



# CONSERVATION VOTER



Alaska Conservation Voters

[www.acvoters.org](http://www.acvoters.org)

Spring 2007

## Lobbyist Elevates ACV's Efforts

Most lobbyists who work the hallways of the Alaska State Legislature have a lot on their minds: who to talk to, how to appeal to

..... the interests and convictions of a particular public official, how to best move their bills forward or stop the ones they don't like. They spend a tremendous amount of time thinking and strategizing about the measures they're working on and then trying to make things happen.



ACV Lobbyist  
David Rogers

For Alaska Conservation Voters lobbyist David Rogers, this can be a major task.

"We've got many projects in the mix right now," says David. "In addition to our three priorities—Renewable Energy, Mixing Zones and Mining Royalty Reform—ACV engages in other conservation related bills and issues that just keep on coming." Somehow, he says all this with his trademark easy smile.

This is David's second session working with ACV but he has been in the middle of Alaska

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## Jumping Into the 25<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session

The new Legislature arrived and was sworn in on January 16th. Since that time, both Houses have been abuzz with committee hearings, budget deliberations, and debates over hot issues such as the natural gas pipeline, ethics bills and others.

As always, ACV jumped right in and began conversations with legislators about our priorities for protecting Alaska's environment: establish a renewable energy fund (HB152 & SB96), protect clean water and healthy salmon (HB74), and secure Alaska's fair share of mining revenues (HB156). ACV Executive Director Kate Troll and ACV lobbyist David Rogers embarked on a total over 51 meetings with 16 Senators and 35 Representatives to highlight ACV's priorities—not to mention multiple meetings with members of the administration. Establishing and strengthening relationships with legislators and the administration while getting to know new new faces is a key component to ACV's strategy in the legislature.

ACV's top priority for the session is to establish a fund to support renewable energy projects. With the growing list of bi-partisan support for the cause, we are optimistic that good things will happen this year, but only time will

tell and there is much work to be done before the end of the first half of the regular session on May 16th.

While Renewable Energy is our highest priority, we will also be providing testimony and support for key measures, tracking other conservation legislation, and working to affect the outcome of dozens of other bills and important conservation issues.

We cannot do our work without the help of supportive legislators, coalition partners, and, most importantly—our members and activists across Alaska. *Time and again, we hear from legislators that the voices of their constituents have a big influence on how they vote.* If you are not already a subscriber to ACV's free electronic legislative newsletter, the "Conservation Watch," we would encourage you to sign up via our website. We also encourage you to visit our website for updates on what is happening at the Legislature and how to stay involved. With your help, we can continue to protect what is special about Alaska and our way of life!

**Want to learn more about how to support pro-conservation legislation?**  
Visit [www.acvoters.org](http://www.acvoters.org) or contact Suzanne at [suzanne@akvoice.org](mailto:suzanne@akvoice.org) or (907) 463-3366.

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### East Side, West Side: Municipal Election Roundup

Alaska Conservation Voters and its members have known for a long time that conservation values are important to a strong majority of Alaskans, be they Republican or Democrat, living in Barrow or Ketchikan. Here in Anchorage, conservation is representing from the East Side to the West Side with the election of new Anchorage Assembly Members Sheila Selkregg and Matt Claman!

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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 >>



It doesn't take too much reading in today's news journals to grasp the fact that energy has become the central environmental question, the central security question and the central economic question—and this applies to Alaska as well.

In addition to the Governor's Alaska Gasline Inducement Act, there are 15+ bills dealing with energy in one form or another. And fortunately, HB 152 and SB 96 (ACV priority legislation that establishes a renewable energy fund) tops the list and is receiving strong bipartisan support this legislative session in large part due to this environment - economic connection. The high price of oil and gas, the declining supply of Cook Inlet natural gas and the escalating, depilating cost of power to rural Alaska all justify timely action on renewable energy.

The other central energy question – looming as large and as significant as the pipeline – is coal. As economics makes renewable energy more attractive so does it make coal. With about half of the nation's known coal resources residing here, Alaska will also be center stage for this energy debate. Knowing this we are charting a course to become more informed about all the new developments surrounding coal gasification, coal-to-liquids, carbon sequestration, carbon capture, CO2 flooding, etc. What does it all mean? Can Alaska meet projected energy demands without coal? What is the comparative price to consumers? How much can be saved through energy conservation? What is the gap until North Slope gas could be available to Southcentral?

Fortunately, we're not trying to get these answers alone. We have alliances engaged and a strategy in place. Bottomline: We are putting energy into our central question of energy. Stay tuned for answers and more activity. In the meantime, chew on these energy thoughts:

- On a per capita basis, Alaskans emit 82 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually—higher than the national average of 25 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.
- The average European uses 50% less energy than the average American.
- The average rural Alaskan uses about 400-500 kilowatts of energy per year. In the Railbelt that figure jumps to 750-800 kilowatts.

### My Favorite Energy Quote:

**“Energy is a market that needs government intervention, regulation, and interference.**

And these are dirty words in America these days. But governments are in the best position to internalize externalities. Government can say, ‘Our society suffers from pollution. If I tax your use of coal, that use will drop, and I’ll have more money to build the trains that will cut pollution and to pay for the nurses to treat your asthma.’”

-- Jerome Guillet, an investment banker, commenting on the blog [dailykos.com](http://dailykos.com)

Best Wishes,

Kate Troll, Executive Director

politics since he was a young man fresh out of law school looking for adventure. A member of the Alaska Bar Association since 1976 and a recipient of the Wendell D. McCurry Outstanding Professional Award for Superior

Achievement in the Field of Water Quality and Environmental Protection, David has experience not only as a lobbyist and lawyer, but as a legislative staffer, negotiator, facilitator, state manager, small business owner and conservationist. He has worked for Republicans and Democrats and is known for his ability to bridge the gaps between competing interests to resolve controversial issues.

All of this experience makes him uniquely qualified for his work on

conservation legislation with ACV—he has the contacts, technical expertise and insight to help turn important bills into laws. One recent example was last year’s Climate Impact Assessment Commission, HCR30.

**“Climate change is an extremely important issue... I’m proud of the Legislature for taking it on.”**

“Helping to get that one passed was a big deal for me,” says David. “Climate change is an extremely important issue that will be with us for many years. I’m proud of the Legislature for taking it on.”

In his off time—hard to find during the session—he enjoys “hanging out” with his grandson Tosh. David and his wife Caren Robinson, long time Alaska residents, share office space downtown with their trusty canine companions, Harley and Maggie.

## LEGISLATIVE FLY-IN

ACV’s 2007 Legislative Fly-In was a smashing success! This year’s event was hosted from March 11th through 13th. Over 23 participants from around the state—stretching from Ketchikan to Barrow—were in attendance for this year’s training.

Each year, ACV’s Legislative Fly-In brings together conservation-minded folks from around the state to learn about the Legislature and conservation issues in Alaska, meet their legislators and hone their activism skills. This year’s lineup included presentations on renewable energy, mixing zones, coal & climate change as well as numerous workshops on public speaking, grassroots organizing, media usage, and lobbying, to name just a few.

Fly-In activities culminated with ACV’s Annual Legislative Lunch reception, where we were joined by 65 guests, including Fly-In participants, ACV staff, legislators and legislative staffers. Photos of the event can be seen at the right.

*Photos, right, from top to bottom: Rep. LeDoux’s staffer Christine Marasigan and participant Karla Dutton; Rep. Les Gara along with (L to R) guest Beverly Anderson and participants Jess Ryan and Natalie Sattler; Fly-In participants Ray Grey and Mary Beth Bolt; Alaska Conservation Alliance Board President Dale Gardner chatting it up with Rep. Seaton*



Fly-In Photos Courtesy of Russell Stigall, Suzanne Bostrom & MaryBeth Bolt

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## ELECTIONS

*Continued from Page 1*

In Anchorage’s East Side, Sheila ran a strong campaign centered on stronger neighborhood protections, better schools and quality of life in Anchorage. ACV pitched in on the campaign effort by making phone calls and contacting voters. By Election Day, voters knew the best candidate for the job and Sheila won a resounding victory!

Over on the West Side, Matt’s race was a little closer. A three-way competition, Matt campaigned for fiscal responsibility and improving Anchorage’s schools. ACV was on the ground, directly contacting voters, making phone calls and helping to turn people out to the polls. The result of course, it that Matt now has a new title: Assemblyman Claman!

Unfortunately, we didn’t get everything we wanted and would be remiss for not acknowledging our South Anchorage and Midtown candidates, Val Baffone and Elvi Gray-Jackson. Even so, we look forward to working with the new Assembly and helping to improve Anchorage’s quality of life. From the east to the west, another victory for conservation in the far north.

# FAMILIARIZING YOURSELF WITH 501(c)4 DONATION GUIDELINES

Thank you for putting your dollars to work with the most effective conservation political organization in Alaska – Alaska Conservation Voters (ACV)!

ACV wants to assure that your donations go where you want them to go and are handled in the way that is right for you. You may know that we are a 501(c)4 non-profit organization. However, you may have wondered about the laws regarding your contributions to ACV and political organizations in general.

Gifts to ACV's General Fund are used for lobbying, voter education, media, and general support of the organization. There is no dollar limit on donations from individuals or groups to the ACV General Fund.

Donations to ACV's Political Activity Fund (PAF) are used for direct contributions to candidates

and their campaigns, and for candidate-related independent expenditures, such as door-to-door visits and targeted mail campaigns. The Alaska Public Offices Commission (APOC) regulates our PAF contributions and expenditures. In 2007, there is a \$500 limit on donations from an individual to our PAF and a \$1,000 limit from other groups to our PAF.

Federal and state campaign finance laws require us to report occupation and employer information for donors who give \$250 or more to our electoral work or PAF. If you do not want to have your personal information reported to APOC, you may specify that your donation not be transferred to the PAF and we will put your contribution to work as part of ACV's General Fund.

The other noteworthy rule that governs our Political Activity

Fund is that only 10% of its total dollars may come from non-Alaska residents. Therefore, the support of other Alaskans is extra important.

Because ACV uses your donation to engage in political activity on behalf of a healthy and wild Alaska, donations are not tax-deductible. However, contributions to ACV's sister organization, the Alaska Conservation Alliance, are tax deductible. While ACV can accept donations from sole proprietors, ACV cannot accept donations from business corporations.

*If you have any questions, please call Bobi Rinehart, our Development Director, at (907) 258-6160 or email her at [bobi@akvoice.org](mailto:bobi@akvoice.org). If you would like to make a contribution to ACV, please use the enclosed envelope or visit our website at [www.acvoters.org](http://www.acvoters.org).  
**Thank you!***



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