



**82 % OF VALCV
ENDORSED
CANDIDATES
WON IN NOVEMBER**

5 NEW FACES IN THE GA

Steve Shannon - HD 35
Mark Sickles - HD 43
Albert Eisenberg - HD 47
Adam Ebbin - HD 49
Lynwood Lewis - HD 100

22 INCUMBENTS RETURN

Senate

Yvonne Miller - SD 5
Edd Houck - SD 17
Roscoe Reynolds - SD 20
John Edwards - SD 21
Patsy Ticer - SD 30
Mary Margaret Whipple - SD 31
Janet Howell - SD 32
Bill Mims - SD 33

House

Bob Marshall - HD 13
Allen Louderback - HD 15
Preston Bryant - HD 23
Steve Landes - HD 25
Vince Callahan - HD 34
Ken Plum - HD 36
Chap Petersen - HD 37
Jim Dillard - HD 41
Marian Van Landingham - HD 45
Robert Brink - HD 48
Watkins Abbitt, Jr. - HD 59
Bill Barlow - HD 64
R. Lee Ware, Jr. - HD 65
Albert Pollard, Jr. - HD 99

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings and Best Wishes for 2004!

Thanks to our supportive members, 2003 was a year of growth and great success. The Virginia League of Conservation Voters was instrumental in building legislative support for priorities such as growth management tools, funding for natural resources and open space, and transportation alternatives. These issues became pivotal campaign issues that enabled 27 of our 33 endorsed candidates to win. We now prepare to enter the 2004 session of the General Assembly with a broader base of support among Delegates and Senators. We'll be there to inform and educate the legislators and to make our voices heard. We'll be calling on you too to help coax them to vote "right" on key bills.

VALCV, along with our sister organization, the VALCV-Education Fund, expanded our grassroots outreach this past year. We, in partnership with the Virginia Conservation Network, accelerated the new Legislative Contact Team program to identify and activate volunteers to serve as legislative liaisons in each of the 140 legislative districts. We now have almost 200 LCTs registered in many districts across the Commonwealth. We became the managers of the Conservation e-Action Virginia! email network that enables citizens to communicate almost instantly with elected officials. I am especially pleased that we have expanded our Local PAC Partners program where we help local groups of concerned citizens form political action committees to positively affect the outcome of their local elections. The best news of all is that growth management and conservation have become the hot button issues in the local elections and have the voters' support. Our candidates win where the case is clear. Our Partner PACs are making the difference!

With all these programs, VALCV added an additional staff person this summer. Melanie Roberts serves as the Program Coordinator/Organizer as well as the chief campaign grassroots strategist. Stacy Reed is now our Communications and Technology Coordinator and manages our websites, membership database, and CAV! program. She is also the voice you're apt to hear when you call our office. John B. Jaske, Senior Vice President of Labor Relations and Assistant General Counsel of Gannett Co., Inc. and Orange County resident, will be serving as our new Board Chairman. From Board to staff to volunteers, it takes a multitude of skills and talents to accomplish the tall order of our organization whose mission is to preserve Virginia's natural landscape by changing the political landscape. With your help, we've done much to accomplish that mission. Your generous financial gifts and your willingness to get involved have taken us far in our 3 1/2 year history. With your help, this new year of 2004 looks even brighter!

Lisa Guthrie
Executive Director

CONSERVATION CONCERNS TAKE POLITICAL CENTER STAGE

"The critical point about the recent statewide local elections is not how many Smart Growth candidates won or lost, but that the issues we have been airing over the past four years are now taking center-stage. Instead of being brushed aside as fringe issues by politicians, sprawl, growth and transportation are now central to every political debate in our state."

— Tony Vanderwarker
VALCV Board Member;
Chair - VSS Albemarle

LEGISLATIVE CONTACT TEAMS

Citizen Activists Effecting Change

The VALCV / VCN **Legislative Contact Team (LCT)** program is making great strides to reach our senators and delegates. The Legislative Contact Team program started a little over a year ago with the purpose of putting citizen activists in contact with their legislators and has been growing ever since. We now have LCT members in 66 of the 100 house districts and 38 of the 40 senate districts.

By arming committed citizens with a background on the issues and strategies to influence elected officials, our program has already had a significant impact already. As our LCT program grows, so will our influence with legislators.

Several districts still do not have adequate LCT representation. Please consider signing up for one of our LCTs. As a constituent who votes, *your* voice is needed to promote conservation issues with your elected officials. VALCV will put you in contact with other LCT members in your district and will provide all materials and talking points. Please sign up today online at www.vcnva.org or contact Melanie Roberts at the VALCV office: 804-225-1902 or mroberts@valcv.org.

Local PAC Partners (LPPs)

Most individuals come to the political process because of decisions that affect them close to home. Some may never have thought of themselves as conservationists but find themselves speaking out at Supervisor meetings in opposition to rezonings or writing letters to the editor. Sooner or later, perceptive activists discover that they must roll up their sleeves and work to get quality candidates elected if they expect to get better representation.

One of VALCV's priorities is to work with local groups to form Political Action Committees or PACs so that they are in a position to influence the outcome of local elections. If conservation and growth management are to become key campaign issues throughout our electoral process, we must work together at the local as well as at the state legislative level. Our Local PAC Partners are local PACs that have agreed to work with VALCV in an effort to share resources, expertise, and support to win elections at every level. They are all to be commended for the countless hours of hard work they invested in last fall's campaigns. Their local presence and "pounding on the issues" has enabled VALCV to make considerable progress with the tough legislation at the General Assembly.

CAV! E-MAIL ALERT SYSTEM

Busy People Getting Things Done

Do you want to get involved and make a difference, but don't think you have the time? Do you want legislators to keep conservation in mind while they're passing bills this legislative session? If so, you should consider joining the Conservation e-Action Virginia (CAV!) Program.

Joining the Conservation E-Action Virginia! (CAV!) e-mail alert system is the fastest and easiest step you can take toward protecting Virginia's natural resources. Our CAV! system enables you to instantly send emails to your legislator with the click of a mouse and it only takes a minute to sign up. And during the General Assembly every minute counts.

This year legislators will consider bills about land use, smart growth, water and air quality, and natural resources funding. All of these issues can have an impact on the health of Virginia's lands, water and air. Please join this important network and make sure your voice is heard in Richmond.



Individuals may join the CAV! e-mail alert system directly, by signing up through our VALCV-EF website at: www.valcv.org/cav.htm.

How the CAV! System Works

VALCV-EF's CAV! program coordinates with a number of conservation organizations in Virginia. Together, these CAV! partners work to produce and send out a limited number of environmental issue alerts to individuals in the CAV! email action network. We don't want to overwhelm our CAV! members with too much email, so we try to limit the number of alerts to 10 per year.

The CAV! Partnership is currently comprised of the following organizations: Coalition for Smarter Growth, League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, Piedmont Environmental Council, Preservation Alliance of Virginia, Scenic Virginia, Virginia Conservation Network, Virginia Forest Watch, Virginia League of Conservation Voters and Virginia Organizing Project.

Additional organizations are always welcome to join the CAV! partnership. For more information about how your organization can join please contact Lisa Guthrie by email at: VirLCV@aol.com.

2004 VALCV STATEMENTS OF LEGISLATIVE POSITION

Natural Resources Budget

Overarching: VALCV supports an increase in funding for natural resources above the current 1% share of the state budget. VALCV supports increased funding for the citizens' water quality monitoring program.

VALCV supports increased funding for staffing the Virginia Outdoors Foundation.

Air Quality

VALCV supports Virginia "Clean Smokestacks" legislative initiatives.

VALCV opposes legislation that limits the State Corporation Commission's authority to issue permits for electrical power plant construction. (HB 59 – Del. Parrish)

Water Resources

VALCV supports the position that permit holders should pay the full costs of the natural resources permit programs and fee amounts should be set by regulation and not capped by statute.

VALCV supports the completion of efforts to develop a state water resources plan and regulations for local and regional water supply plans (per SB 1221, 2003 Session) that adequately protect in-stream uses, promote conservation of water resources, and promote watershed protection.

VALCV supports consolidation of state stormwater programs related to construction and post-construction activities within the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and transfers oversight of municipal stormwater programs from DEQ to DCR.

VALCV opposes any legislation that alters the approval process for water protection permits. (Senator Williams)

Agriculture and Forestry

VALCV supports the Agricultural Vitality Program and funding for the Agricultural Vitality Program to: provide funds to localities for the purchase of agricultural conservation easements and to permanently retire the non-agricultural development rights on those farms; and, to continue further development of the FarmLink Program to provide farm families with assistance in transitioning their farms and businesses to the next generation.

VALCV supports full funding for Virginia's Department of Forestry through the collection of fees for services.

Land Use

VALCV supports the establishment of enabling legislation for adequate public facilities and impact fees – coordinating the pace of development with the provision of adequate public facilities.

VALCV supports the continuation of the Commission on Growth and Economic Development.

VALCV opposes any effort to erode local control of land use and development.

VALCV opposes any effort to weaken the authority under the Open Space Land Act or the Conservation Easement Act with respect to the holding and duration of easements.

Transportation

VALCV supports optimal use of land and transportation in the I-81 corridor.

VALCV supports the reenactment of the Rail Authority Act (SB1279, 2003 Session) with the Rail Authority to be an independent authority.

Solid Waste

VALCV supports a tipping fee or tax on solid waste disposal with the most substantial portion of proceeds directed to waste cleanup.

KEY RESOURCES ONLINE

What are the Conservation Issues?

VCN Website - <http://www.vcnva.org>
(Left Column of Home Page "Issues and White Papers")

The Who, What, When and Where About Legislators

General Assembly Website — <http://legis.state.va.us>

Who Is My Legislator?

(Upper Far Right of the General Assembly Home Page)

Contact Info for Senators/Delegates?

(Middle Left Column of the GA Home Page)

Where Do I Find a Specific Bill?

(Top Right Column of the GA Home Page)

Legislative Calendar?

(Top Left Column of the GA Home Page)

General Assembly Legislative Information Services

(804) 698-1500

Constituent Viewpoint Hotline

1-800-889-0229

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES ONLINE

VALCV Website - www.valcv.org (Bottom Right of Home Page)
VCN Website - www.vcnva.org ("Updates" Left Column of Home Page)

VALCV CALENDAR

Jan. 14 - General Assembly convenes

Jan. 19 - VCN Lobby Day

Feb. 10 - Democratic Presidential Primary

Feb. 17 - "Crossover" Day at General Assembly
(All legislation crosses over to the other chamber.)

March 13 - General Assembly adjourns

April 21 - "Veto" reconvened session

VALCV APPLAUDS THE WORK OF OUR LOCAL PAC PARTNERS

Citizens for a Better Dinwiddie
Conservation Voters of Virginia Beach
Hanover Conservation Voters
Orange Concerned Citizens
Voters to Stop Sprawl - Albemarle
VSS - Frederick
VSS - Loudoun
VSS - Spotsylvania

See Page 2 For More About Our LPPs



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