

# NEWS RELEASE

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## LESLIE BYRNE RECEIVES FIRST ENDORSEMENT

**Richmond, VA** The Virginia League of Conservation Voters, the nonpartisan political arm of Virginia's conservation community, today announced its endorsement of Leslie Byrne for Lieutenant Governor.

This announcement follows as a result of VALCV's rigorous and non-partisan endorsement process. Both candidates were invited to participate equally in the endorsement process, which includes the review of a candidate's public record, responses to a written questionnaire, participation in a personal interview, and evidence of campaign viability. Lisa Guthrie, Executive Director of the VALCV, stated, "We are proud to be the first organization to announce an endorsement for Leslie Byrne, our next Lieutenant Governor of Virginia." In contrast, Ms. Byrne's opponent did not respond to the questionnaire and has refused to go on record regarding critical environmental protection issues.

Growth issues like sprawl, traffic and environmental losses continue to be ranked by citizens as the primary reasons for the decline of the quality of life in Virginia. If Virginia continues to grow at the current rate, more land will be developed in the next 40 years than was developed in the previous 400 years<sup>1</sup>. Virginians consider their environment a state treasure and have indicated that they will vote for candidates who will seek solutions for these concerns. Virginia's economic future depends on the healthy state of our natural resources and the preservation of our historic and natural monuments. John Jaske, VALCV Board Chairman, remarked, "Virginians deserve elected officials who are eager to demonstrate leadership that ensures a clean and healthy environment for future generations. Leslie Byrne was recognized by the Virginia League of Conservation Voters as a Conservation Legislator Hero in 2003 because of her 100% voting record on critical legislation. With her outstanding record, Leslie Byrne will undoubtedly provide conservation leadership for Virginia's future."

[Sample blank Candidate Questionnaires are available at [www.valcv.org](http://www.valcv.org)]

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<sup>1</sup> Southern Environmental Law Center, *Where are We Growing? Land Use and Transportation in Virginia (2002)*, [http://www.southernenvironment.org/PDFS/Virginia\\_Report\\_2002.pdf](http://www.southernenvironment.org/PDFS/Virginia_Report_2002.pdf).