



Colorado Conservation Voters
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The Colorado Conservation Voters

Colorado Conservation Voters

CCV is the non-partisan political voice of Colorado's environmental community. Our goal is to create a bi-partisan environmental majority in the Colorado legislature. CCV works to hold legislators accountable for protecting Colorado's water, air, and land and promoting renewable energy. CCV advocates conservation policies in the state legislature and helps inform 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 environmentalists in the political arena and to educate legislators, the media and the public about environmental issues. Online at www.ccvf.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

Winter 2006

Colorado's Environment Wins!

Colorado's environment won big on Election Day this year. Pro-environment candidates received a well-earned vote of approval from voters looking for leadership on clean energy initiatives, balanced water policies, and wildlife habitat protections. Forty-eight out of fifty-one Colorado Conservation Voters Action Fund endorsed candidates won their races including all of CCVAF's top priority candidates and Governor-elect Bill Ritter (see page 3). 2007-08 will see the strongest pro-environment Legislature in Colorado history. And, the legislature will be working with a Governor who holds strong conservation values.



Colorado Conservation Voters Campaign Fund ran four electioneering campaigns in support of pro-environment legislative candidates in the most competitive races. These campaigns worked to educate voters on the records of the following candidates:

- Representative Bernie Buescher from Grand Junction, chair of the Joint Budget Committee and an advocate for protecting Western Slope water;
- Gail Schwartz, who challenged Senator Lew Entz on his water and energy record, to represent Senate District 5 stretching from Pitkin County to the New Mexico boarder;
- Dan Gibbs, a former aide to Congressman Mark Udall, to represent Eagle, Summit and Lake Counties against an opponent with a 35 percent environmental voting record;

- Representative Debbie Benefield, a conservation champion who represents Arvada and Westminster, against an opponent who had authored anti-environmental forest policy in Washington, DC.

These campaigns included targeted direct mail, radio ads, billboards, phone calls, and earned media stories in the press. CCVCF also was part of a collaborative field effort in these targeted races that identified supporters and made sure those supporters voted. All four of these tier one legislative candidates won their races.

CCVAF made direct contributions to twenty-seven pro-environment candidates. Twenty-five of those candidates won their elections. As a result of so many conservation-minded candidates winning, the number of pro-environment votes in the legislature has grown from 51 to 59 out of 100.

"Never in my sixteen years of working on conservation issues have I seen environmental issues play such a significant role in an election," said Carrie Doyle, Executive Director of CCV. "This spotlight creates an opportunity for conservationists to continue to work with sportsmen, farmers, and business leaders to create public policy that will put us on a path towards a new energy future."

A complete listing of all CCVAF endorsed candidates and the results of their races can be found online at www.coloradoconservationvoters.org.



Welcome to the Colorado Conservation Voters Voice. As we prepare for the new year, I am happy to report that 2006 was a milestone year for conservation in our state.

First, I would like to thank all of you who have welcomed me to my new position as the Executive Director of CCV over the past months. I am very excited to be working for all of us Conservation Voters and look forward to working with our new legislature to continue to protect our environment and secure Colorado's place as a leader in renewable energy technology.

On November 7th, Colorado's voters overwhelmingly cast their ballots in support of pro-conservation candidates. All of the top priority races were won by the pro-conservation candidate and a total of 48 out of 51 races were won by the CCV endorsed candidate. When state lawmakers return to Denver in January, the greatest conservation majority in the history of Colorado will turn its attention to creating proactive solutions to our state's water, air, land and energy challenges.

And when these legislators draft sound conservation policy, they will send it to the first pro-conservation governor Colorado has seen in many years. CCVAF was proud to support Bill Ritter in his gubernatorial campaign. I feel that Governor-elect Ritter will be the final piece of the puzzle needed to make Colorado a national leader in sound environmental policy.

So, thank you for your support of conservation in this great state. Without the help of volunteers, donors, policy experts and tens of thousands conservation-minded voters, I wouldn't be able to say today that 2007 will be the greatest milestone year for conservation policy in Colorado's history!



Join the Colorado Action Network

As Coloradans, we want our air clean and our spectacular wild places preserved for future generations. Armed with only an email address and an interest in protecting the environment, we can make sure decision makers hear from us on these important issues.

The Colorado Action Network (CAN) is a project of the Colorado Conservation Voters Education Fund in association with fifteen other conservation organizations. The Network informs members of important environmental actions in both the national and state arenas. With a click of a button, Colorado Action Network members can make their voices heard by their elected representatives. Letting your representatives know how you feel has never been easier... or more important!

The Colorado Action Network is very simple to use. First the CAN determines who the appropriate officials are for you to contact based off of your address. When important environmental legislation is on the table on either local, state or national levels, CAN members receive an e-mail

that outlines the issue at stake. This e-mail includes a simple to use "Act Now" button. Clicking this button will draft a message from you to your representative. You get the final power to craft your message – the CAN makes sure that you're sending it to the right people.

"The Colorado Action Network takes the work out of staying on top of environmental issues before the legislature," said Christina Sanchez Werner, Deputy Director of the CCVEF. "The CAN will let you know when important decisions are being made, why the issues are important, and give you a direct link to the people who represent you in the legislature. All you have to do is click a button and speak your mind."

Some of the partners of the CCVEF in the Colorado Action Network are the Colorado Environmental Coalition, Environment Colorado, League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society.

Sign up for the Colorado Action Network at www.coloradoactionnetwork.org.



Conservation News

Conservation Plays Role in Ritter Win

2006 marked the first year Colorado Conservation Voters invested significant resources in a gubernatorial race. Colorado Conservation Voters Campaign Fund kicked off its efforts around the Club 20 debate in Grand Junction in early September. Club 20 is an association of Western Slope Colorado counties that traditionally hosts the first major debate of the campaign season. CCVCF's goal was to highlight Congressman Bob Beauprez's record on water issues, drawing attention to his support for the 2003 Referendum A ballot measure which would have created a two billion dollar pot to finance unspecified water storage projects. Referendum A was widely seen on the Western Slope as a Front Range water grab. CCVCF sponsored two billboards in Grand Junction and a radio advertisement. A news conference was held at which we were joined by Republican Representative Mark Larson to discuss Beauprez's environmental voting record. This event received excellent media coverage and exposed Congressman Beauprez's poor environmental record.

In the following weeks Bill Ritter won his first two newspaper endorsements, both from Western Slope newspapers, and both of which mentioned Beauprez's record on



water and energy as reasons for supporting Ritter.

In late September, CCVCF returned to the Western Slope to announce the naming of Congressman Beauprez to the national League of Conservation Voters' Dirty Dozen, the first time in LCV's 36-year history that it has named a gubernatorial candidate to this list. Beauprez has a lifetime five percent environmental voting record in Congress. Once again, diverse conservation allies including Republican hunting guide and business owner Jeff Meade, Democratic New Castle Mayor Frank Breslin and LCV political director Tony Massaro joined together to illustrate that conservation is not a partisan issue. Later that week, the two candidates debated energy policy in Rifle, Colorado and Bill Ritter twice mentioned Beauprez's status on the LCV Dirty Dozen.

With Ritter's decisive win in the Nov. 7th election, conservationists from across the state have gained a valuable ally and the power of environmental issues in campaigns has been proven.

Full Results and 2006 Scorecard Available

Visit us online at www.coloradoconservationvoters.org for a full list of CCVAF endorsed candidates and the results of their races. While you are there, click for a PDF copy of the 2006 Colorado Legislative Conservation Scorecard. The Scorecard is an annual publication of CCV highlighting the important conservation issues addressed by the legislature each year and analyzing how each legislator voted on those issues. In 2006, 14 Senators and 19 Representatives received perfect scores.

Volunteer with CCV

CCV is always looking for volunteers to help with fundraisers, mailings, and assist in important campaigns. Contact Ben Gregory at (303) 454-3349 today to sign up!

Sign Up for E-Copy!

The Colorado Conservation Voters Voice is 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.