

NEWS RELEASE

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HOUSE CANDIDATES RECEIVE CONSERVATION ENDORSEMENT

Richmond, VA The Virginia League of Conservation Voters, the nonpartisan political arm of Virginia's conservation community, today announced its endorsement of 25 candidates for the House of Delegates.

This announcement follows as a result of VALCV's rigorous and non-partisan endorsement process. All house candidates were invited to participate equally in the endorsement process, which includes a review of the 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, "These candidates have provided thoughtful responses and demonstrate a wholehearted commitment to conservation in the commonwealth." In contrast, some of the opponents of the endorsed candidates did not respond to the questionnaire and have refused to go on record regarding critical environmental protection issues. VALCV's decision to endorse 20 Democrats, 1 Independent and 4 Republicans is representative of the ratio of candidates from each party who chose to participate in the League's endorsement process.

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 years¹. Virginians consider their environment a state treasure and have indicated that they will vote for candidates who will seek solutions for these concerns. The endorsed candidates understand that 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 and are committed to finding reasonable solutions to these problems. 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. These endorsed candidates will provide conservation leadership for Virginia."

[Sample blank Candidate Questionnaires are available at www.valcv.org]

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¹ Southern Environmental Law Center, *Where are We Growing? Land Use and Transportation in Virginia (2002)*, http://www.southernenvironment.org/PDFS/Virginia_Report_2002.pdf.