



Maryland League of Conservation Voters

“We keep score for the environment”

Press Release

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Primary Elections and the Environment

*93% of Candidates Endorsed by Maryland LCV have won
Environmental Message Resonates with Voters*

(Annapolis, MD) Executive Director Cindy Schwartz said, “Marylanders made it clear on Primary Day – electing candidates who care about the environment is a priority. In primaries all over the state candidates were talking about a clean energy economy, restoring the Bay, and protecting our quality of life. Voters were responding to this—they sent a clear message that when it comes to the environment, a strong conservation candidate is a winner in Maryland.” This was demonstrated in three important Senate races across the state. In Montgomery County’s 14th District, Prince Georges County’s 24th District, and in the 46th District of Baltimore City, entrenched incumbents whose votes on environmental legislation did not reflect the values of their constituents appear to have lost.

The Maryland League of Conservation Voters reported an 93% win ratio of the organization’s endorsed candidates in the state’s Primary Elections.

In District 24, Maryland LCV and SEIU contacted voters with a message of healthy communities, clean air, and clean energy jobs and voters responded by electing Delegate Joanne Benson, who sponsored key environmental legislation in the House, over incumbent Senator Nathaniel Exum, who led the Senate’s weakening of the Global Warming Solutions Act among other bills. Similarly, in District 46, Baltimore City voters rejected incumbent Senator George Della’s career of voting against funding to clean up the Chesapeake Bay and invest in a clean energy economy in favor of Bill Ferguson’s clear plan to recruit clean, renewable energy companies to Maryland that will create green jobs.

Maryland LCV’s top priority legislative race was the Senate Primary in District 14. Ms. Schwartz continued, “We are thrilled that our Montgomery County champion, Delegate Karen Montgomery of District 14, triumphed at the end of the day. Delegate Montgomery has a 96% lifetime rating on the environment, ran on a strong environmental platform, and we know that she will fight for our air, land, and water if she is elected to the Senate in November.” Working with a progressive coalition of groups: SEIU, Sierra Club and Progressive Maryland, we reached out to 8,300 Democrats and environmental voters with a strong pro-working families and healthy communities message; through door-to-door canvassing, phone calls, direct mail, email, and social media.

Maryland LCV also had a first-ever victory at the County level: the newly formed Anne Arundel County Chapter of the Maryland LCV appears to have scored a big victory with the election of Chris Trumbauer (the West Rhode Riverkeeper) to the Anne Arundel County Council.

“At Maryland LCV we know that who we elect matters. That’s why we chose to invest resources in these important races, in addition to making over 125 environmental endorsements in primary races across the state. Electing environmental champions to the State House means Marylanders will have a stronger voice in Annapolis when it comes to protecting our lands and cleaning up our air and water -- including the Chesapeake Bay -- not just now but for future generations, continued Ms Schwartz.”

For more than 25 years, the non-partisan Maryland League of Conservation Voters has served as the political voice of the environment. We advocate for sound conservation policies, promote environmentally responsible candidates, and hold individual elected officials accountable through our scorecards and reports.