's Conservation Report Card. CCV endorses pro-environment candidates and holds legislators accountable for protecting Colorado's water, air, and land.

Online at www.coloradoconservationvoters.org

Colorado Conservation Voters Education Fund

The CCV Education Fund provides education and training to increase the effective participation of conservationists in the civic arena and to educate legislators, the media and the public about conservation issues. Online at www.ccvef.org.

**"There can be no greater issue than
that of conservation in this country."**

- Theodore Roosevelt, August 6, 1912

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Colorado Conservation Voters

Turning conservation values into Colorado priorities

Colorado Conservation Voters Voice

Fall 2008

Environment Takes Center Stage

With the growing effects of climate change and the increasing cost of energy, environmental issues have taken a prominent role in this year's national and local elections.

"Energy issues have become extremely important for voters, especially here in Colorado. As energy costs continue to rise and the damage of climate change becomes more visible, we're going to see people voting more and more with their conservation values," said Carrie Doyle, Executive Director of CCV. "Colorado voters want to see investment in clean energy technology and the jobs that technology brings."

From the Presidential race on down to county commissioners, many candidates are painting themselves as the environmental candidate. Sometimes, even when their records don't necessarily back up the claim.

"Greenwashing has been a big issue this year. Everyone wants to take credit for the economic success of the New Energy Economy here in Colorado. There have even been ads touting the environmental record of Colorado State Senator Shawn Mitchell who has a lifetime 29% score on the CCV Scorecard," said Doyle.

Colorado Conservation Voters has played an important role in fighting these false statements. Since 1998, CCV has produced the Colorado Legislative Conservation Scorecard. This document tracks the major environmental decisions by every state legislator.

"The record is out there. You can't vote against the New Energy Economy and then take credit for all of the prosperity it has brought our state. We're keeping score and we're setting the record straight," Doyle said.

Colorado Conservation Voters recognizes the environmental leaders of the House and Senate with the designation of "Conservation Champion." In 2008, thirty-one legislators received the designation. All of the group had perfect scores on the Scorecard and went the extra mile to sponsor legislation or work to shepherd bills through difficult committee votes.



In addition to the Champion designation, CCV has endorsed in twenty-one Colorado legislative races. The list includes pro-environment candidates in the most competitive races. Endorsements are voted on by CCV's Board of Directors and based on voting records, questionnaires and interviews with candidates.

"We're very proud of our endorsees. These candidates can take Colorado to the next level in terms of growing our economy, increasing our energy independence, and protecting our air, water, and wildlife," said Doyle.

Since 2004, Colorado Conservation Voters' past endorsees have won more than 90% of their races. Endorsed candidates have gone on to write groundbreaking legislation including the 20% Renewable Energy Standard, reformation of the Oil & Gas Commission and water protection laws. Through their efforts, Colorado has become a national pioneer in the New Energy Economy.

A full version of the Colorado Legislative Conservation Scorecard is online at www.coloradoconservationvoters.org. A list of endorsed candidates and the 2008 Conservation Champions is available inside.



Maybe you haven't heard, but there is an election going on in November.

OK, so you probably have seen about 10,000 political ads over the past few weeks. But a lot of people don't realize that there are dozens of very important state level offices "down ballot" including the entire Colorado House of Representatives and about a third of the Colorado Senate. Many counties are electing new county commissioners. These commissioners will play a big role in deciding how these counties will develop their energy resources and protect the environment. And of course there is an abundance of Amendments, Referenda, and Ballot Initiatives.

As the promise of the New Energy Economy continues to grow, even legislators who have fought against renewable energy want to be seen as "green." With the crowded field this year, some anti-conservation candidates have claimed to support the environment in hopes that no one will call them on their record. But CCV has been there to point out the facts with our Legislative Scorecard (online at www.coloradoconservationvoters.org).

And of course we are supporting our endorsed candidates. Along with the Colorado Legislative endorsements, CCV has endorsed for the first time in county commission races. CCV has also endorsed and invested significantly in supporting Amendment 58 which ends a tax break for the oil and gas industry.

All of our work is possible due to your financial support. Thank you for being a member of Colorado Conservation Voters and voting your conservation values this November 4th!



Vote Yes on Amendment 58

Amendment 58 is the most important initiative for protecting Colorado's land, water and wildlife since the creation of Great Outdoors Colorado in 1992. If passed, the amendment will direct \$150 million over the next four years to conserve Colorado's critical natural lands, water and wildlife by ending Colorado's outdated \$300 million tax break for the oil and gas industry.

Amendment 58 will make smarter investments by protecting the state's wildlife and streams and support renewable energy. The proposal will also fund the Colorado Promise Scholarship Fund and help restore local roads and water systems impacted by oil and gas development.

Given the rapid rate of growth in Colorado – as many as 100,000 new residents each year - the need for conservation funding is outpacing available resources. The future of our wildlife populations, habitat and migration corridors are in jeopardy. We are losing important winter range and other habitat at an alarming pace through land development for housing, commerce and transportation.

Colorado's world class hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing are enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. These

activities create economic benefits across our state, generating revenue in excess of \$2.5 billion each year. Amendment 58 will ensure our tourism industry remains healthy long after the oil and gas boom has ended.

A tax break to Colorado's oil and gas industry was put in place decades ago. This tax break no longer makes sense for the most profitable industry in the world. It is time to retire the subsidy to ensure this important industry pays its fair share towards protecting our fishing and wildlife heritage. Even without the subsidy, Colorado's tax rate for oil and natural gas will still be lower than rates in New Mexico and Wyoming.

"Supporting wildlife, growing the new Energy Economy and bringing our taxes in line with our neighboring states - Amendment 58 just makes sense," said CCV Executive Director Carrie Doyle.

Colorado Conservation Voters has endorsed Amendment 58 and urges all of our members to vote to support renewable energy and wildlife by voting Yes on Amendment 58.



2008 Endorsements and Champions

CCV Endorsements

Colorado Senate

SD8 - Ken Brenner and Al White
SD14 - Bob Bacon
SD16 - Dan Gibbs
SD17 - Brandon Shaffer
SD19 - Evie Hudak
SD21 - Betty Boyd
SD 25 - Mary Hodge

House of Representatives

HD25 - Cheri Gerou
HD27 - Sara Gagliardi
HD30 - Dave Rose
HD31 - Judy Solano
HD33 - Dianne Primavera
HD36 - Su Ryden
HD38 - Joe Rice
HD46 - Sal Pace
HD52 - John Kefalas
HD55 - Bernie Buescher
HD56 - Christine Scanlan
HD57 - Todd Hagenbuch
HD58 - Noelle Hagan
HD59 - Ellen Roberts

County Commissioners

Garfield County

Steve Carter
Stephen Bershenyi

Larimer County

Roger Hoffmann

La Plata County

Wally White

Ballot Initiatives

Colorado Conservation Voters endorses Amendment 58. The Amendment will provide funding for clean energy projects, wildlife habitat preservation, communities impacted by oil and gas development and scholarships for Colorado students.



Conservation Champions

Colorado Conservation Voters recognizes the lawmakers in the Colorado General Assembly who achieve 100% scores on the Legislative Scorecard and display leadership on environmental issues as Conservation Champions. We thank our 2008 Conservation Champions and hope that you will take a moment to thank them for their hard work over the past year.

Colorado Senate

Bob Bacon
Betty Boyd
Dan Gibbs
Brandon Shaffer
Suzanne Williams
Sue Windels

House of Representatives

Debbie Benefield
Alice Borodkin
Morgan Carroll
Terrance Carroll
Edward Casso
Mark Ferrandino
Randy Fischer
K. Jerry Frangas
Sara Gagliardi
Gwyn Green
Joel Judd
John Kefalas
Andrew Kerr

Jeanne Labuda
Claire Levy
Mike Merrifield
Karen Middleton
Cherylin Peniston
Jack Pommer
Dianne Primavera
Joe Rice
James Riesberg
Christine Scanlan
Judy Solano
Nancy Todd

Volunteer!

Volunteer with our canvass to help support sound environmental policy here in Colorado. Talking to voters face to face is the most effective way to increase turnout. If you are interested in stretching your legs and informing other concerned voters about the environmental issues our state faces, give us a call. Please contact Emma Bielski at (303) 464-1439. Shifts will be primarily during the evenings on weekdays and during the day on weekends. Canvasses are forming in the Denver Metro area and Garfield County.

Save a Tree: Sign up for an Ecopy!

Colorado Conservation Voters Voice is always available online at www.coloradoconservationvoters.org. If you would rather view this publication online than receive it in the mail, let us know by e-mailing us at info@coloradoconservationvoters.org. We'll let you know when new issues are posted and remove you from the mailing list. An archive of past issues is also available at the same address.