



MARYLAND LEAGUE
OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

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Kids Say Some Legislators are “Awesome”, Some Need to Pay More Attention in Class

*Maryland League of Conservation Voters releases its 2010 Environmental
Scorecard*

Features First Republican in sixteen years with a 100% Score

ANNAPOLIS, MD (June 22nd, 2010) – The school year is ending. Some kids in Maryland are still awaiting their report cards with excitement and trepidation, while those who’ve received them are reflecting on how they did. Grades matter: They measure if our children understood what was asked of them and whether they applied what they were taught. The Maryland League of Conservation Voters (LCV) 2010 Environmental Scorecard tells the same story about our legislators in the Maryland General Assembly.

Today kids from across the state came to Annapolis to see how legislators in the General Assembly fared. “It’s important to our future and to what kind of life we are going to live in Maryland,” said Griffin Badalamente, age 11, of Potomac, Maryland. “If I don’t work hard in school and I get bad grades then my parents are not going to be happy; I don’t always like it, but I know why it’s important -- I think it’s great that legislators get a report card too.”

Joining the kids were two legislators who scored 100% on this year’s scorecard: long-time champion for the environment, Senator Paul Pinsky (District 22), a Democrat from Prince George’s County, and Delegate Steve Schuh (District 31), a Republican from Anne Arundel County. Delegate Schuh is the first Republican Legislator to score 100% on the League’s annual scorecard in sixteen years. The last Republicans to score a 100% were Delegates Wade Kach and Martin Madden in 1994.

Much like last year, we saw some bold moves for the environment from House leadership and the conservation majority in the House of Delegates—while at the same time we witnessed an often unreliable Senate.

Maryland's kids deserve better. They deserve legislators who will be forward thinking and provide leadership, leaders like Senator Paul Pinsky and Delegate Steve Schuh, who prove that fighting for the environment crosses party lines.

“The Maryland League of Conservation Voters is an invaluable resource to legislators who are serious about addressing Maryland's environmental challenges for current and future generations. The League does an outstanding job of holding legislators accountable for their votes on environmental matters. Thanks to the efforts of the League, we are making progress on the environment,” said Delegate Schuh.

A few weeks before the end of the 2010 Maryland General Assembly session, the League saw signs that spelled defeat for progress on the environment. Senators were voting to delay the creation of oyster sanctuaries in the Bay and we were hearing rumors of budget slashing to environmental programs like Program Open Space. It was hard to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

The environmental community and Marylanders who care about protecting the environment responded to the potential defeat with a barrage of letters, phone calls, and visits to legislators. The message was clear — that in good times and in bad, sound environmental policy is sound fiscal policy. In the final tally, the General Assembly was strong on the budget, including \$22.5 million for the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund and preserving most of the funding for Program Open Space (with the help of a strong last minute push by Governor O'Malley and Speaker Busch). With the help of Senate President Miller, legislators passed a bill ensuring that Maryland's transportation decisions improve our quality of life.

“Everyone knows it was a tough year fiscally. We were realistic about the amount of progress we could make this year,” said Cindy Schwartz, Executive Director of the League, “However, in tough times, we need to be more vigilant about the resources that make up the basis of our economy. Good environmental policy is good fiscal policy. This report card tells the story of which legislators were able to make that connection and which ones did not.”

“The gulf oil spill brings into sharp relief the need to address the quality of life proactively. Protecting our natural resources, pursuing alternative, sustainable energy, and providing the basic education to understand these issues is a key concern,” said State Senator Paul G. Pinsky. “I'm glad to work with both my legislative colleagues and leading state advocacy organizations, like the Maryland League of Conservation Voters (LCV), to ensure a Maryland that our children will be proud to call home.” said Senator Pinsky of Prince George's County.

“The people of Maryland rightfully expect that their representatives understand that a good and bountiful economy starts and ends by valuing the environment,” said Chuck Porcari, Political Chair of the Maryland LCV Board of Directors.

The Maryland LCV scorecard measures how legislators in the General Assembly voted in the past legislative session with respect to the environment. They are given scores on a percentage basis much like the children they represent. These scores are often used by citizens to hold legislators accountable.

Once again, the votes in this scorecard were chosen by Maryland LCV's Board of Directors in conjunction with their colleagues at Environment Maryland.

“Every year we need to make progress in protecting Maryland’s treasured lands and the Chesapeake Bay and in moving toward a clean energy economy. Unfortunately, for most of the 2010 legislative session, legislators seemed to push environmental priorities to the back burner. We were relieved to see some positive steps made in the closing days of the session, but much more should have been done. In the future we hope the environment is on the agenda from Day One,” said Brad Heavner, State Director of Environment Maryland

Schwartz continued, “Last year we coined the phrase ‘mushy middle’ to describe some members of the Senate. This year we saw very little movement towards firming up the reliability of the Senate.” In fact, when you review the scores over the last four years you see a sizable gap between the House and the Senate. For the most part the House of Delegates has remained pretty consistent with the Republicans averaging about 38% and the Democrats weighing in with an average of 89% --for a combined four-year House of Delegates average of 75%. The Senate, on the other hand, has a combined four-year average of 62%, with the Senate Republican scoring an average 25% and the Democrats scoring 76%. The Senate on all accounts is scoring on average 13 points below the House and if you look at the last four years, you see that the scores have continued to drop since 2007, a disturbing trend.

Schwartz concluded by saying, “With the effects of the Gulf oil spill in the news every day, we see how what we do today matters and will matter for years to come. We expect our kids to improve in school and we hope that is reflected in their report cards. We expect nothing less from our legislators. These kids here today and across Maryland deserve that much.”

Highest Scores for 2010
(100%)

Senate
Pinsky

House

Ali, Anderson, Barnes, Bobo, Branch, Bromwell, Bronrott, Busch, Carr, Jr., Carter, G. Clagett, Conaway, Jr., Dang, Davis, DeBoy, Dumais, Gaines, Glenn, Griffith, Gutierrez, Guzzone, Haynes, Hecht, Hucker, Jones, Kramer, Lee, Levi, Levy, Manno, Mizeur, Proctor, Jr., Ramirez, Riley, Robinson, Rosenberg, Schuh, Schuler, Simmons, Sophocieus, Taylor, Jr., Valderama, Vallario, Jr., Waldstreicher
Lowest Scores for 2010

(30% or lower)

Senate

Brinkley, Colburn, Edwards, Glassman, Harris, Jacobs, Kittleman, Munson, Pipkin, Reilly, Stoltzfus

House

Boteler, Elliott, Jenkins, Shank

Here are your region’s scores:

Senate

District	Region	First	Last	2010 Score
34	Eastern Shore & Central MD	Nancy	Jacobs	17%
36	Eastern Shore	E.J.	Pipkin	0%
37	Eastern Shore	Richard	Colburn	0%
38	Southern MD & Eastern Shore	J. Lowell	Stoltzfus	20%

E. Shore Senate Average
9%

House of Delegates

District	Region	First	Last	2010 Score
34A	Eastern Shore & Central MD	Mary-Dulany	James	60%
34A	Eastern Shore & Central MD	B. Daniel	Riley	100%
34B	Eastern Shore	David	Rudolph	75%
36	Eastern Shore	Michael	Smigiel	40%
36	Eastern Shore	Richard	Sossi	38%
36	Eastern Shore	Mary Roe	Walkup	57%
37A	Eastern Shore	Rudolph	Cane	75%
37B	Eastern Shore	Adelaide	Eckardt	83%
37B	Eastern Shore	Jeannie	Haddaway-Riccio	63%
38A	Southern MD & Eastern Shore	Page	Elmore	43%
38B	Eastern Shore	Norman	Conway	100%
38B	Eastern Shore	Jim	Mathias	88%

E. Shore House Average
78%

2010 Regional Statistics		
Region	Senate Score	House of Delegates Score
Baltimore City	66%	90%
Central Maryland	42%	70%
Eastern Shore	9%	78%
Metropolitan Area	74%	91%
Southern Maryland	42%	78%
Western Maryland	23%	57%

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