



Colorado Conservation Voters
 1536 Wynkoop, Suite 4-C
 Denver, CO 80202
www.coloradoconservationvoters.org

Prst std.
 U. S. Postage
 PAID
 Denver, CO
 Permit No.
 5455

Colorado Action Network
 for a better Colorado

**Stay on top of key
 conservation issues
 in the Colorado legislature
 by joining the
 Colorado Action Network.**

Sign up at
www.coloradoactionnetwork.org



Colorado Conservation Voters

Colorado Conservation Voters

CCV is the independent political voice of Colorado's environmental community. Our mission is to create a bi-partisan conservation majority in the Colorado legislature. CCV endorses pro-environment candidates and works to hold legislators accountable for protecting Colorado's water, air, and land. CCV advocates for conservation policies in the state legislature and informs the public about state legislative activity by producing the annual Legislative Conservation Scorecard and Governor's Conservation Report Card.

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Bernard Black | Tony Massaro |
| Michael Bowman | Karl Nyquist |
| Lynn Chapman Greene | Carol Piaseczny |
| Michele Christiansen | John Powers |
| Andrew Currie | Arnold Salazar |
| Roger Freeman | Patty Stulp |
| Barbara Green | Gary Wockner |
| Elise Jones | John Wright |
| John Loewy | |

STAFF

- Carrie Doyle, Executive Director
- Christina Sanchez Werner, Deputy Director
- Ben Gregory, Development Director



Colorado Conservation Voters

The non-partisan political voice of Colorado's environmental community

Colorado Conservation Voters Voice

Winter 2008

Conservationists Look to 2008 Session

January 9 saw the start of the 2008 legislative session and solar energy, healthy rivers, and smart growth are at the top of the conservationist agenda.

"This year we have set strong goals to protect the health of Colorado rivers, make solar energy more affordable and accessible, and use our transportation dollars to encourage smart development that reduces drive time," said Carrie Doyle, Executive Director of Colorado Conservation Voters. "This year we want to take serious action to combat global warming pollution while increasing our energy independence and protecting our quality of life."

The conservation community's clean energy program spearheaded by Environment Colorado aims to give all Coloradans access to renewable energy incentives. The package will allow the state to "Go Solar!" and includes new incentives for renewable energy such as tax credits and wind and solar financing. Additionally, the community calls for all utilities across the state to establish homeowner solar and wind programs similar to those offered by Xcel Energy to their customers, giving folks across the state the chance to boost Colorado's energy security with homegrown, renewable energy.

Conservation policy leaders will also work to create access to energy efficiency programs for all Coloradans by requiring municipal utilities and rural electric associations to establish programs that save energy and save rate-payers' money.

With more than a million people expected to move to Colorado in the next decade, conservationists are calling for measures that will create incentives for sustainable growth. One such measure would link state transportation dollars

with cities and towns that implement smart growth plans capable of reducing drive time and sprawling development.

"We're essentially funding traffic jams and global warming pollution under the current system," said Elise

Jones, Executive Director of Colorado Environmental Coalition. "Instead of rewarding bad planning with transportation funding, we should be providing incentives to communities to grow smart."

An additional proposal involves giving local governments the information and tools they need to ensure there is a sustainable water supply when new development is approved in their area.

"We have the ability and the know-how to plan for smart growth," added Jones. "This means less time in the car, less global warming pollution, and more sustainable water management."

As water demands for new growth increase, Colorado rivers and streams are dwindling. Conservationists and sportsmen organizations such as Trout Unlimited are proposing ways to protect healthy waterways by allowing farmers, ranchers, and municipalities to use part of their water rights to keep local streams flowing.

Additional measures will tackle the impacts of irresponsible uranium mining and direct financial resources to forest fire prevention activities.

Track all the developments on these issues and add your own voice by joining the Colorado Action Network at www.coloradoactionnetwork.org



Here we go again!

It's a phrase that conservationists have said at the start of every legislature and election year - and usually with more than a hint of exasperation. But in 2008, we say it with excitement!

With the Legislative Session under way, the conservation community looks to build on the policy successes of 2007. We will look to our elected representatives to continue to shape a sustainable future that will position Colorado at the forefront of the emerging New Energy Economy. We will also look to the legislature to address growth in a way that will protect Colorado's high quality of life and will keep our rivers healthy.

We will continue to look to Governor Ritter to be a stubborn steward for the environment as these bills leave the legislature and reach his desk.

2008 is also an election year. CCV will work to defend and expand the conservation majorities in both chambers of the General Assembly. We will weigh our endorsement decisions carefully over the coming months and look forward to announcing a slate of candidates who will continue Colorado's trend as a leader in conservation.

There is a lot to be done, but we are not in this alone. With the support of hundreds of members like you from across the state, we will continue to ensure that Colorado remains a beautiful, healthy state for generations to come.



CCV Releases Governor's Report Card

Late in December, Colorado Conservation Voters released their annual Governor's Conservation Report Card evaluating Governor Ritter's first year in office. The governor earned high marks from the conservation community, receiving an overall grade of "A-" for his environmental leadership.

"It will come as a surprise to few that the conservation community gave Governor Ritter an "A-" for his first year in office," said Carrie Doyle, Executive Director of the Colorado Conservation Voters. "As a candidate, Bill Ritter put the New Energy Economy and wise stewardship of our natural resources front and center. As Governor, Bill Ritter began delivering on these campaign promises within weeks of coming into office."

The 2007 Gubernatorial Report Card grades Governor Ritter's administration on six priority areas: clean energy, global warming, balanced oil and gas development, water policy, public lands and open space protection, and smart growth. He receives strong marks for his efforts in five of these six categories by working with state legislators to pass meaningful policies, using his executive powers to safeguard our environment, and demonstrating leadership by

putting stewardship of our natural resources at the forefront of his agenda.

"In his first year, Governor Ritter's efforts show that strong environmental stewardship not only protects our quality of life, but is also an important component of a healthy state economy," said Doyle.

Conservationists believe that Governor Ritter's efforts are a strong start but much work remains to be done. In addition to the challenge of developing a smart growth plan, two additional problems requiring urgent action are reducing our global warming pollution and actively managing oil and gas development.

"Hearing politicians make promises to protect our environment on the campaign trail is nothing new," said Doyle. "What was new in 2007 was that Gov. Ritter began delivering on those promises within weeks of coming into office. Governor Ritter has certainly proven to all of us that he is a stubborn steward of Colorado's environment."

The full Report Card, and the CO Legislative Scorecard, is online at www.coloradoconservationvoters.org.



Conservation News

2008 Political Calendar

This year promises to be very busy as Colorado elects its next General Assembly and the nation chooses our next President. Here are a few important dates to keep in mind:

Jan. 9 - Open of CO Legislature

Feb. 5 - CO Precinct Caucuses

Feb. 20 - Mar. 17 - County Assemblies

Apr. 25 - May 17 - Congressional District Assemblies

May 7 - Scheduled end of Legislative Session

May 17 - Democratic State Assembly

May 31 - Republican State Assembly

Aug. 12 - Primary Elections

Aug 23-27 - Democratic National Convention (Denver)

Sept. 1-4 - Republican National Convention (Minneapolis)

Oct. 6 - Voter Registration Deadline

Oct. 20 - Early Voting Begins

Oct. 28 - Last Day to Apply for Mail In Ballot

Nov. 4 - Election Day

Three Ways to Support Conservation

As we approach one of the most important elections in U.S. history for conservation issues, there are three easy steps you can take to help support conservation candidates right here in Colorado.

First, you can renew your membership to CCV early. The first \$50 of all memberships directly supports pro-conservation candidates in the most vital races across the state.

Second, consider a contribution to CCV Action Fund. The CCV Action Fund financially supports pro-conser-



vation candidates in their efforts to gain Colorado office.

Third, and most importantly, vote your conservation values in November! If you are worried about long lines or bad weather on Election Day, consider voting early or voting by mail.

Sportsmen for Conservation

Do you like to hunt or fish and are concerned about the changes you see every season? CCVEF would like to talk to you about your experiences. CCVEF is reaching out to sportsmen and women across the state to build our conservation network. If you are a concerned angler or hunter and would like to become more involved, please contact CCVEF's Sportsmen Outreach Coordinator Paul Drey at (303) 919-8133.

LCV Releases Voter Guide

The League of Conservation Voters, CCV's partner organization focused on federal races, has released its 2008 Presidential Primary Voter Guide. The Guide details the conservation platforms of the major candidates of both the Republican and Democratic Parties. Read the Voter Guide at www.lcv.org/voterguide before you cast your primary ballot in February.

Join the CAN Today!

With the 2008 legislative session just around the corner, today is the day to join the Colorado Action Network. The CAN is the premier online advocacy tool for conservation issues in Colorado. Members of the Network receive e-mails when key issues are up for vote in the General Assembly. With a click of the "Act Now" button and a few keystrokes, your message will be sent directly to your legislator. Communicating with your legislators has never been easier! Join the CAN today, by logging on to www.coloradoactionnetwork.org!

Become a Volunteer with CCV

Colorado Conservation Voters is looking for volunteers to help with fundraisers, mailings, and to assist in important campaigns in the upcoming 2008 elections. Contact Ben Gregory at (303) 454-3349 today to sign up!

Save a Tree - Sign Up for E-Copy!

The 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 bgregory@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.