



The Candidate Endorsement Process

Many have asked what kind of process the VALCV will use to determine candidate endorsements. The answer is simple but the process is not. In an effort to establish a fair, nonpartisan procedure based on conservation issues, VALCV has adopted a multi-step process:

1. Candidate questionnaires are developed for each office with the input from environmental policy experts across the state. Questionnaires are sent by certified mail to each candidate in races where VALCV determines an existing opportunity for a conservation candidate to win.
2. Candidate interviews are conducted for candidates who return a completed questionnaire. (Candidates who have an 80% or better average General Assembly voting record may be allowed "friendly incumbent" status where full interviews may not be required.) The interview team summarizes the candidate interview responses for the VALCV Political Committee.
3. The Political Committee then meets and decides whether to recommend an endorsement to the full VALCV Board of Directors. A 2/3 vote of the Board is required in order to endorse a candidate.

No action for a candidate or against the opponent may occur prior to the completion of this process. VALCV resources will be invested in targeted races.

Information Required for Endorsements

The following items must be completed and received by VALCV in order to endorse a candidate:

1. Candidate questionnaire(s), which includes identification of the candidate's position on key VALCV legislative issues
2. Tally Sheet, which summarizes information about the candidate gathered from both the questionnaire and the interview
3. Campaign evaluation sheet completed during the interview.

Endorsement Guidelines

The following guidelines will be factors when VALCV decides to endorse a candidate:

- I. Qualifications for office:
 - Leadership ability
 - Community involvement
 - Environmental support record
 - Regional support record

II. Response to questionnaire:

- Philosophy
- Compatibility with local and VALCV legislative goals
- Consistency of public statements

III. Campaign overview:

- Ability to raise campaign funding
- Electability
 - Vote getter
 - Status in party
 - Ability to relate our issues to the elected body

IV. Completion of the VALCV screening process:

- Written questionnaire received within timelines
- Personal interview (If an actual interview is not possible, a conference phone call with the candidate may be necessary.)