



MARYLAND LEAGUE  
OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

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## Press Release

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Contact: Jen Brock Cancellieri [jbrock@mdlcv.org](mailto:jbrock@mdlcv.org), 410.280.9855 x202 or Pete Johnson, [pjohnson@mdlcv.org](mailto:pjohnson@mdlcv.org), 410.280.9855 x204 or 240.654.7084 (cell)

To View the Scorecard: [www.mdlcv.org](http://www.mdlcv.org)

# *MDLCV Disappointed in Legislators, Look to Special Session and 2012*

*Maryland League of Conservation Voters releases its 2011 Environmental Scorecard*

ANNAPOLIS, MD (June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011) –The Maryland League of Conservation Voters (LCV) 2011 Environmental Scorecard tells the story of a legislative session where progress was lacking in protecting our air, land, water and people. The League, however, is hopeful about the future and has high expectations for legislators in the fall's special General Assembly Session as well as 2012's Session.

Two legislators who scored 100% on this year's scorecard: long-time champion for the environment, Senator Brian Frosh (District 16), a Democrat from Montgomery County, and Delegate Mary Washington (District 43), a freshmen Democrat from Baltimore City, were on hand to talk about the need to prioritize legislation that is good for our environment and our economy. Both were endorsed by the League in the 2010 election cycle.

“Even in tough times we need to protect Maryland's precious natural resources and our quality of life,” said State Senator Brian Frosh. “The Maryland League of Conservation Voters (LCV) helps keep us on the right path and makes us better stewards of the treasures of Maryland, like the Chesapeake Bay,” said Senator Frosh.

Delegate Washington, who serves on the critical Transportation and Environment subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee, spoke of the need to protect the health of her constituents along with creating jobs. “We still have work to do to educate our colleagues and constituents about the long-term benefits of the proposed Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Act,” said Delegate Washington. “This bill promises to bring jobs to Marylanders and price stability to the state's energy supply and to fight climate change.”

The people of Maryland elected legislators whom they believed would be forward thinking and provide leadership, leaders like Senator Frosh and Delegate Washington who know that fighting for the environment goes hand in hand with promoting a strong economy.

With the elections of five new “conservation-minded” senators, the League hoped to pass strong environmental policies during the 2011 Maryland General Assembly session. Additional encouragement came when bills that promoted clean energy jobs, addressed pollution poisoning the bay, and protected our drinking water were either introduced or contemplated.

Roadblocks soon appeared and, unlike in past years, the resistance came from the House of Delegates and not just the Senate. The environmental community also found it necessary to defend against the slashing of environmental programs like Program Open Space in the budget. When faced with this threat to environmental policies, programs and agencies, Marylanders responded with a barrage of letters, phone calls, and visits to legislators. The message that, in good times and in bad, sound environmental policy is sound fiscal policy was delivered loud and clear.

In the final assessment, the General Assembly was strong on the budget, including \$24.4 million for the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund and preserving most of the funding for Program Open Space. But, disappointingly as the scorecard’s Bill Dead Zone describes, many bills never even get a vote. The League was pleased however, that the five newly elected “conservation-minded” Senators averaged 28% higher than the legislators they replaced.

“The defeat of our priority bills was disappointing coming on the heels of an election cycle that saw many of our legislators promising to ‘clean up the bay’ and ‘create green jobs,’ said Jen Brock Cancellieri, Deputy Director of the League. “Given voters’ interest in the economy and the environment, we prioritized legislation that would protect our air, land, water and people and drive our economy. This scorecard tells the story of which legislators were able to make that connection and which ones did not.”

“We missed opportunities this year to put Marylanders to work building offshore wind and to protect our waters,” said Fred Hoover, Chair of the Maryland LCV Board of Directors. “We are working hard to ensure legislators pass bills, such as investing in stormwater infrastructure, in the fall special session.”

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. 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 colleagues at Environment Maryland.

“Short-sightedness prevailed,” said Environment Maryland Policy Advocate Tommy Landers. “In a year when we should be accelerating our bay cleanup efforts and shifting to clean, reliably priced energy, Maryland lawmakers mostly took baby steps or did nothing at all.”

Brock-Cancellieri continued, “We look forward to helping our legislators – beginning as early as the upcoming special session—be the innovators of new ideas that will restore the bay, enable our existing communities to thrive, and move our state and our nation to a cleaner, greener economy.”

**Highest Scores for 2011**

**(100%)**

**Senate**

Frosh, Jones-Rodwell, Manno, Pinsky, Ramirez, Raskin

**House**

Alston, Anderson, Arora, Clagett, Clippinger, Costa, Cullison, Gutierrez, Guzzone, Hammen, Hubbard, Hucker, A. Kelly, Lee, Mitchell, Mizeur, Morhaim, Murphy, Nathan-Pulliam, Pena-Melnyk, Pendergrass, Reznick, Simmons, Sophocleus, Valentino-Smith, Waldsteicher, Washington, Zucker

**Lowest Scores for 2011**

**(20% or lower)**

**Senate**

Getty, Jacobs, Shank

**House**

Miller, Hershey, Impallaria, Boteler, Fisher, Glass, Serafini

<b>2011 Regional Statistics</b>		
<b>Region</b>	<b>Senate Score</b>	<b>House of Delegates Score</b>
Baltimore City	70%	76%
Central Maryland	50%	61%
Eastern Shore	33%	48%
Metropolitan Area	78%	83%
Southern Maryland	59%	61%
Western Maryland	43%	45%

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