



# NEWS RELEASE

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## 2005 CONSERVATION GRADES ARE IN FOR LEGISLATORS

**Richmond, VA...** The Virginia League of Conservation Voters (VALCV) today released its 6th 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 2005 General Assembly session. It also presents a total of each legislator's conservation votes from 2000 when VALCV started up through the 2005 session with the percentage of "right" votes on conservation issues. The cumulative scores will be taken into consideration when VALCV determines candidate endorsements in this fall's General Election.

"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.

The Virginia League commends the three delegates with 100% scores. These three Legislative Heroes are Delegates Baskerville (HD 71), Ebbin (HD 49) and Petersen (HD 37.) Two of this year's Legislative Heroes, Del. Viola Baskerville and Del. Chap Petersen, will no longer hold seats in the House of Delegates since they both stepped down from their respective seats to run for Lieutenant Governor. Three delegates and seven senators received a score of 0%.

"The document is a testament to the hard work of a large group of activists and conservation organizations that worked with VALCV to keep these issues on the front burner. Our organization's goal is to elevate conservation issues with elected officials so that the Legislative Heroes list will include the majority of legislators", added John Jaske, VALCV chairman.

Conservation organizations work 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 Legislative Scorecard is based on public information from the Virginia General Assembly records. The votes that constitute this chart are on committee votes and floor votes on bills considered important because of their potential impact on the state's environment. An added dimension of the Scorecard is a column for "extra credit" for legislators who agreed to patron conservation legislation.

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 online at [www.valcv.org](http://www.valcv.org))*

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