



Colorado Conservation Voters
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Colorado Conservation Voters

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CCV works to turn conservation values into Colorado priorities. Our mission is to create and strengthen a bi-partisan conservation majority in the Colorado legislature. CCV endorses pro-environment candidates and holds legislators accountable for protecting Colorado's water, air, and land. CCV advocates for conservation policies in the state legislature and informs voters 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

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Colorado Conservation Voters

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

Colorado Conservation Voters Voice

Summer 2008

Conservation Wins in 2008 Session

The second week in May saw the end of the 2008 legislative session and healthy rivers, clean energy, and smart growth were at the top of the conservation agenda.

"It was another great year for the environment in Colorado," said Carrie Doyle, Executive Director of Colorado Conservation Voters. "More legislators are voting green, in part because voters care about these issues more than ever before. And green policies are supported by people other than the traditional environmentalists - businesses, water providers, sportsmen and agricultural groups are all working together to make environmental issues a top priority for the legislature."

Healthy Rivers

In 2008, the conservation community focused on protecting Colorado's fragile river system. Two major bills passed that improve the ability of the state to protect river health. HB 1280, sponsored by Rep. Curry and Sen. Schwartz, protects water rights holders when they choose to lease or donate water to flow in the river. Funding for the state to purchase water rights for river health was made available by HB 1346, sponsored by Rep. Curry and Sen. Isgar.

Renewable Energy

The New Energy Economy continued to find great support within the legislature. HB 1160 creates fair rates for homeowners and businesses who invest in small scale solar, wind and geo-thermal systems. The bill was sponsored by Rep. Solano and Sen. Shaffer. Rep. Solano and Sen. Schwartz sponsored HB 1164 which encourages the Public Utilities Commission to consider large scale solar plants as a way to meet our growing energy needs.

The record on energy was not perfect. A bill was defeated after resistance from the Colorado Rural Electric Association that would have created energy savings for homeowners and businesses.

Smart Growth

The population of Colorado continues to grow. HB 1141, sponsored by Rep. Curry and Sen. Bacon, mandates that housing developments of 50 units or more cannot be planned without first identifying an adequate water source. Unfortunately, another bill that would have stretched transportation funding further by tying transportation funding to sound development was withdrawn in the House of Representatives.

Mining Reform

With the rush to develop new uranium mines in Colorado, the conservation community worked on two measures to encourage responsible mining. HB 1161 provides much stronger protections for communities from uranium mining impacts. Rep. Kefalas and Sen. Johnson sponsored the bill. SB 228, sponsored by Rep. Curry and Sen. Schwartz, opens up the mine permit process to the people of Colorado by making information about prospective mining operations part of the public record.

Once again, CCV will keep voters informed about the environmental actions taken by our state through the Colorado Legislative Conservation Scorecard. The 2008 Scorecard will be released in the coming weeks. Check the Scorecard to see how your representatives voted on these and other priority environmental issues! Available online at www.coloradoconservationvoters.org.



The Legislative Session in Colorado is over and here at CCV we are busy keeping voters informed of the environmental actions taken this year and what is at stake in this Fall's election.

We are putting the final touches on the Colorado Legislative Conservation Scorecard for 2008. This document tracks the entire state legislature's actions on the most important environmental legislation considered this year. This document will tell you if your representatives sponsored critical bills or worked to kill them quietly in committee. Look for your copy of the Scorecard in the mail in the coming days and don't forget that you can find the current and past Scorecards on the CCV website at www.coloradoconservationvoters.org.

With the completion of the Scorecard, CCV will be rolling out our 2008 endorsements. The candidates that comprise our endorsement list represent the best of Colorado's conservation values, whether they are from a suburban district grappling with traffic congestion or a rural district balancing the demands of agriculture while protecting our environment. Democrat or Republican, long time legislator or newcomer to state politics, our endorsed candidates have proven their commitment to Colorado's unique environment and will fight to protect it while growing the New Energy Economy. The full list of current endorsements is below.

Your financial support and enables CCV to educate voters through the Scorecard and other publications throughout the year. Thank you.



2008 CCV Endorsements

Colorado Senate

SD 8, Ken Brenner
SD 8, Al White
SD 14, Bob Bacon
SD 16, Dan Gibbs
SD 17, Brandon Shaffer
SD 19, Evie Hudak
SD 21, Betty Boyd
SD 23, Joe Whitcomb

Colorado House of Representatives

HD 27, Sara Gagliardi
HD 31, Judy Solano
HD 33, Diane Primavera
HD 38, Joe Rice
HD 46, Sal Pace
HD 52, John Kefalas
HD 55, Bernie Buescher
HD 56, Christine Scanlan
HD 59, Ellen Roberts

Ballot Initiatives

Smarter Colorado - Initiative 113

Colorado Conservation Voters supports the Smarter Colorado Campaign which seeks to provide funding for clean energy projects, wildlife habitat preservation, communities impacted by oil and gas drilling, and college scholarships.

"The oil and gas industries have enjoyed a loophole in the severance tax law for many years," said CCV Executive Director Carrie Doyle. "None of our neighboring states offer the industry such a sweetheart deal. This ballot initiative will close the loophole and provide funding for the local communities most impacted by the industry. The new revenue will grow our state wide economy by supporting clean energy initiatives and heal damaged wildlife habitat."

As the campaigns develop, CCV will be issuing more endorsements. Check www.coloradoconservationvoters.org for the most up to date listings and to see if your representatives are Colorado Conservation Champions.



Conservation News

CCV Adds Two Staffers

CCV continues to grow with the addition of two new staff members. Field Director Monika Heinbaugh will be coordinating CCVCF's first ever canvass as we work to educate voters about the conservation records of the candidates. Monika has previously worked with the Montana Conservation Voters and has seen the difference that state conservation leagues can make. Major Gifts Director Taylor Dunn is increasing our fundraising efforts as we prepare for the 2008 election season. A native of Fort Collins, Taylor worked on Angie Paccione's campaign in 2006.

Volunteer with CCV

As part of the canvass effort, we are looking for volunteers. 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 in the Metro area about the environmental issues our state faces, give us a call. Please contact Monika Heinbaugh at (303) 645 3080. Shifts will be primarily during the evenings on weekdays and during the day on weekends.

How Do You See Colorado?

We live in one of the most beautiful places on Earth. From the picturesque hills of the San Juans to the open spaces of the Eastern Plains, Colorado is truly majestic. If you have photos that you feel particularly capture the wonder of Colorado - or the environmental threats it faces - we would like to use your images in CCV publications and on the web. Please contact Ben Gregory at (303) 454-3349 to learn more.



LCV Endorses Udall

The League of Conservation Voters, CCV's partner organization focused on federal races, has announced that it is endorsing Mark Udall for US Senate. Representative Udall has the highest lifetime score of all current members of Congress on LCV's Conservation Scorecard and was a vocal leader in the Amendment 37 campaign which established Colorado's first Renewable Energy Standard. "Mark Udall was an advocate of addressing Global Warming before it was a popular position," LCV Political Director Tony Massaro said. LCV has also announced the inclusion of Udall's opponent, Rep. Bob Schaffer, on their annual Dirty Dozen list.

Fall Luncheon Set

CCV has set the date for its Eighth Annual Fall Luncheon for September 10th, 2008. The Keynote Speaker is Karl Rábago, former Deputy Assistant Secretary for the US Department of Energy and green business pioneer. CCV will also be recognizing Vestas Wind Energy Systems with the inaugural Colorado Conservation Champion Award. The Luncheon will be held at the Grand Hyatt in downtown Denver.

Table Sponsorships are available now beginning at \$1,500. If you are interested in joining the Host Committee with a personal contribution of \$1,500 or would like to sponsor the event at a higher level, please contact Ben Gregory at (303) 454-3349 today.

CCVEF Launches New Sportsmen's Forum

Colorado's Sportsmen have a new way of staying on top of the conservation issues that are determining the future of hunting and fishing in our state. CCV Education Fund has created a new action alert system that will notify concerned sportsmen when issues they care about are being decided - and link them in to the right people for them to voice their opinions to. Do your part to continue the sportsmen tradition of supporting conservation, join at the Sportsmen Forum at www.protectcolorado.org or call Sportsmen Outreach Coordinator Paul Drey at (303) 919-8333 for more information.

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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.