



# NEWS RELEASE

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## 2006 CONSERVATION GRADES ARE IN FOR LEGISLATORS

**Richmond, VA...** The Virginia League of Conservation Voters (VALCV) today released its 7th 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 2006 General Assembly session. It also presents a total of each legislator's conservation votes from 2000 when VALCV was formed through the 2006 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.

The Virginia League commends the three senators and five delegates with 100% scores. These eight Legislative Heroes are Senators Howell (SD 32), Puller (SD 36) and Ticer (SD 30) and Delegates Ebbin (HD 49), Englin (HD 45), McClellan (HD 71), Plum (HD 36), and J. Scott (HD 53.) A significant improvement in this year's Scorecard is the lack of any 0% scores and the fact that no Delegate scored below 25% this year. Both House and Senate Scores were substantially higher this year than in 2005.

### Average Annual Scores:

	<u>House</u>	<u>Senate</u>
2005	40%	42%
2006	56%	54%

The scores measured floor votes on a wide range of important conservation issues including the land preservation tax credit (SB 93; HB 450), the Virginia Energy Plan (SB 262), air emissions controls (SB 651, HB 1055), billboard vegetation control (SB 87; HB 665), water protection permits (HB 1185), construction of an I-95 alternative (SBJ184) and impact fees for transportation (SB 225, HB 141). "Extra credit" was also issued to legislators who patroned conservation-friendly bills that VALCV supported.

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 the bottom of our homepage; [www.valcv.org](http://www.valcv.org))*

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