

New Jersey Legislative Roundup



***NEW JERSEY LEAGUE OF
CONSERVATION VOTERS***

ANJEC

Environmental Congress

OCTOBER 15, 2010

NJLCV Mission Statement



The New Jersey League of Conservation Voters (NJLCV) is a non-partisan, non-profit, public education, policy making and political action organization that works to make environmental protection a top priority with elected officials, decision-makers and the voters. All New Jerseyans have a right to clean water, clean air and abundant open spaces that provide our food, outdoor recreation, connection to the natural world, economic prosperity and health. NJLCV will evaluate the environmental performance of elected officials; seek adoption and implementation of key policies, regulations and legislation; and endorse and elect environmental leaders to office in the Garden State.

NJLCV Board



- **Sandy Batty, Treasurer**
- **Michele Byers, Vice-President**
- **Valorie Caffee**
- **Tim Dillingham**
- **Tom Gilbert**
- **Debbie Mans, Chair**
- **Carleton Montgomery**
- **Bill Sheehan**
- **Julia Somers**
- **Eric Stiles, Secretary**
- **Jim Waltman**

NJ LCV Environmental Scorecard



Scorecard will provide

- Objective rating of the performance of state-level elected officials on environmental votes,
- Clear information to citizens on how their representatives are protecting the environment,
- Transparent guidance to legislators, telling them *before* a bill is up for a vote, why it is important to the environment, and how we expect them to vote.

A2486/S1986 Federal Standards Bill



- The bill would prohibit NJ state government from proposing or adopting “...any new rule that would exceed standards or requirements set forth by the federal government unless specifically authorized by State law.”
- New Jersey has some of the toughest environmental laws and regulations anywhere.
- It is the most densely populated state, and has also a damaging legacy of air, water and soil contamination.
- The New Jersey League of Conservation Voters opposes this legislation, and any vote on this bill will be included on the Legislative Scorecard.

Legislative Activity



- **A437/S82: Modifies Time of Decision Rule**
- **Unfunded Mandates Committee (Asm McKeon):**
 - S2208: Allows complaints against local mandates
 - A3270: Requires OPRA deposits
 - A3271: Exempts certain government units from State permitting and allows for reimbursement of violation fines
 - A3272: Allows Master Plan update every ten years
- **S483: Expands GDP in “smart growth areas”**
- **S1337: Delays WQMP adoption date**
- **S134: Provides variances and exceptions to Highlands**
- **S338: Reduces municipal incentives for Highlands**

Legislative Activity (cont.)



- **Barneгат Bay Bill Package (“Four for the Shore”)**
 - S1410/A2501: Promotes soil restoration measures
 - S1411/A2290: Establishes standards for fertilizer statewide
 - S1815/A2577: Creates Ocean County Stormwater Management System pilot
 - S1856/A2606: Authorizes measures by Ocean County Planning Board to control stormwater runoff and nonpoint source pollution

Legislative Activity



- **S 457: Creates H2O fee for open space/farmland preservation**
- **A2641: Bans offshore drilling in State waters**
- **A2823: Requires that Site Improvement Advisory Board offer recommendations to encourage sustainable development**
- **ACR 32: Proposes Constitutional amendment to allow Council on Local Mandates to review law and regulations for unfunded mandates**

Administration



- **“Transformation Agenda”**
 - Office of Dispute Resolution
 - Privatizing permit reviews
 - Science Review Board
 - Customer Friendly
 - Economic Development Staff within DEP
- **Reexamining Rules**
 - Water Quality Management Plans
 - Endangered Species Protection
 - Public Access to the Shore
 - Highlands

NJLCV Priorities: What are we missing?



- **Prioritize the environment for public officials and voters**
- **Transparency in legislative and rule-making process**
- **Equal Protection for all communities**
- **Clean Water**
- **Clean Air**
- **Land Use (ex: Landscape Project)**
- **Open Space (ex: Bond Issue)**
- **Sustainable agriculture**
- **Energy, including renewables**
- **Role of science**
- **Appointments (ex: Highlands Council and Pinelands Commission)**

Contact Information



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