



CONSERVATION VOTER



Alaska Conservation Voters

www.acvoters.org

Fall 2006

'Tis the Season: 2006 Election Heats Up for ACV

With the primaries over and decided, the rush of the election season is now upon Alaskans. Up for grabs will be the gubernatorial mansion in Juneau, as well as all 40 seats in the Alaska State House and 10 Senate seats. In anticipation of Election Day, Alaska Conservation Voters sent out questionnaires to candidates in the Gubernatorial and Legislative races asking about their conservation values.

Republican, Independent, Libertarian and Democrat alike, the questionnaires streamed in. Candidates relayed to us what conservation issues were of concern to them and how they intend to balance a strong economy with a healthy environment. We asked questions ranging from environmental policy, pesticides and a natural gas pipeline to climate change, water quality, open caucus meetings and campaign viability. While every candidate had their own opinion on each of these issues, the underlying theme was that they all recognized how important conservation is for Alaska's economy, culture and quality of life.

Below are a few of the questions we asked that hit on three issues of major concern to Alaskans: water quality, renewable energy and climate change. Prior to the election, we'll let you know those individuals that have been endorsed by ACV—a.k.a. the pro-Alaska, pro-conservation candidates!



Clean Water

Alaska's cold, clean waters support hundreds of different wildlife species, like grizzlies and salmon,

and are a vital resource to recreational, subsistence and commercial fishermen. We asked candidates what they thought about mixing zones (increased pollution concentrations) in salmon spawning areas. We also asked about local groups using federal dollars to monitor water quality and whether local communities should be able to impose stricter water quality standards than the state. For those candidates who opposed mixing zones and supported water quality monitoring and stricter standards: way to stand up for Alaska's interests!



Renewable Energy

Not only is Alaska blessed with stores of oil and natural gas, but has the

potential to be a renewable energy power house. We asked questions to probe how committed candidates were to 'jump starting' renewable energy projects in Alaska. Specifically, we asked would they support wind projects like Fire Island or creating financial incentives to increase renewable energy development? Those candidates in favor blew away the competition, recognizing that oil and gas are important, but renewables are the future of Alaska.



Climate Change

As seen in Newsweek, National Geographic, Time and the Alaska Daily News, global warming is already impacting

Alaska. Candidates fell into two camps: those who accept the scientific evidence that global warming is negatively impacting Alaska and must be addressed, and those who believe it is not real so no action is necessary. Candidates can chalk up another point in their favor if they are ready to deal with the reality of climate change in Alaska. Bonus points went to those individuals who would work to review and implement the recommendations of the Climate Impact Assessment Commission, which Alaska Conservation Voters helped establish in May of this year.

ACV to Host Gubernatorial Candidates at Breakfast Forum

Alaska Conservation Voters will host our first annual 'Early Birds for the Environment' Breakfast and Candidate

Forum on Wednesday, October 4th. During this time, ACV will host voters from across the state and feature Alaska's 2006 candidates for Governor. In attendance will be gubernatorial candidates Sarah Palin and Andrew Halcro as well as Lieutenant Governor candidate Ethan Berkowitz for the Knowles campaign. Moderating the event



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Alaska Conservation Voters protects Alaska’s environment through public education and advocacy, and supports pro-conservation candidates for public office.

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Letter from the Director >>

“The times they are a-changing,” so sings Bob Dylan and so sings my hopeful heart. Between the primary results and the ongoing FBI investigation there is indeed reason to be hopeful that the pendulum may start to swing back toward the middle—but we all know that hope is not enough. We must have good candidates and must work to activate conservation voters. This is where Alaska Conservation Voters comes in . . . to ride this wave of hope to key victories at the ballot box.

So just what is Alaska Conservation Voters doing? First, we are supporting over 20 pro-conservation candidates for the Alaska legislature (a list will be sent out to ACV members prior to the election). Second, we have identified about 77,000 green voters to reach out to. And, of course, we help financially where we can. This is where we need more of your help. The more you give, the more Alaska Conservation Voters can strategically help these candidates secure success at the ballot box. Strategically is the key word here. For some candidates, mailing lists, mailings, ads or door-to-door canvassing are more valuable than dollars. Alaska Conservation Voters is dedicated to getting the best value for the campaign buck.

“79% of registered voters consider themselves to be a conservationist.”

Another reason to be hopeful is that a recent statewide poll shows that 79% of registered voters consider themselves to be a conservationist and 73% believe we have a moral responsibility to care for Alaska’s land, water and wildlife. While this is a welcoming high number, it doesn’t yet translate into elections or policy. There is still a disconnect within Alaska’s political climate and as such the challenge remains. For key legislative races, we have developed specific strategies and with your support we stand a better a chance of getting these conservation-minded voters to act accordingly at the polls.

“The times they are a-changing.”

The ACA Connection

If the Alaska Conservation Voters is the political arm of the conservation community, then the Alaska Conservation Alliance (ACA) is the strategic thinker. ACA brings more than 35 member organizations together to prioritize issues and to speak with one voice to Alaskans, government officials, and the media. Although ACA and ACV are separate organizations with separate boards, both support the mission of advancing conservation through the civic arena. ACA engages in policy discussions and educates Alaskans and decision-makers about conservation issues; ACV works to support pro-conservation candidates and to ensure those issues are addressed in the political arena.

To learn more about ACV’s sister organization, the Alaska Conservation Alliance, or to subscribe to ACA’s electronic newsletter, please contact Suzanne at (907) 463-3366 or suzanne@akvoice.org.

ACV to Host Candidate Breakfast Forum

Continued from Page 1

will be Steve McDonald from KTUU TV, Channel 2.

Candidates will be asked several questions from the moderator. Candidates will have the opportunity to discuss issues of statewide importance, such as climate change, renewable energy, clean water, and the gas pipeline contract.

All proceeds from the event will go to help ACV to support pro-conservation candidates. Please join us, bring a friend, show your support for Alaska Conservation, and hear what

our candidates have to say – all while enjoying a great breakfast.

Where & When

The breakfast will be held at 7:30 a.m., Wednesday, October 4 at the Hilton Hotel's Aleutian Room 500 West Third Ave., Anchorage (907) 272-7411

Cost

\$50 per person.

Contact

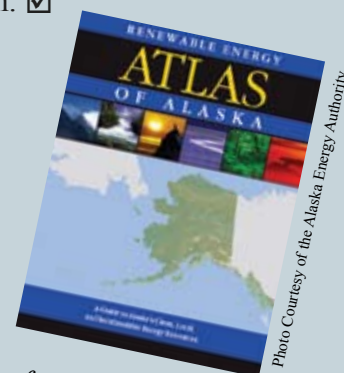
To RSVP or if you have any questions about the event, please contact Bobi Rinehart at (907) 258-6160 or bobi@akvoice.org.

Alaska Eco-nomics

As part of ACV's efforts to promote the fact that a sound economy and a sound environment go hand in hand, Executive Director Kate Troll will be visiting several communities throughout Alaska to talk about "Alaska Eco-nomics," or the linkages between economic development and environmental protection. Kate gives a brief overview of how this synergy can be achieved and highlights Alaskan examples. One prime example illustrating "Eco-nomics," is renewable energy:

"With some of the best renewable energy resources in the country, Alaska has an opportunity to lead again as an energy state and bring new revenue streams into the state's economy," commented Kate Troll. "Renewable energy can be Alaska's next permanent fund."

The Alaska Energy Authority's recently published "Renewable Energy Atlas of Alaska," which will be available at the "Alaska Eco-nomics" presentations, brings together a comprehensive overview of the "gold mine" of renewable energy resources available to Alaskans. Through these presentations, Kate is hopeful about diffusing some of the rhetoric of polarity i.e. jobs versus the environment, and setting a positive tone for the upcoming legislative session. ☑



For a listing of dates for "Alaska Eco-nomics," please see the Conservation Calendar (left). To obtain a copy of the "Renewable Energy Atlas of Alaska" contact the Alaska Energy Authority [www.akenergyauthority.org] or attend "Alaska Eco-nomics."

Conservation Calendar >>

September 27

"Alaskan Eco-Nomics" presentation with ACV's Executive Director Kate Troll

Location: Anchorage East Rotary

September 29, 6:00 p.m.

The Alaska Conservation Foundation's "Conservation Achievement Awards"

Location: Lucy Cuddy Center, UAA

Tickets: \$20 per person or \$140 for a 7-person table

Contact: Lorraine at (907) 276-1917 or acfinfo@akcf.org

October 4, 7:30 a.m.

ACV's 1st Annual Early Birds for the Environment Breakfast & Candidate's Forum

Location: The Aleutian Room, Hilton Hotel, Anchorage

Tickets: \$50 per person

Contact: Bobi Rinehart at (907) 258-6160 or bobi@akvoice.org

October 5, 7:40 p.m.

"Who Killed the Electric Car?" Documentary Screening by The Alaska

Youth for Environmental Action

Location: The Bear's Tooth Theater, Anchorage

Tickets: \$3 at the door

Contact: Wiley Cason at (907) 339-3904 or ayea@nwf.org

October 9

"Alaskan Eco-Nomics" presentation with ACV's Executive Director Kate Troll

Location: Kodiak Chamber of Commerce

December 2, 7:00 p.m.

ACV Fundraiser with the Harlem Ambassadors

Location: East High School, Anchorage

Contact: Bobi Rinehart at (907) 258-6160 or bobi@akvoice.org

December 5*

"Alaskan Eco-Nomics" presentation with ACV's Executive Director Kate Troll

Location: Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce

** Awaiting Confirmation*

Alaska Conservation Voters has accomplished much to keep Alaska healthy, but none of our great work would be possible without your generous support. Please help ensure a safe, healthy environment for years to come by contributing today.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Employer _____ Occupation _____

Please do not share my name, address, or email with other organizations.

Membership: \$35 Student/Senior \$50 Individual \$100 Family

Donation: \$100 \$250 \$500

\$1,000 Other _____

One-time charge (amount): \$ _____

Please charge my credit card every month (amount): \$ _____

Type (circle): Visa Mastercard

Card #: _____ Expires: _____

Name on Card: _____ Signature: _____

Please make checks payable to ACV. Note: Up to \$1,000 per year of your contributions may be transferred to our Political Activity Fund (where they can be used to help elect pro-conservation candidates). If we transfer your donation to our PAF, we must by law identify your name, address and occupation. Contributions to ACV are not tax-deductible.

Prefer to make a tax-deductible donation to ACA, the 501(c)3 sister organization of ACV

How can I help?

There are numerous ways you can make a difference in ACV's efforts. To become a member or make a donation, visit our website at www.acvoters.org or send in your form to

P.O. Box 100660
Anchorage, AK 99510
fax: (907) 258-6177.

You can also call in your donation to
(907) 258-6160.

Would you like more information on how to support ACV's work?

*Please contact Bobi Rinehart at
907.258.6160 or
Bobi@akvoice.org.*

**Thank You for
Your Support.**



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The Political Arm of Alaska's Conservation Movement



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