



# NEWS RELEASE

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## 2008 CONSERVATION GRADES ARE IN FOR LEGISLATORS

**Richmond, VA...** The Virginia League of Conservation Voters (VALCV) today released its 9th Edition of the **Legislative Conservation Scorecard** announcing the conservation voting records of state legislators. This publication rates individual legislators on a series of important conservation votes cast during the 2008 General Assembly session. It also presents a total of each legislator's conservation votes from 2000 when VALCV was formed through the 2008 session with the percentage of "right" votes on conservation issues.

"The Virginia League of Conservation Voters is committed to providing an accountability tool for environmentally concerned voters in the form of an annual Legislative Conservation Scorecard," said Lisa Guthrie, Executive Director of the Virginia League. "Citizens care more about how their legislators vote on important conservation bills than whether they have a partisan R or D behind their names."

The Virginia League commends the one senator and forty delegates with 100% scores. Another 28 legislators achieved scores between 75 and 99%. Five legislators earned a score of 25% or less and no legislator scored 0%. This year most of them are Democrats; last year most of them were Republicans. Their cumulative scores reflect the most accurate account.

### Average Annual Scores:

	<u>House</u>	<u>Senate</u>
2007	73%	55%
2008	73%	68%

The scores measured committee and floor votes on a wide range of important conservation issues including the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions (SB 233; SB 234), steps toward mining uranium (SB 525), replacement of the proffer system (SB 768), and bipartisan redistricting (SB 38). "Extra credit" was also issued to legislators who patroned conservation-friendly bills that VALCV supported. *(The 2008 Scorecard had already gone to print when the Special Session ended on July 10. Votes on HB 6006 calling for offshore drilling revenues for transportation will be considered for the 2009 Scorecard.)*

VALCV works throughout the session to inform the legislators and the public about legislation affecting the environment. Legislators are informed of VALCV's position on specific bills before they vote. Memos and personal meetings serve as notice that the bill may be included in the Scorecard. At the end of the session, VALCV selects bills for the Scorecard which illustrate a clear distinction between those legislators who support the conservation position and those who do not.

The Virginia League of Conservation Voters serves as the nonpartisan political action arm of the state's conservation community. Our mission is to preserve and enhance the quality of life of all Virginians by making conservation a top priority with Virginia's elected officials, political candidates, and voters.

*(The full scorecard is available at [www.valcv.org](http://www.valcv.org). View the pdf file or our new interactive scorecard using Google Maps.)*

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