



VIRGINIA LEAGUE OF
CONSERVATION VOTERS

2019

Virginia General Assembly
Conservation
Scorecard

valcv.org

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2019 Scorecard acknowledgments

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Chaotic 2019 session yields conservation wins

The 2019 General Assembly began on a pretty normal note. By the midpoint of session, we had made steady progress on a host of important environmental issues with only a few legislative hurdles to leap over before the conclusion of session.

Then came Friday, Feb. 1, 2019, one of the most difficult and pivotal days in Virginia politics in recent memory. That was the day the news broke that a racist and offensive photograph was printed on Governor Ralph Northam's personal page in the 1984 Eastern Virginia Medical School yearbook.

Rather than deny he was in the photograph as he would do the following day in an awkward news conference, the Governor admitted he was in the picture. Along with almost every elected official and many public interest groups in Virginia, Virginia LCV joined the call for Northam's immediate resignation. Within the week, our call extended to Lieutenant Governor Justin Fairfax regarding multiple sexual assault allegations. While these scandals were unfolding Attorney General Mark Herring admitted he had worn blackface in college while impersonating a popular rapper.

All this occurred just after crossover at the General Assembly during a short, 30-day session, which are chaotic even in the best of years. No one ever hit the pause button. Capitol Square in Richmond was engulfed with TV cameras and reporters from around the country and world. Legislators kept legislating and lobbyists kept lobbying even as Richmond devolved deeper and deeper into chaos.

This year marked the 400th anniversary of Virginia's legislature, and the 400th anniversary of the first African slaves arriving in the colo-

nies. The coincidence of these two anniversaries should not be lost on any Virginian. Virginia can and should not escape its painful history with racism and our continuing struggle with racial equality. If Charlottesville exposed the fact that racism is alive today in Virginia, these political scandals were salt in the wounds. But it wasn't only our racist past (and present) that was exposed. Fairfax's sexual assault allegations were the talk of 24-hour news cycles while advocates were fighting in the halls of the Capitol, unsuccessfully, for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. Race and gender politics are alive and well, and not for the better. We can forget our past and our sins; we cannot escape them. But we can atone for them.

We can't really talk about what happened during this year's legislative session without mentioning this controversy and the fallout that followed, which is why I address it here (we explore this scandal and its larger implications on our work in more detail on page 26).

What's important to note is that even with Virginia in complete political turmoil, we were still able to secure important bipartisan conservation victories in 2019; from ensuring long-term, safe cleanup solutions for coal ash to the most funding ever to prevent pollution runoff from farms, we have a lot to be proud of from our work at this year's session.

There are also a number of issues where we ran into roadblocks, most notably funding for land conservation and addressing the most important environmental crisis of our, or any time - climate change. I can comfortably say this Scorecard has the most recorded votes on climate change that we have ever published, including a pledge to support 100 percent clean

energy by mid-century.

We need climate action now, and a few at the General Assembly continue to successfully stand in the way, time after time.

Nov. 5, 2019, we have the opportunity to finally break this logjam, and ensure long-term success for conservation and climate action. I can't overstate just how important Election Day is this year: If we are going to make progress over the next two years keeping pollution out of our rivers and drinking water, conserving our vulnerable and special places, growing our communities in responsible ways, building an equitable clean energy economy for all, and leaning-in on climate action, we have to do it through the General Assembly. All 140 seats of the legislature will be on the ballot this year. We must elect new conservation champions to office and defend our current allies at the General Assembly to ensure success over the coming years.

We can't do this without you, our members and Conservation Voters. I hope you will digest this Scorecard, see it as a call to action, and use it as a tool when you head to the ballot box this year.

We have a lot of work ahead of us between now and Election Day, but we are closer than ever to securing the Conservation Majority we've been working toward in Virginia.

Sincerely,



Michael Town,
Executive Director

Big win on coal ash, setback on climate action during 2019 GA

When it came to our two top conservation priorities heading into this legislative session - cleaning up Dominion Energy's toxic coal ash and taking serious climate action - the legislature demonstrated both its ability to work together to protect our environment and to retreat to partisan corners.

Climate Obstruction on Full Display at General Assembly

Despite the overwhelming evidence that our climate is changing because of human activity - and the growing public sentiment that our elected leaders need to do something about it - the Virginia General Assembly continues to block efforts to address this environmental and public health crisis.

This level of partisan obstruction was even more evident in 2019, an important election year where combating climate change and expanding clean energy will be focal points in many battleground districts.

By far the most high-profile of these fights was over ongoing efforts for Virginia to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a multi-state cap and trade program that has been successfully cutting car-

bon emissions from power plants in the mid-Atlantic and northeast since 2008.

Legislation (SB 1666 and HB 2735), which died in a Senate committee and House Subcommittee along partisan lines, would have had Virginia join RGGI and direct proceeds from a larger carbon marketplace back to our state to help fund coastal resiliency efforts, energy efficiency, and economic development in the coalfields.

Similar legislation has met the same fate in the past several years.

2019 also saw us again having to battle back direct attacks on climate action through legislation and bad language inserted in the state budget.

Legislation (HB 2611) from Del. Charles Poindexter would have prevented Virginia from joining RGGI without a two-thirds vote of the legislature. This bill passed mostly along party lines in both chambers (Republican Jill Vogel voted against it in the Senate) and was successfully vetoed by Governor Northam.

Northam failed to veto a similar prohibition inserted into the state budget, however. His failure to act came just on the heels of the State

Air Pollution Control Board's vote in April to approve a rule at the administrative level linking Virginia to RGGI and cutting carbon pollution from power plants by 30 percent over the coming decade. The state budget now bars use of any funds to join RGGI, casting doubt on where exactly this rule stands. Without funding, it would obviously be difficult - if not impossible - for the Department of Environmental Quality to administer the permitting and compliance side of this program.

While we were disappointed Northam did not veto this harmful provision, blame for the stall on climate action rests squarely with the legislature.

Had lawmakers seen reason when joining RGGI was first proposed, these important programs would already be in effect and we'd be seeing cleaner air and millions of dollars of new revenue directed into the state budget for environmental protections and workforce development. By getting in the way of these efforts, Virginia's legislature has left this money on the table and made it much harder for us to ratchet down our share of carbon emissions at a time when we need

to be taking drastic steps to cut air pollution in order to ward off the worst climate impacts and to protect public health and our economy.

Virginia LCV is committed to pushing our commonwealth toward 100 percent clean energy by mid-century and we see RGGI as a vital and necessary first step toward that goal. Electing a pro-climate action majority in 2019 is integral to ensuring we put climate obstruction in the past.

2019 ushers in huge win on coal ash cleanup

This year, lawmakers from both parties did come together to address one of Virginia's largest environmental threats with comprehensive legislation requiring the safe cleanup of all 28 million tons of toxic coal ash stored in the Chesapeake Bay watershed at Dominion Energy power plants.

The bipartisan passage of Senate Bill 1355 marked the biggest environmental victory we've seen at the General Assembly in a number of years and ensures that coal ash will be dealt with responsibly, either through disposal in a safe, modern landfill or recycled into usable goods.

The byproduct of burning coal to generate electricity, coal ash contains harmful heavy metals and carcinogens, which if handled poorly, can make their way into our surface and ground waters. Unfortunately, we've seen what happens with poor coal ash management in other states. SB 1355 helps ensure that doesn't happen here in Virginia.

Had lawmakers failed to act, Dominion would have been allowed to move forward with flawed plans to do the bare minimum at these four sites: Chesterfield Power Station, Chesapeake Energy Center, Possum Point Power Station in Prince William County and Bremo Power Station in Fluvanna County.

Some of these power plants have been amassing coal ash since the 1930s and 1950s, well before

modern environmental regulations were in place. Testing at these sites routinely revealed high levels of harmful heavy metals like arsenic, beryllium and lead – all known to be harmful to human health and our environment.

In earlier plans floated by the utility to use a cleanup approach called “cap-in-place,” they would have covered their millions of tons of coal ash with a thin, synthetic liner and buried it in place, where it would have become a perennial source of pollution and an ongoing public health hazard.

What began four years ago as a non-starter with our behemoth electric utility, ended with a bipartisan victory for our environment.

We are grateful to the bill patrons of SB 1355, especially Senator Scott Surovell (D-Mount Vernon) who has carried legislation to address this issue every year dating back to 2016. Without his dogged efforts at the legislature each year, we could not have built the political momentum and strong coalition that helped cement our success in 2019.

We are also grateful to Secretary of Natural Resources Matt Strickler for making responsible coal ash cleanup a priority in 2019, engaging stakeholders early and often to ensure the job was done right, and for his determination to finish the job this year.

Once this law takes effect in July, the process of permanently closing these sites will begin, putting us that much closer to putting this toxic legacy behind us.

• • •

Virginians shouldn't have to choose between clean water or clean air – we deserve both. We also deserve a legislature that won't pick and choose between environmental priorities or play politics with our public health and the safety of communities across Virginia.

In 2020, we intend to pursue a bold conservation agenda. While we had some major victories in 2019, it's clear we have more work ahead of us.

Photo Credit: **Big Meadows** by Paul Laurenza of Vienna | Courtesy of Scenic Virginia



100 % 2019 Legislative Heroes

Virginia LCV Legislative Heroes demonstrate a strong dedication and prioritization of our conservation values. This year we recognize 11 Senators and 38 Delegates for voting with Virginia LCV 100 percent of the time.

Of the hundreds of bills these legislators vote on every session, they deserve a special acknowledgment for getting the conservation vote right every time.

On behalf of Conservation Voters in Virginia, we thank the Legislative Heroes pictured here and look forward to their continued commitment to protecting the Commonwealth's precious natural resources.

* Delegate Ibraheem Samirah also earned a 100 percent score in 2019. Because he was sworn in during the last week of the General Assembly, this score only reflects two recorded votes from the reconvened, April session. He is therefore not listed as a Legislative Hero for 2019.



Sen. George Barker



Sen. Jennifer Boysko



Sen. Creigh Deeds



Sen. Barbara Favola



Sen. Janet Howell



Sen. Mamie Locke



Sen. Dave Marsden



Sen. Monty Mason



Sen. Jennifer McClellan



Sen. Jeremy McPike



Sen. Dick Saslaw



Del. Dawn Adams



Del. Lashrecse Aird



Del. Hala Ayala



Del. Lamont Bagby



Del. John Bell



Del. Jeffrey Bourne



Del. David Bulova



Del. Betsy Carr



Del. Jennifer Carroll Foy



Del. Lee Carter



Del. K. Convirs-Fowler



Del. Karrie Delaney



Del. Eileen Filler-Corn

2019 Legislative Leaders

Virginia LCV Legislative Leaders scored between 75 and 99 percent on this year's Scorecard. Ten Delegates and eight Senators earned this recognition for making conservation a priority.

Virginia Senate

- Senator Rosalyn Dance – 93%
- Senator Adam Ebbin – 92%
- Senator Lynwood Lewis – 92%
- Senator Louise Lucas – 92%
- Senator Lionell Spruill – 92%
- Senator Scott Surovell – 89%
- Senator Chap Petersen – 83%
- Senator John Edwards – 82%

House of Delegates

- Delegate Mark Keam – 94%
- Delegate Steve Heretick – 93%
- Delegate Luke Torian – 93%
- Delegate Ken Plum – 93%
- Delegate Sam Rasoul – 93%
- Delegate Cheryl Turpin – 92%
- Delegate Delores McQuinn – 92%
- Delegate Matthew James – 87%
- Delegate Joseph Lindsey – 86%
- Delegate Roslyn Tyler – 85%



Del. Wendy Gooditis



Del. Elizabeth Guzman



Del. Cliff Hayes



Del. Charniele Herring



Del. Patrick Hope



Del. Chris Hurst



Del. Jay Jones



Del. Kaye Kory



Del. Paul Krizek



Del. Mark Levine



Del. Alfonso Lopez



Del. Michael Mullin



Del. Kathleen Murphy



Del. Gia Price



Del. David Reid



Del. Debra Rodman



Del. Danica Roem



Del. Mark Sickles



Del. Marcus Simon



Del. Rip Sullivan



Del. David Toscano



Del. Kathy Tran



Del. S. VanValkenburg



Del. Jeion Ward



Del. Vivian Watts

Photo Credit: Chincoteague Sunset at Low Tide by Edward Eisele of Fredericksburg | Courtesy of Scenic Virginia

Four lawmakers honored with special awards

Every year, Virginia LCV recognizes individual lawmakers who have demonstrated a deep commitment to conservation issues above merely voting alongside our legislative positions. This year, we honor four such legislators.

Delegate Lee Ware (R-Powhatan)

The \$7.5 billion Atlantic Coast Pipeline is not only a threat to our environment; if built, every single ratepayer in electricity monopoly Dominion Energy's territory will be on the hook to fund a significant portion of the project regardless of whether it's needed.



The only thing that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission requires for projects like the ACP to move forward is a contract showing that there is a customer for the gas. In this case, Dominion is both the customer and the supplier.

Legislation (HB 1718) carried by Delegate Ware this session would have given the State Corporation Commission more power to review pipeline contracts on the front end to determine whether the projects are in the public interest, an important regulatory reform that protects ratepayers and shifts the financial risk of large gas pipelines to a utility's shareholders.

We thank Delegate Ware for his leadership and urge him to continue fighting for these needed reforms.

Delegate Charniele Herring (D-Alexandria)

No one should bear disproportionate impacts from pollution. But, sadly, communities of color and low-income residents often face the direct impacts of environmental degradation more frequently than the rest of the population.



This is why Governor Terry McAuliffe established by executive order the state's first advisory council on environmental justice in 2017; however, the authority of this McAuliffe-appointed body came into question in 2018 under the current administration.

Legislation (HB 2696) carried by Delegate Herring would have established by statute the Environmental Justice Advisory Council to help ensure environmental justice considerations are integrated across state government and to protect the commonwealth's most vulnerable residents.

While the Northam Administration reestablished an environmental justice advisory council as lawmakers were weighing HB 2696, we still believe this body should exist under statute, to protect it from the whims of future administrations.

We thank Delegate Herring for standing up for our environment and Virginia's most vulnerable citizens.

Delegate Karrie Delaney (D-Centreville)

A legacy fossil fuel state where coal long was king, Virginia now has more jobs in clean energy than in coal, a trend that will only continue as we move away from fossil fuels and toward a cleaner energy mix. As we transition to a clean energy economy, it's important that no one gets left behind, including workers who have traditionally worked in fossil fuel fields.



House Bill 2241 from Delegate Delaney would have created a special, \$1,000 tax credit for the purpose of retraining this workforce to work in the clean energy sector.

As we continue cutting carbon pollution and as renewable energy becomes more and more cost-competitive, the economic transition away from fossil fuels and toward clean energy will continue to grow. To ensure that the fossil fuel workforce and the communities they call home are not left behind, we must provide more in the way of resources and workforce training.

We thank Delegate Delaney for recognizing this need and for doing her part to promote a clean energy economy in Virginia.

Senator Jennifer McClellan (D-Richmond)

While renewable energy is on the rise in Virginia, there remain many hurdles to its widespread deployment in the commonwealth.

Legislation introduced by Senator McClellan (SB 1456), and supported by a broad coalition of local governments, the clean energy sector and environmental groups, would have helped cut the red tape surrounding solar installations.



Among this bill's multiple provisions were efforts to lift a burdensome cap on net-metered energy and allow municipalities more freedom to deploy cost-saving solar energy.

Electric utilities should not maintain monopolies on clean energy. In order to maximize renewable energy deployment in the Commonwealth, we need a decentralized approach that includes incentives for homeowners, business and the public sector to install their own solar arrays. In this way, we can create new, clean energy jobs while putting more green power on our grid and empowering citizens to be partners in building a clean energy economy.

We thank Senator McClellan for recognizing the need to eliminate the many roadblocks that stand in the way of our clean energy future.

Scored Legislation:

Climate Change and Clean Energy

Moving Virginia to 100 percent clean energy by 2050

House Bill 1635 (Floor Amendment #3) – Del. Sam Rasoul (D-Roanoke)

Virginia LCV Position: ✓

Originally an incredibly ambitious bill requiring the drawdown for fossil fuel power plants and infrastructure to begin as soon as 2020 and for

Virginia to run on 100 percent clean energy by 2036, House Bill 1635, also called the Virginia OFF Act, made it out of the House Commerce and Labor Committee mainly so that climate deniers in the House could spur partisan debate on the floor over the “Green New Deal.”

Virginia LCV worked with the bill patron on a floor substitute that extended to 2050 the deadline to reach 100 percent clean energy, while also calling for a climate action plan that steers funding to low-income communities and communi-

ties of color and to mitigate sea level rise and recurrent flooding.

During a heated floor debate, the House of Delegates rejected the full floor substitute, a move that then kicked off a floor amendment strategy that broke several policy aims into three separate amendments. Amendment #3 deals specifically with the 100 percent clean energy mandate by 2050, a goal Virginia LCV believes is not only achievable, but necessary. Unfortunately, all three floor amendments failed on party line votes in the House and the

full bill failed to advance.

Removing anti-climate action language from the budget

House Bill 1700 (the Budget Bill) (Recommendations #34 and #38)

Virginia LCV Position: ✓

During this year’s chaotic General Assembly, language was inserted into the state budget blocking Virginia from moving forward with a plan to cut carbon pollution from our state’s biggest and dirtiest power

Know the Score:

As an exclusive accountability tool for Conservation Voters, it is important to know how we arrive at the final scores for each General Assembly session. The Conservation Scorecard gives you a comprehensive understanding of how your elected leaders represented your conservation values in Richmond.

While some sessions carry more contentious, high-stakes debates than others, our scorecard allows you to distinguish between the rhetoric and the reality of a legislator’s record by providing you detailed summaries of what happened inside the State Capitol each session.

How the Votes Were Chosen

With hundreds of bills introduced every session, Virginia LCV carefully tracks and takes

positions on all priority legislation that impacts conservation. As legislation evolves throughout the lawmaking process, we communicate our position at every step along the way – from subcommittee, to full committee, to the floor of each chamber.

After session’s end, we closely examine the votes and determine a selection of votes which best illustrates how legislators prioritized conservation issues. While some votes are easier than others, our look into what happened on the record and behind the scenes gives an encompassing representation of conservation performance.

How the Scores Were Calculated

For every vote recorded on the chosen legislation, legislators receive one “correct vote” for

voting the way of our communicated position. The number of “correct” votes is divided by the total number of possible votes for each legislator, which generates a lawmaker’s percentage score for the session. Legislators that sponsored bills supported by Virginia LCV receive a patron credit, which counts as one additional “possible vote” averaged into their final percentage.

Although some legislators perform more poorly than others from year to year, it is important that they hear from you your encouragement to do better. Conversely, we must not take our Legislative Heroes and Leaders for granted – let them know you appreciate their commitment to conservation and look forward to their continued support.

plants and trade with the multi-state carbon marketplace RGGI, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. Leading up to this year's reconvened session, Governor Northam amended the budget sent to him by striking this bad language, but not vetoing it outright. Recommendation #34 strikes language barring the appropriation of any funds through regional climate compacts like RGGI and the Transportation and Climate Initiative.

This measure was originally upheld in the House, with Hampton Roads' Del. Gordon Hesel crossing over to support it. After some of his colleagues swarmed him at his desk, his vote was reconsidered, and the governor's amendment failed on a second vote along party lines.

Recommendation #38, which eliminated the bad amendment prohibiting the use of any state funds to participate in RGGI, also failed on party lines. With the option before him to veto the language outright, Northam declined to act, instructing his agencies to look for ways around the obstructionist language and to allow the carbon rule passed in April to move forward on time. We have not yet seen full details of this workaround but are optimistic Virginia will move forward soon with its bold plan to cut carbon.

Protecting ratepayers from costly, risky gas pipelines

House Bill 1718 – Delegate Lee Ware (R-Powhatan)

Virginia LCV Position: ✓

Among the many problems presented by the Atlantic Coast Pipeline is the fact that regulators at the State Corporation Commission are not involved on the front-end to determine if the \$7.5 billion, ratepayer-funded project is even needed. All Dominion Energy needed to supply the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission with for the proj-

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Photo Credit: *Mountain Majesty* by Bradley Deal of Clintwood | Courtesy of Scenic Virginia

ect to move forward was a contract showing it had a buyer for the gas. In this case, Dominion, an electricity monopoly, is both the supplier and purchaser of the gas capacity, which raises big red flags over consumer fairness and the regulatory process for pipelines, in general. Under the status quo, ratepayers could be on the hook to pay for projects like the ACP even if the pipeline is never used or if a better, lower-cost option exists.

HB 1718 would have addressed this issue by strengthening the State Corporation Commis-

sion's authority to review pipeline contracts to ensure ratepayers are only charged for projects that are clearly in their best interest, shifting the financial burden where it belongs – to shareholders.

Even with vocal opposition by Dominion, this bill made it out of the tough House Committee on Commerce and Labor and the full House Floor with broad, bipartisan support. The bill died in the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor on a 10-3 vote.

Retooling workers for a green economy

House Bill 2241 – Delegate Karrie Delaney
(D-Centreville)

Virginia LCV Position: ✓

In an effort to promote a systematic transition to cleaner energy sectors, and to ensure that the fossil fuel workforce is not left behind as we move toward less carbon-intensive fuels, this bill would have eased the transition away from fossil fuel jobs by providing tax incentives for workforce training.

This legislation would have implemented a \$1,000 income tax credit per taxpayer for expenses incurred for green energy job training, with the goal of incentivizing the shift to a clean energy focused economy. Unfortunately, this bill was killed on a 5-3 vote in a House Finance subcommittee. We fully expect to revisit this issue in 2020, because as we transition into a greener economy, we must ensure current fossil fuel workers, their families, and regions can prosper in a new energy sector.

Attacking efforts to cut vehicle emissions

House Bill 2269 – Delegate Charles Poindexter
(R-Franklin)

Virginia LCV Position: ✗

Carbon emissions from the transportation sector account for nearly half of Virginia's total carbon footprint, making tailpipes by far the largest source of carbon pollution in the commonwealth.

In 2018, Virginia joined the multistate Transportation and Climate Initiative as a way to work toward solutions to drive down carbon pollution from vehicles.

HB 2269, however, works to preemptively impede Virginia's participation in any regional

emissions reduction program, including TCI or any other similar group, absent a two-thirds vote in both chambers of the General Assembly. The bill is a clear attack on efforts to improve our economy, our health, and our environment by reducing carbon pollution, as well as an attack on authority that has traditionally rested with the executive branch.

This legislation passed out of both the House and Senate on party-line votes but was successfully vetoed by Gov. Northam. Cutting transportation sector emissions is vital to overall efforts to reduce climate impacts in the Commonwealth and fortunately this important work will move forward.

Ensuring objectivity from the SCC on energy efficiency

House Bill 2292 – Delegate Rip Sullivan
(D-Arlington)

Virginia LCV Position: ✓

The electricity that we don't use in the first place is our cleanest form of energy. Energy efficiency is also the easiest way for a consumer to save money on their monthly electricity bill.

This bill makes it easier for important energy efficiency programs to move forward by requiring regulators at the State Corporation Commission to report their analysis and testing when determining that a program is not "in the public interest." Doing so ensures a degree of objectivity in the approval or denial of these important programs. The bill also sets forth that for a program to move forward the SCC has to find its budget to be reasonable and prudent and any rate adjustment clause would expire if the program is no longer cost-effective or if the utility exhausts its budget for the program.

This bill received broad consensus at the

General Assembly, passing out of both chambers without any signaled opposition, and is a good step forward for clean air.

Cutting red tape around solar projects

House Bill 2329 – Delegate Mark Keam
(D-Vienna)

Senate Bill 1456 – Senator Jennifer McClellan
(D-Richmond)

Virginia LCV Position: ✓

Currently, Virginia law applies a number of restrictions on the ability of local governments, residents, and businesses to install solar facilities for their own use. These restrictions limit third-party competition to large utilities, create disincentives for Virginians to put solar on their homes and farms, and impede the growth and expansion of solar power at a time when renewable energy installations are on the rise, nationally.

This legislation sought to remove a number of restrictive barriers to distributed solar and provide increased flexibility to municipalities and counties in terms of where they are able to deploy solar while also encouraging businesses and residents to invest in solar. The bill would have saved money for municipalities and counties, and therefore taxpayers, while creating clean energy jobs and cutting electricity demand and air pollution. Unfortunately, HB 2329 and SB 1456 both died in their respective Commerce and Labor committees.

Obstructing climate action in Virginia

House Bill 2611 – Delegate Charles Poindexter
(R-Franklin)

Virginia LCV Position: ✗

Virginia is in the midst of moving forward with the state's first regulation to cut carbon emissions from our state's largest and dirtiest power plants

Legislature rams through surprise SCC judge

The State Corporation Commission is a little known public entity that has more impact on our daily lives than we might think. This body, established in the early 1900s to mainly serve as a check on powerful railroad companies, is tasked with establishing and reviewing electricity rates as well as investments in energy infrastructure and important energy efficiency programs that save us money and help cut carbon pollution.

In 2018, longtime SCC Judge James Dimitri stepped down from his seat, two years before his term was up. When the General Assembly is in session, they alone have the power to appoint new judges to the SCC. While hearings were held to interview prospective nominees, they declined to move forward with a nomination for almost a year.

And when they finally did move forward, they did it in the least transparent, partisan, and politically calculated way possible.

On Jan. 16, the chairmen of Commerce and Labor committees in the House and Senate, Del. Terry Kilgore (R-Scott), and retiring Senator Frank Wagner (R-Virginia Beach), called a special, joint meeting of their committees and then brought the surprise nomination of Patricia West to the floor. Her nomination passed along party lines in both the House and Senate and she will now serve the remainder of Dimitri's unexpired term, with another vacancy

coming up in early 2020. The entire episode – from first hearing West's name to her being elected – lasted less than 8 hours.



West

West served as Deputy Attorney General under Ken Cuccinelli, a notable climate denier infamous for his office's persecution of University of Virginia climate scientist Michael Mann.

West spent 14 years as a circuit and juvenile and domestic relations judge in Virginia Beach. Most recently, she was a professor of law and government at Regent University.

West's surprise nomination moved so fast, Virginia LCV didn't even have time to send a legislative memo signaling our opposition to this flawed process. Because of this, we are unable to officially score West's nomination, meaning those votes are not included in this year's official legislator scores.

We list these votes here only to shed a spotlight on a process that came under the shroud of darkness.

Virginia LCV looks forward to electing a legislature for 2020 that will prioritize clean energy and climate action and elect SCC judges who have the knowledge and background to properly apply the law for those important priorities.

Roll Call for SCC Judge Patricia West

SR 97 State Corporation Commission; nomination for election of a member.

YEAS–Black, Carrico, Chafin, Chase, Cosgrove, DeSteph, Dunnavant, Hanger, McDougale, Newman, Norment, Obenshain, Peake, Reeves, Ruff, Stanley, Stuart, Sturtevant, Suetterlein, Vogel, Wagner–21.

NAYS–0.

RULE 36–0.

NOT VOTING–Barker, Boysko, Dance, Deeds, Ebbin, Edwards, Favola, Howell, Lewis, Locke, Lucas, Marsden, Mason, McClellan, McPike, Petersen, Saslaw, Spruill, Surovell–19.

HR 224 State Corporation Commission; nomination for election of a member.

YEAS–Adams, L.R., Austin, Bell, Richard P., Bell, Robert B., Bloxom, Brewer, Byron, Campbell, J.L., Campbell, R.R., Cole, Collins, Davis, Edmunds, Fariss, Fowler, Freitas, Garrett, Gilbert, Head, Helsel, Hodges, Hugo, Ingram, Jones, S.C., Kilgore, Knight, Landes, LaRock, Leftwich, Marshall, McGuire, McNamara, Miyares, Morefield, O'Quinn, Orrock, Peace, Pillion, Poindexter, Ransone, Robinson, Rush, Stolle, Thomas, Ware, Webert, Wilt, Wright, Yancey, Mr. Speaker–50.

NAYS–0.

ABSTENTIONS–0.

NOT VOTING–Adams, D.M., Aird, Ayala, Bagby, Bell, John J., Bourne, Bulova, Carr, Carroll Foy, Carter, Convirs-Fowler, Delaney, Filler-Corn, Gooditis, Guzman, Hayes, Heretick, Herring, Hope, Hurst, James, Jones, J.C., Keam, Kory, Krizek, Levine, Lindsey, Lopez, McQuinn, Mullin, Murphy, Plum, Pogge, Price, Rasoul, Reid, Rodman, Roem, Sickles, Simon, Sullivan, Torian, Toscano, Tran, Turpin, Tyler, VanValkenburg, Ward, Watts–49.

by 30 percent over the coming decade and making Virginia the first southern state to set a limit on carbon pollution.

HB 2611 was a cynical attempt to take us in the opposite direction by prohibiting the Governor or any of his state agencies from adopting any regulation to establish a carbon dioxide cap-and-trade program in the Commonwealth or facilitating participation in an established regional trading market, without a two-thirds vote by the legislature. Not only did the bill attempt to curtail meaningful efforts to cut carbon and address climate change, it also would have robbed Virginia of \$75 million in potential revenue from the sale of carbon allowances which could be utilized to fund coastal resiliency efforts, energy efficiency programs, and economic development. The bill also ignored the potential public health benefits associated with carbon emission drawn-down. This bill passed out of both chambers, mostly on a party-line vote (Senator Jill Vogel voted against it in the Senate), and was successfully vetoed by Gov. Northam.

Expanding clean energy access to low-income communities

House Bill 2741 – Delegate Lashrecse Aird (D-Petersburg)

Virginia LCV Position: ✓

As we work to expand clean energy in Virginia, it's critically important that no one is left behind in this transition, that everyone has access to and enjoys the benefits of renewable energy.

This bill addresses the specific barriers facing Low-to-Moderate-Income (LMI) households when it comes to investing in clean energy and energy efficiency by establishing a 15-person advisory

board tasked with developing and administering a LMI solar loan and rebate pilot program.

Under this pilot program, Virginia residents with household incomes at or below 80 percent of median income are able to apply for loans or rebates for projects that cut energy usage or add clean energy to their homes.

With many of the most vulnerable communities in Virginia are located in rural areas often served by electric utility cooperatives, HB 2741 aims to help all Virginians regardless of service territory.

This legislation passed out of both chambers with no signaled opposition and will become law July 1. Its successful passage makes Virginia a leader on LMI rooftop solar and helps provide a pathway to clean energy for our most vulnerable Virginians, while also reducing household electricity costs.

Ensuring stakeholder input for energy efficiency programs

Senate Bill 1605 – Adam Ebbin (D-Alexandria)

Virginia LCV Position: ✓

The sweeping Grid Transformation and Security Act passed in 2018 called for \$1 billion in energy efficiency programs that save customers money and reduce electricity demand, Virginia's largest investment in these programs to-date.

This bill will help deliver those programs by clarifying and codifying the stakeholder process required under the GTSA. Specifically, SB 1605 ensures that the group of stakeholders will meet consistently, every quarter, and deliver a useful and timely work product, namely, an annual report detailing progress toward energy efficiency goals.

With Dominion's energy efficiency performance

well behind other utilities across the nation, a transparent and thorough stakeholder process is integral to seeing through the goals of the GTSA and ensuring reductions in energy usage and customers' electricity bills.

This bill successfully passed out of both chambers unanimously and will take effect July 1.

Joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

Senate Bill 1666 – Senator Lynwood Lewis (D-Accomac)

Virginia LCV Position: ✓

Virginia is already moving forward with a rule at the administrative level to cut carbon emissions from power plants and trade inside of the multi-state Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative carbon marketplace. However, legislative approval is still required to put RGGI revenues to work in Virginia.

The Virginia Coastal Protection Act sought to provide that pathway by officially joining RGGI and steering dedicated funds back to Virginia to enhance and protect vulnerable communities within the Hampton Roads region and beyond from the impacts of climate change. Specifically, SB 1666 would have invested an estimated \$63 million of these funds in energy efficiency programs that save households money, coastal resiliency efforts to address the risk sea level rise poses to public safety and our economy, and workforce training in Virginia's coalfields.

Unfortunately, lawmakers left this funding on the table again in voting along party lines in the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources to kill the bill, a troubling partisan trend that emerges with issues dealing with climate change.

Water Quality

Protecting public health from pesticides

House Bill 1906 – Delegate Kaye Kory
(D-Falls Church)

Virginia LCV Position: ✓

Although the EPA regulates pesticides, the regulation of pesticide auto-misters is essentially left to states. Auto-misters are often created with synthetic pyrethroids, which have been linked to a number of human health effects such as early puberty and behavioral disorders.

As residential pesticide auto-misters are often installed around the perimeter of a yard, they can affect neighbors who have no means to protect their families or their pets.

This bill sought to minimize these health effects by prohibiting the installation and use of residential pesticide misting systems beginning in 2020. However, it was passed by indefinitely in a House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake, and Natural Resources subcommittee.

Expanding grant funding for water quality projects

House Bill 2637 – Delegate Michael Webert
(R-Fauquier)

Virginia LCV Position: ✓

Virginia's highly successful cost-share program to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) on farms, is helping keep farm runoff from entering local streams and the Chesapeake Bay.

Current law allows funds from the Virginia Water Facilities Revolving Fund to construct facilities or structures to help implement BMPs on farms. This bill expands that authority by allowing these funds to also go toward improving, renovating or

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Photo Credit: *Seeking Shad* by Fritz Newton of Fredericksburg | Courtesy of Scenic Virginia

better equipping this infrastructure. The bill also adds riparian buffers expressly to the list of BMPs eligible for funding.

HB 2637 passed unanimously out of both the House and Senate and will become law July 1.

Curbing plastic bags in the Bay watershed

Senate Bill 1116 – Senator Chap Petersen
(D-Fairfax)

Virginia LCV Position: ✓

Plastic waste is a huge environmental problem and a significant threat to our waterways and the

Chesapeake Bay.

SB 1116 was one of a number of bills related to plastic waste introduced during this legislative session. The bill would have reduced the use of disposable plastic bags by imposing a 5-cent per bag tax on plastic bags provided to consumers, allowing retailers to retain 20 percent of the tax proceeds.

This bill focused specifically on localities within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and would have directed revenue from the tax to support the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan.

Despite the clear benefits to water quality in this legislation, it failed to reach the Senate floor

and was voted down in the Finance Committee.

Expanding Stormwater cleanup funding

*Senate Bill 1328 – Senator Emmett Hanger
(R-Mount Solon)*

Virginia LCV Position: ✓

Virginia continues to make gains in the ongoing Chesapeake Bay cleanup, but still faces headwinds when it comes to reducing pollution from two sources: stormwater and agricultural runoff.

SB 1328 was an attempt to address one of these problem areas by expanding state funding to help localities reduce stormwater pollution.

More than half of the stormwater pollution loads that enter the Bay come from non-urban and unregulated lands. In order to facilitate pollution reduction in these unregulated areas, this bill would have allowed DEQ to designate monies appropriated to the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund to provide grants to local governments for the planning and implementation of stormwater BMPs. Although many localities have worked to address stormwater pollution, smaller localities often face obstacles in funding or struggle to achieve the minimum project sizes set forth by the current SLAF guidelines. This bill would have addressed these challenges by providing further funding through the state. The bill passed unanimously out of the Senate, and the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources, but was re-referred to an Appropriations subcommittee where it died on a 5-3 vote.

Cleaning up Dominion's toxic coal ash

*Senate Bill 1355 – Senator Frank Wagner
(R-Virginia Beach)*

Virginia LCV Position: ✓

For the past three years, Virginia LCV has been

working to ensure that Dominion Energy cleans its coal ash up in the most responsible way possible. SB 1355 is the culmination of that fight and a huge victory for clean water. Under SB 1355, Dominion is prohibited from leaving any of its toxic coal ash in place at its four power plant sites in the Chesapeake Bay watershed: Bremo Power Station in Fluvanna County, Possum Point Power Station in Prince William County, Chesterfield Power Station and Chesapeake Energy Center. All told, Dominion will have to recycle or dispose into a modern, lined landfill the nearly 30 million tons of coal ash currently onsite at these facilities. Had the legislature not acted, Dominion could have moved forward with their initial plans to bury in place all of this waste, where it would remain an ongoing source of toxic pollution and a threat to clean water.

SB 1355 was a true bipartisan effort, and it passed out of both chambers with limited opposition. The bill will go into effect July 1.

Protecting our coast from offshore drilling

*Senate Bill 1573 – Senator Bill DeSteph
(R-Virginia Beach)*

Virginia LCV Position: ✓

Coastal Virginians have been living with the ongoing threat that the Trump Administration will put into play waters off our coast for offshore drilling, a move that would endanger our economy and environment and ignore the widespread opposition to offshore drilling in Virginia and up and down the Atlantic seaboard.

SB 1573 was introduced as a means to protect Virginia's coastal waters and communities against this threat and to clarify Virginia's evolving stance against offshore drilling.

Virginia's coastal communities and their asso-

ciated industries are vital to the strength and success of Virginia's economy. Virginia's open waters are pivotal to the defense, tourism, and seafood industries and the citizens they employ.

This bill would have prohibited the Virginia Marine Resources Commission or the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy from granting leases or permits for oil or gas exploration or drilling in any waters of the Commonwealth, and would have also banned infrastructure from rigs in federal territory from crossing Virginia's 3 miles of sovereign waters.

The bill also sought to repeal a section of the Code of Virginia, which expressed support for federal exploratory efforts for oil and gas 50 miles off the coast.

The bill was unfortunately killed on a party-line vote in the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources.

Protecting children from lead-tainted water

*Senate Bill 1622 and Senate Bill 1629 –
Senator Jeremy McPike (D-Woodbridge)*

Virginia LCV Position: ✓

The crisis over lead-tainted water sources in Flint, Mich. has raised the profile of a very real threat to clean water across the United States and here in Virginia.

Legislation introduced this year would have helped protect children from possible lead contamination.

Children are particularly vulnerable to the harmful effects of lead exposure, and there is no safe level of lead for children. Children absorb more lead than adults. Up to 50 percent of the lead a child ingests can be absorbed, compared to only 10 percent in adults.

According to the EPA, low levels of lead expo-

sure have been linked to learning disabilities, stunted growth, loss of IQ, and impaired hearing.

SB 1622 would have required licensed child day care programs and certain other programs that serve preschool-age children to develop and implement a lead testing plan for drinking water.

SB 1629 would have required school boards to submit plans to test and report lead levels in drinking water sources.

Both bills passed on near unanimous votes out of the Senate. Unfortunately, SB 1622 was killed in a House Appropriations subcommittee while SB 1629 was referred to a subcommittee on the House side but never taken up.

Land Use & Transportation

Eroding local land-use authority over agritourism

House Bill 2364 –

Delegate Barry Knight (R-Virginia Beach)

Virginia LCV Position: **X**

The conservation community recognizes that agriculture is a vital part of the Virginia economy, and supports providing reasonable ways for farms to participate in agritourism opportunities. However, the preservation of the rural quality of life and the success of local agriculture itself are dependent upon reasonable local regulation of intensive agritourism activities.

This bill would have added weddings to the list of agritourism activities that local governments are prohibited from regulating. The bill as amended would have removed all opportunity for local governments to balance the impacts (traffic, noise, lighting, runoff, etc.) of large events on neighboring residences and agricultural operations and would have undermined the ability of lo-



Photo Credit: *Big Meadows Sunset* by Edward Episopo of Fredericksburg | Courtesy of Scenic Virginia

cal governments to address the regional impacts of weddings. This legislation reported out of subcommittee and committee on fairly close votes, but was killed on the House floor after Virginia LCV and our partners explained the unintended consequences of this bill to lawmakers.

Bypassing SMART SCALE to build I-73

*Senate Bill 1014 – Senator Bill Stanley
(R-Franklin)*

Virginia LCV Position: **X**

In 2014, the General Assembly passed a

sweeping transportation funding overhaul dubbed SMART SCALE, which required transportation projects to compete for funding based on a range of criteria with the goal of ensuring that only the best projects – those that meet a true need – are funded.

This hasn't stopped the now annual attempt to build the \$4 billion proposed Interstate 73.

The bill would have redirected funding (\$40 million each year in recordation taxes) currently earmarked for Route 58 as a result of unique provisions the General Assembly adopted over 25 years ago – long before the adoption of current transportation funding and planning provisions.

The commitment made to Route 58 should be honored, but when that project is completed the funding stream should return to the General Fund.

Virginia LCV has opposed the I-73 effort year after year because we believe it should compete with other transportation projects for funding. Passage of this bill would have opened the door to a parade of similar proposals to fund particular projects that would defeat the whole reason for project prioritization.

Although the bill passed out of a divided Senate, it was tabled in a House Appropriations subcommittee.

Land Conservation

Increasing transparency for conservation projects

House Bill 2009 – Delegate Paul Krizek (D-Fairfax)

Virginia LCV Position: ✓

Since 1999, the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation (VLCF) has been helping to drive land conservation efforts in the Commonwealth by awarding matching grants to state agencies, local governments, non-profit organizations and public bodies to preserve open space and secure greater public access to Virginia's scenic and culturally and historically important lands.

With state funding for VLCF varying from year to year, HB 2009 provides increased transparency to the VLCF grant program by allowing appropriators to see which projects will be funded at certain levels, the same process that applies to the federal and highly successful Land and Water Conservation Fund.

This bill makes it easier to garner more legislative support for VLCF as lawmakers learn more about potential conservation projects in their districts. It also makes it easier for advocates and conservationists to highlight specific projects within their districts that will be neglected if legislators do not fully fund VLCF's grant program.

This commonsense legislation successfully passed out of both the House and Senate without opposition and will become law July 1.

Good Government

Enhancing environmental curriculum

House Bill 1908 – Delegate Schuyler VanValkenburg (D-Henrico)

Virginia LCV Position: ✓

Environmental awareness should begin at an early age, which is why it's taught in our public schools. This bill was introduced in an attempt to increase awareness of conservation issues in school-aged children.

HB 1908, which had industry support, directed the Department of Environmental Quality and Department of Education to update the existing "Window into a Green Virginia" curriculum for sixth-graders in order to add a chapter on recycling, specifically pertaining to the benefits of recycling and reuse, including the energy benefits of recycling.

This simple bill only sought to expand the curriculum and would have had no budget impact.

While simple in its intent, this legislation has one of the strangest journeys through the legislature that we saw this year.

The bill reported out of subcommittee but originally died in the House Committee on Education

on a 10-10 tie. The bill was then brought back up in committee where it was amended and reported out on a 12-9 vote, only to be defeated on the House floor through a second tie vote, 48-48.

Codifying the Environmental Justice Advisory Council

House Bill 2696 – Delegate Charniele Herring (D-Alexandria)

Virginia LCV Position: ✓

In 2017, Governor Terry McAuliffe established through executive order an Advisory Council on Environmental Justice on the premise that "no segment of the population, especially individuals most impacted and vulnerable, should bear disproportionately high or adverse effects from pollution."

This commission continued into the new administration in 2018; however, after recommending putting a halt to natural gas pipeline construction in Virginia, members were told their legal authority had lapsed with the transition from McAuliffe to Governor Northam.

HB 2696 aimed to codify this commission by statute, making it a permanent advisory body with the goal of helping to identify and lift barriers, increase participation and ensure sustained communication between the state and marginalized communities while ensuring environmental justice was integrated throughout the Commonwealth's programs, regulations policies and procedures.

Unfortunately, HB 2696 failed to make it out of a House Rules subcommittee on a 3-4 vote.

A week prior to that vote, Northam issued Executive Order 29 establishing the Virginia Council on Environmental Justice. Members to that body were announced in early May.

Impactful issues not in this year's conservation scores

Every year, Virginia LCV scores the legislation we think tells the full story of where the legislature stands on our priority issues. These efforts are aimed at educating voters on where their lawmakers stand on a host of issues - clean air and water, transportation and land use, a healthy democracy, and open space protections.

In 2019, we took positions on more than 60 bills, which are not all reflected in our score tallies. What follows are important legislative issues that warrant mentioning in this year's scorecard even though they are not counted in this year's legislator scores.

Proffers repeal 'reform'

In 2016, the General Assembly passed incredibly flawed legislation preventing localities from requiring proffers from developers. Proffers have long been an important zoning tool for localities to ensure the impacts of a rezoning don't fall squarely on taxpayers, that when a 500-home neighborhood is built, for example, the developer helps cover the bill for increased school capacity, roads and other infrastructure necessary to cover the increased population growth and impact to the community.

The goal of this law was to make it easier for developers to rezone

land and build more homes. It had the opposite effect, especially in high-growth counties. With proffers off the table, localities opted to reject rezoning applications outright rather than approve projects they knew would impact taxpayers and the broader community and quality of life.

In 2019, Del. Bob Thomas (R-Stafford) and Sen. Barbara Favola (D-Arlington) introduced legislation (HB 2342 and SB 1373) softening some aspects of the flawed 2016 law, but in a way that still favored developers over localities.

We originally opposed this legislation outright. We changed our position to neutral only after a commitment from the Chairmen of the Local Government Committees tasking the state housing agency to study the issue and report back to the legislature, the end result of a debate over related legislation from Senator Richard Stuart (R-Westmoreland).

HB 2342 and SB 1373 passed out of both the House and Senate and will become law July 1. Zoning is one of the only powers the General Assembly gives localities broad leeway over – laws such as these undermine that authority and often come with many unintended consequences. Our hope is that in 2020, lawmakers see reason and make the necessary reforms to allow localities



Photo Credit: *Bike Ride* by Erin Vasquez of Williamsburg | Courtesy of Scenic Virginia

to again hold developers accountable and to responsibly manage growth and the impacts that come with it in their communities.

Attacks on SMART SCALE

Virginia's current transportation funding model, known as SMART SCALE, was passed in 2014 and came in response to a lack of transparency around transportation infra-

structure funding following the unsuccessful push to build a new Route 460. This multi-billion dollar boondoggle, which was opposed by localities along the route as well as environmentalists, exposed just what can go wrong when politics – not smart policy – govern important and costly infrastructure decisions.

Under SMART SCALE, transportation projects must compete for

funding on their own merits. In this way, limited transportation dollars only go to projects that meet a critical need. Scoring criteria include factors like environmental quality and land use impacts as well as public safety, congestion relief and economic development.

Despite the fact that this program has been successful in ensuring that only the projects that efficiently meet transportation needs move forward, there have been repeated attempts to bypass SMART SCALE.

In 2019, Virginia LCV opposed HB 2326 by Del. Emily Brewer (R-Suffolk), which would have added “maintenance of primary evacuation routes” to the list of SMART SCALE criteria, which would have heavily weighted the funding formula toward Hampton Roads, while siphoning money away from other transportation needs. This bill died in House Transportation on a 21-1 vote.

We also opposed HB 2633 from Del. Karrie Delaney (D-Centreville), which would have undermined objective project prioritizing by over-emphasizing congestion above all other factors. This bill also died in House Transportation on a 22-0 vote.

While we respect lawmakers’ attempts to respond to constituent concerns over transportation, we have SMART SCALE for a reason – to take politics out of the equation and to ensure that we’re looking

at transportation in a holistic way, statewide, instead of a piecemeal approach.

Interstate 81 improvements

Funding needed improvements to Interstate 81 was by far the most high-profile and complex transportation issue in 2019. After failing to come up with a funding model during the regular session, lawmakers approved amendments from Governor Northam in April that will raise an estimated \$288 million per year by increasing taxes on fuel and the tractor-trailer registration fee. An earlier I-81 funding proposal including placing tolls on the heavily travelled highway, which met resistance at the legislature.

Virginia LCV remained neutral throughout the I-81 debate, never registering support or opposition on any of the various legislative proposals. We do support needed improvements to the I-81 corridor and share the concerns of many of our conservation partners that this money will be allocated outside of the SMART SCALE process.

Approximately \$150 million per year of the total raised under this funding model will go directly to fund the \$2 billion worth of identified improvements to I-81, while the remainder will be steered to projects on other interstate corridors.

We will need to remain vigilant to ensure this funding is going to fund smart improvements that address the serious problems facing I-81

and not destructive projects that harm our environment while wasting tax dollars.

The State Budget

When Governor Northam introduced his amendments to the biennial budget, the conservation community was roundly supportive of increased investments in water quality, land conservation and a stronger Department of Environmental Quality.

The budget passed by lawmakers fully delivered in only one of those areas, giving us a record \$89.7 million in FY 2020 for Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs), which help keep farm runoff from fouling our state’s creeks, streams, rivers and, eventually, the Chesapeake Bay.

While this is definitely progress, the budget under-delivers on funding for the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund, providing only \$10 million in FY 20 to help local governments invest in infrastructure that controls runoff from impervious surfaces, well under the \$50 million that is needed to help cut this major source of Bay pollution.

Lawmakers also stripped proposed \$11 million increase to the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation as well as proposed \$2.5 million boost for the Department of Environmental Quality, which would have helped increase the agency’s on-the-ground enforcement capacity.

Creating the Virginia Citizens Redistricting Commission

Senate Joint Resolution 274 – Senator Emmett Hanger (R-Mount Solon) and Senator Mamie Locke (D-Hampton)

Virginia LCV Position: ✓

Elected officials should not be allowed to pick their voters, but in much of Virginia, that’s the case due to partisan gerrymandering.

A bipartisan effort, Senate Joint Resolution 274 would have addressed this problem through an amendment to Virginia’s constitution to create an independent, nonpolitical redistricting commission.

In establishing the “Virginia Citizens Redistricting Commission,” SJ 274 was the most comprehensive approach yet on redistricting reform. The commission was tasked with a clear set of criteria when drawing new districts, and would be independent of the legislature and fully transparent with its data. The member selection process under SJ 274 would have been open to the public and included a vetting process led by the General Assembly as well as retired Virginia Circuit Court judges.

Unfortunately, this effort failed to get out of the Senate Privileges and Elections Committee, where it died on a vote of 9-5.

2019 Bill Patrons

Where conservation victories begin

Virginia LCV recognizes the efforts of legislators that promote and lead on conservation issues each session. These patrons are acknowledged for the value of their commitment in each of their final scores. Note that though some members introduce multiple bills that receive Virginia LCV support, each member receives acknowledgment for only one patron credit in their final legislator score.

Climate Change & Clean Energy

Delegate Lashrecse Aird – HB 2741 Clean Energy Advisory Board; established, solar energy installation rebates.

Delegate Karrie Delaney – HB 2240 Virginia Energy Plan; covenants restricting solar energy collection devices. HB 2241 Green job training; creates tax credit.

Delegate Wendy Gooditis – HB 1809 Electric utilities; renewable energy and energy efficiency programs. HB 2641 Third-party power purchase agreements; regulation of retail sales of electricity under agreements.

Delegate Tim Hugo – HB2547 Electric utilities; net energy metering.

Delegate Chris Hurst – HB 1869 Net energy metering; schools.

Delegate Michael Mullin – HB 2117 Electric utilities; retail competition, renewable energy.

Delegate Mark Keam – HB 2329 Distributed renewable energy; promotes establishment of solar and other renewable energy.

Delegate Israel O'Quinn – HB 2789 Energy conservation measures; establishes, providing incentives for development of electric energy.

Delegate Sam Rasoul – HB 1635 Fossil fuel projects moratorium; clean energy mandates (Floor Amendment #3). HB 2501 Greenhouse gas emissions; inventory. HB 2503 Public utilities; transactions with affli-

ates, fuel procurement arrangements.

Delegate Rip Sullivan – HB 2292 Electric utilities; energy efficiency programs. HB 2293 Electric utilities; stakeholder process for energy efficiency programs. HB 2294 Electric and natural gas utilities; energy efficiency goals. HB 2500 Electric utilities; mandatory renewable energy portfolio standard. HB 2692 Multifamily residential building; sale of electricity to occupants.

Delegate David Toscano – HB 2697 Electric utilities; retail competition. HB 2735 Virginia Coastal Protection Act; recasts Va. Shoreline Resiliency Fund.

Delegate Kathy Tran – HB 2792 Electric utilities; municipal net energy metering.

Delegate Lee Ware – HB 1718 Electric utilities; fuel cost recovery.

Senator Jennifer Boysko – SB 1648 Electric utilities; limitations on fossil fuel facilities.

Senator Creigh Deeds – SB 1483 Net energy metering; schools.

Senator Adam Ebbin – SB 1605 Electric utilities; stakeholder process for energy efficiency programs.

Senator John Edwards – SB 1714 Net energy metering; schools.

Senator Lynwood Lewis – SB 1666 Va. Coastal Protection Act; recasts Va. Shoreline Resiliency Fund.

Senator Jennifer McClellan – SB 1456 Distributed renewable energy; promotes establishment of solar and other renewable energy. SB 1460 Renewable energy power

purchase agreements; pilot programs.

Senator Jeremy McPike – SB 1176 State Corporation Commission; natural gas utilities, investigative reports

Senator Glen Sturtevant – SB 1769 Electric utilities; net energy metering.

Senator David Suetterlein – SB 1583 Electric utilities; retail competition. SB 1584 Electric utilities; retail competition, renewable energy.

Water Quality

Delegate Riley Ingram – HB 2786 Coal combustion residuals impoundment; closure
Delegate Mark Keam – HB 2333 Trees; replacement during development process, exceeding requirements to meet certain water goals.

Delegate Barry Knight – HB 1769 Menhaden; VMRC to adopt regulations for managing the Commonwealth's fishery.

Delegate Kaye Kory – HB 1906 Residential automatic pesticide misting systems; prohibition; civil penalties.

Delegate Alfonso Lopez – HB 2395 Hazardous Waste Site Inventory; DEQ to compile and update at least annually.

Delegate Michael Webert – HB 2637 Loans and grants for agricultural best management practices; riparian buffers

Senator John Cosgrove – SB 1046 Menhaden; VMRC to adopt regulations for managing the Commonwealth's fishery.

Senator Bill DeSteph – SB 1573 Offshore oil and gas drilling; prohibition.

Senator Adam Ebbin – SB 1070 Local paper and plastic bag tax.

Senator Emmett Hanger – SB 1328 Stormwater Local Assistance Fund; grants to non-MS4 localities.

Senator Chap Petersen – SB 1116 Plastic bags; tax in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Senator Jeremy McPike – SB 1622 Child day programs; potable water; lead testing. SB 1629 Local school boards; lead testing; report.

Senator Scott Surovell – SB 1533 Coal combustion residuals; Chesapeake Bay watershed; closure.

Senator Frank Wagner – SB 1355 Coal combustion residuals impoundment; closure

Land Use & Transportation

Delegate Chris Hurst – HB 2112 Natural gas companies; right of entry upon property.

Delegate Mark Keam – HB 2331 Wildlife Corridor Action Plan; Advisory Council.

Land Conservation

Delegate Paul Krizek – HB 2009 Virginia Land Conservation Foundation; project proposals

Good Government

Delegate Mark Cole – HJ 615 Constitutional amendment; Virginia Redistricting Commission (first reference).

Delegate Charniele Herring – HB 2696 Environmental Justice Advisory Council established.

Delegate Joseph Lindsey – HJ 616 Coal dust blown from moving trains; report.

Delegate Schuyler VanValkenburg – HB 1908 Sixth grade science; Department of Education, et al., shall update curriculum.

Senator George Barker – SJ 306 Constitutional amendment; Virginia Redistricting Commission (first reference).

Senator Emmett Hanger – SJ 274 Constitutional amendment; apportionment, criteria for legislative and congressional districts.

Senator Lynwood Lewis – SB 1561 Sixth grade science; Department of Education, et al., shall update curriculum.

Senator Mamie Locke – SJ 274 Constitutional amendment; apportionment, criteria for legislative and congressional districts.

House Scorecard

Delegate	District	Party	2019 Score	2018 Score	Career Score Since 2000	HB 1635 Floor Amendment #3	HB 1700 Recommendation #34	HB 1700 Recommendation #38	HB 1718 Fuel Cost Recovery	HB 1906 Pesticide misting; ban	HB 1908 DEQ; sci. curriculum	HB 2009 V.L.C.F.; proposals	HB 2241 Green jobs; tax credit	HB 2269 TCI; prohibition	HB 2292 Utilities; EE programs	HB 2329 Solar energy; reforms	HB 2364 Agritourism; weddings	HB 2611 REGI; prohibition	HB 2637 BMPs; loans, grants	HB 2696 EJ council; established	HB 2741 Clean Energy Board	SB 1014 I-73 Construction Fund	SB 1328 SLAF; grants to localities	SB 1355 Coal ash cleanup	SB 1622 Daycares; lead testing
Adams, D.	68	D	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Adams, L.	16	R	54%	25%	42%	X	X	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓Aird	63	D	100%	88%	95%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Austin	19	R	43%	50%	48%	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ayala	51	D	100%	86%	95%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bagby	74	D	100%	100%	98%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bell, J.	87	D	100%	88%	98%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bell, R.B.	58	R	43%	43%	38%	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bell, R.P	20	R	46%	38%	41%	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bloxom	100	R	50%	56%	50%	X	NV	NV	X	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bourne	71	D	100%	100%	97%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Brewer	64	R	38%	43%	40%	X	X	X	X	X	✓	NV	X	✓	X	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bulova	37	D	100%	100%	95%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Byron	22	R	46%	30%	40%	X	X	X	✓	X	✓	X	X	✓	NV	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NV
Campbell, J.	6	R	38%	20%	39%	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Campbell, R.	24	R	46%	NA	46%	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Carr	69	D	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Carroll Foy	2	D	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Carter	50	D	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓Cole	88	R	47%	38%	47%	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Collins	29	R	54%	57%	50%	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Convirs-Fowler	21	D	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cox	66	R	38%	43%	42%	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Davis	84	R	38%	43%	41%	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓Delaney	67	D	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Edmunds	60	R	42%	38%	53%	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	AB	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fariss	59	R	33%	38%	46%	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NV
Filler-Corn	41	D	100%	100%	99%	✓	✓	✓	AB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fowler	55	R	50%	40%	48%	X	X	X	✓	X	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Freitas	30	R	43%	29%	31%	X	X	X	✓	X	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Garrett	23	R	40%	43%	45%	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Gilbert	15	R	38%	38%	31%	X	X	X	X	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓Gooditis	10	D	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

✓ = right X = wrong NV = Not Voting AB = Abstained						HB 1635	HB 1700	HB 1700	HB 1718	HB 1906	HB 1908	HB 2009	HB 2241	HB 2269	HB 2292	HB 2329	HB 2364	HB 2611	HB 2637	HB 2696	HB 2741	SB 1014	SB 1328	SB 1355	SB 1622
Delegate	District	Party	2019 Score	2018 Score	Career Score Since 2000	Floor Amendment #3	Recommendation #34	Recommendation #38	Fuel Cost Recovery	Pesticide misting; ban	DEC; sci. curriculum	VLCF; proposals	Green jobs; tax credit	TOI; prohibition	Utilities; EE programs	Solar energy; reforms	Agritourism; weddings	RCGI; prohibition	BMPs; loans, grants	EJ council; established	Clean Energy Board	I-73 Construction Fund	SLAF; grants to localities	Coalash cleanup	Daycares; lead testing
✓ = Patron Credit																									
✓ Guzman	31	D	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	
Hayes	77	D	100%	71%	90%	✓	✓	✓	✓		NV	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓				✓
Head	17	R	36%	43%	41%	X	X	X	X		X	✓		X	✓	X	X	X	✓		✓				✓
Helsel	91	R	46%	63%	54%	X	✓	X	X		X	✓		X	✓		X	X	✓		✓				✓
Heretick	79	D	93%	80%	89%	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓		✓				✓
✓ Herring	46	D	100%	100%	96%	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓				✓
Hodges	98	R	38%	40%	47%	X	X	X	X		X	✓		X	✓		X	X	✓		✓				✓
Hope	47	D	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓				✓
✓ Hugo	40	R	50%	36%	48%	X	X	X	X		NV	✓		X	✓	X	✓	X	✓		✓				✓
✓ Hurst	12	D	100%	88%	95%	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓				✓
✓ Ingram	62	R	38%	38%	43%	X	X	X	X		X	✓		X	✓		X	X	✓		✓		X	✓	X
James	80	D	87%	71%	83%	✓	✓	✓	X		NV	✓		✓	✓		X	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
Jones, J.	89	D	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	NV	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓				✓
Jones, S.C.	76	R	38%	38%	42%	X	X	X	X		X	✓		X	✓		X	X	✓		✓				✓
✓ Keam	35	D	94%	100%	98%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓		✓				✓
Kilgore	1	R	36%	44%	39%	X	X	X	X		X	✓		X	✓	X	X	X	✓		✓				✓
✓ Knight	81	R	35%	50%	42%	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓		X	✓		X	X	✓	X	✓		X	✓	
✓ Kory	38	D	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓
✓ Krizek	44	D	100%	86%	98%	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓				✓
Landes	25	R	44%	44%	45%	X	X	X	✓		X	✓		X	✓		✓	X	✓	X	✓		X	✓	X
LaRock	33	R	54%	43%	45%	X	X	X	✓		X	✓		X	✓		✓	X	✓		✓				✓
Leftwich	78	R	46%	40%	46%	X	X	X	✓		X	✓		X	✓		X	X	✓		✓				✓
Levine	45	D	100%	100%	98%	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓				✓
✓ Lindsey	90	D	86%	89%	92%	✓	✓	✓	X		✓	✓		✓	✓	NV	X	✓	✓		✓				✓
✓ Lopez	49	D	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓				✓
Marshall	14	R	38%	27%	38%	X	X	X	X		X	✓		X	✓	NV	X	X	✓		✓				✓
McGuire	56	R	46%	43%	45%	X	X	X	✓		X	✓		X	✓		X	X	✓		✓				✓
McNamara	8	R	46%	NA	46%	X	X	X	X		X	✓		X	✓		✓	X	✓		✓				✓
McQuinn	70	D	92%	100%	93%	✓	✓	✓	X		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	NV		✓				✓
Miyares	82	R	46%	33%	42%	X	X	X	✓		X	✓		X	✓		X	X	✓		✓				✓
Morefield	3	R	36%	44%	43%	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓		X	✓		X	X	✓		✓				✓
✓ Mullin	93	D	100%	88%	97%	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NV		✓				✓
Murphy	34	D	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓				✓
✓ O'Quinn	5	R	40%	27%	43%	X	X	X	X		X	✓		X	✓	X	X	X	✓		✓				✓
Orrock	54	R	40%	50%	45%	X	X	X	X	X	NV	✓	X	X	✓		✓	X	✓	X	✓				✓

			√ = right X = wrong NV = Not Voting AB = Abstained																						
Delegate	District	Party	2019 Score	2018 Score	Career Score Since 2000	HB 1635 Floor Amendment #3	HB 1700 Recommendation #34	HB 1700 Recommendation #38	HB 1718 Fuel Cost Recovery	HB 1906 Pesticide mixing; ban	HB 1908 DEC; sci. curriculum	HB 2009 VLCF; proposals	HB 2241 Green jobs; tax credit	HB 2269 TCI; prohibition	HB 2292 Utilities; EE programs	HB 2329 Solar energy; reforms	HB 2364 Agritourism; weddings	HB 2611 FGGI; prohibition	HB 2637 BMPs; loans, grants	HB 2696 EU council; established	HB 2741 Clean Energy Board	SB 1014 I-73 Construction Fund	SB 1328 SLAF; grants to localities	SB 1355 Coal ash cleanup	SB 1622 Daycares; lead testing
√ = Patron Credit																									
Peace	97	R	57%	50%	52%	X	X	X	√		X	√		X	√		√	X	√		√	√		√	
Pillion	4	R	36%	43%	43%	X	X	X	X		X	√		X	√		X	X	√		√			√	X
Plum	36	D	93%	100%	94%	√	√	√	√		√	√		√	√		X	√	√	√	√			√	
Pogge	96	R	46%	43%	39%	X	X	X	√		X	√		X	√		X	X	√		√			√	
Poindexter	9	R	40%	38%	37%	X	X	X	X	X	X	√		X	√		√	X	√		√			X	√
Price	95	D	100%	100%	98%	√	√	√	√		√	√		√	√		√	√	√		√			√	
Ransone	99	R	36%	25%	35%	X	X	X	X		X	√		X	√	X	X	X	√		√			√	
√ Rasoul	11	D	93%	100%	95%	√	√	√	√		√	√		√	√		√	√	√		√			X	
√ Reid	32	D	100%	100%	100%	√	√	√	√		√	√		√	√		√	√	√		√			√	
Robinson	27	R	47%	57%	50%	X	X	X	X		X	√		X	√		√	X	√		√	√	X	√	
Rodman	73	D	100%	100%	100%	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√		√	√	√		√			√	
Roem	13	D	100%	100%	100%	√	√	√	√		√	√		√	√		√	√	√		√			√	
Rush	7	R	38%	38%	42%	X	X	X	X		X	√		X	√		X	X	√		√			√	
Samirah*	86	D	100%	NA	100%		√	√																	
Sickles	43	D	100%	88%	96%	√	√	√	√		√	√		√	√		√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√
Simon	53	D	100%	100%	100%	√	√	√	√		√	√		√	√		√	√	√		√			√	
Stolle	83	R	40%	43%	47%	X	X	X	X		X	√		X	√		X	X	√		√	√		√	X
√ Sullivan	48	D	100%	100%	98%	√	√	√	√		√	√		√	√		√	√	√		√			√	
Thomas	28	R	54%	57%	55%	X	X	X	√		X	√		X	√		√	X	√		√			√	
Torian	52	D	93%	75%	90%	√	√	√	√		√	√		√	√		X	√	√	√	√	√		√	
√ Toscano	57	D	100%	100%	98%	√	√	√	√		√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√		√			√	
√ Tran	42	D	100%	100%	100%	√	√	√	√		√	√		√	√		√	√	√		√			√	
Turpin	85	D	92%	100%	95%	√	√	√	√		√	√		√	√		X	√	√		√			√	
Tyler	75	D	85%	86%	85%	√	√	√	X		√	√		√	√		X	√	√		√			√	
√ VanValkenburg	72	D	100%	88%	95%	√	√	√	√		√	√		√	√		√	√	√		√			√	
Ward	92	D	100%	100%	88%	√	√	√	√		√	√		√	√	NV	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	
√ Ware	65	R	53%	50%	50%	X	X	X	√		X	√		X	√	NV	√	X	√	X	√		√	√	
Watts	39	D	100%	100%	88%	√	√	√	√		√	√		√	√		√	√	√		√			√	
√ Webert	18	R	53%	63%	50%	X	X	X	√		X	√		X	√	X	√	X	√		√			√	
Wilt	26	R	43%	44%	43%	X	X	X	√		X	√		X	√	X	X	X	√		√			√	
Wright	61	R	54%	44%	44%	X	X	X	√		X	√		X	√		√	X	√		√			√	
Yancey	94	R	38%	43%	51%	X	X	X	X		X	√		X	√	NV	X	X	√		√			√	
Average			70%	68%																					

* Del. Samirah was sworn in to represent the 86th House District during the closing days of this year's session and missed the majority of this year's scored votes.

Senate Scorecard

✓ = right X = wrong NV = Not Voting AB = Abstained

Senator	District	Party	2019 Score	2018 Score	Career Score (Since 2000)	SB 1014 I-73 Construction Fund	SB 1116 Plastic bags; tax in Bay watershed	SB 1355 Coal ash cleanup	SB 1456 Solar energy; reforms	SB 1573 Offshore drilling; prohibition	SB 1605 Stakeholder process; EE programs	SB 1629 School boards; lead testing	SB 1666 Va. Coastal Protection Act	SJ 274 Constitutional amendment; redistricting	HB 1718 Fuel cost recovery	HB 2009 VLCF; proposals	HB 2269 TCI; prohibition	HB 2611 RGGI; prohibition	HB 2637 BMPs; loans and grants	HB 2741 Clean energy board
✓ Barker	39	D	100%	80%	83%	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black	13	R	38%	42%	37%	X		✓	X	X	X	✓	X		X	✓	X	X	✓	✓
✓ Boysko	33	D	100%	100%	100%	✓		✓			✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Carrico	40	R	60%	10%	36%	X	X	✓			✓	✓				✓	X	X	✓	✓
Chafin	38	R	43%	50%	43%	X		✓	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	✓
Chase	11	R	60%	58%	54%	X		✓			✓	✓		X		✓	X	X	✓	✓
✓ Cosgrove	14	R	62%	45%	48%	X		✓	X		✓	✓		X	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓
Dance	16	D	93%	86%	83%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	AB	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓ Deeds	25	D	100%	100%	89%	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓ DeSteph	8	R	64%	40%	56%	X		✓			✓	✓		X		✓	X	X	✓	✓
Dunnavant	12	R	60%	50%	53%	X	X	✓			✓	✓				✓	X	X	✓	✓
✓ Ebbin	30	D	92%	93%	97%	X		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓ Edwards	21	D	82%	75%	82%	X		✓			✓	✓		X		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Favola	31	D	100%	100%	99%	✓		✓			✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓ Hanger	24	R	54%	57%	48%	X	X	✓		X	✓	✓	X			✓	X	X	✓	✓
Howell	32	D	100%	91%	89%	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓ Lewis	6	D	92%	86%	86%	X		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Locke	2	D	100%	100%	88%	✓		✓			✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lucas	18	D	92%	90%	78%	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Marsden	37	D	100%	83%	86%	NV		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mason	1	D	100%	92%	98%	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓ McClellan	9	D	100%	100%	98%	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
McDougle	4	R	50%	50%	45%	X	X	✓	X		✓	✓			X	✓	X	X	✓	✓
✓ McPike	29	D	100%	100%	100%	✓		✓			✓	✓				✓	✓	NV	✓	✓
Newman	23	R	58%	56%	38%	X	X	✓	X		✓	✓			✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓
Norment	3	R	45%	60%	51%	X	X	AB	X		✓	✓			X	✓	X	X	✓	✓
Obenshain	26	R	43%	45%	38%	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	✓	X		X	✓	X	X	✓	✓
Peake	22	R	50%	45%	48%	X		✓			✓	X		X		✓	X	X	✓	✓
✓ Petersen	34	D	83%	85%	89%	X		X		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reeves	17	R	60%	42%	47%	X		✓			✓	✓		X		✓	X	X	✓	✓
Ruff	15	R	46%	43%	38%	X	X	✓		X	✓	✓	X	X		✓	X	X	✓	✓
Saslaw	35	D	100%	82%	75%	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓ Spruill	5	D	92%	90%	75%	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

✓ = right X = wrong NV = Not Voting AB = Abstained

Senator	District	Party	2019 Score	2018 Score	Career Score (Since 2000)	SB 1014 I-73 Construction Fund	SB 1116 Plastic bags; tax in Bay watershed	SB 1355 Coal ash cleanup	SB 1456 Solar energy; reforms	SB 1573 Offshore drilling; prohibition	SB 1605 Stakeholder process; EE programs	SB 1629 School boards; lead testing	SB 1666 Va. Coastal Protection Act	SJ 274 Constitutional amendment; redistricting	HB 1718 Fuel cost recovery	HB 2009 VLCF; proposals	HB 2269 TCI; prohibition	HB 2611 RGGI; prohibition	HB 2637 BMPs; loans and grants	HB 2741 Clean energy board	
✓ = Patron Credit																					
Stanley	20	R	55%	25%	46%	X		✓		X	✓	✓	X			✓	X	X	✓	✓	
Stuart	28	R	42%	67%	52%	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	✓	X			✓	X	X	✓	AB	
✓ Sturtevant	10	R	58%	55%	51%	X		✓	X		✓	✓			X	✓	X	X	✓	✓	
✓ Suetterlein	19	R	50%	43%	39%	X		X		X	✓	✓	X			✓	X	X	✓	✓	
✓ Surovell	36	D	89%	91%	92%	X		✓			✓	✓				AB	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Vogel	27	R	60%	83%	78%	X	X	✓			✓	✓		X		✓	X	✓	✓	NV	
✓ Wagner	7	R	54%	45%	43%	X	X	✓	X		✓	✓			X	✓	X	X	✓	✓	
Average			73%	68%																	



Photo Credit: *Last Light at the Peaks of Otter* by Yung-Han Chang of Chesapeake | Courtesy of Scenic Virginia

Moving our agenda forward, in the wake of February's scandals

The month of February, 2019 will go down as one of the most turbulent and transformational months in Virginia's modern political history. The events that unfolded significantly shifted not just the political trajectory of those who hold Virginia's office, but also exposed deep fissures in our society regarding sex and race, and demonstrated just how far we have to go to ensure a more inclusive and equitable Virginia for all of its citizens.

In the course of just a week, all three of Virginia's statewide office holders had lost public trust and confidence, and the path forward looked incredibly uncertain. All three statewide officials remain in office to this day, the targets of continued criticism heading into an important election year where a Conservation Majority is in play at the General Assembly. Whether they remain in office for the remainder of their terms or not, we hope their actions from this day forward are deserving of the titles the voters have bestowed upon them.

What we know is this: In order to secure environmental victories over the next two years, we must elect a strong, pro-environment legislature this fall to help drive progress on land conservation, clean air, clean water and climate action for all Virginians while also striving for a more equitable, just Commonwealth.

The events of early 2019 have been frustrating and painful, but from pain often comes growth. We are committed to moving forward, driving progress on

our agenda and re-evaluating our agenda when necessary to ensure it best protects our environment and communities, and does not leave people behind in its wake. This last point is an imperative, and one Virginia LCV is committed to doing. The environment is not only a place you go, it is where we live.

We must do better to bring different viewpoints to the table, both their criticisms and their ideas. We must do better to ensure that the policies we support do not have the unintended consequence of harming communities already vulnerable to small changes in our economy. We must do better to fight for all Virginians – the single mother in Richmond, the suburban immigrant family in Loudoun, the coal miner in Wise, the farmer in Augusta, the commercial fisherman on the Eastern Shore, and the seasonal worker in Virginia Beach. Our conservation agenda from this point forward will intend to do all these things and more.

We are committed to supporting our champions and holding accountable our adversaries – at the ballot box and in the public square – to move our state in the right direction. This means working toward equitable environmental policies that benefit all Virginians – regardless of race, gender, geography, and political party – ensuring that no one is left behind in the transition to cleaner energy sources, climate action and a healthier environment.

Too much is at stake to wait any longer.

Photo Credit: **Into The Mist** by Kevin Divins of Henrico | Courtesy of Scenic Virginia



Photo Credit: **Bay Reflection** by Kevin Duncan of Adelphi, Md. | Courtesy of Scenic Virginia

Conservation Leadership Circle

Members of Virginia LCV's Conservation Leadership Circle demonstrate extraordinary support of our work to protect Virginia's natural resources.

When you join Virginia LCV's Conservation Leadership Circle you help sustain our work to elect conservationists to office, pass legislation that protects our environment and hold accountable those who help – or hurt – these efforts. To learn more, call our office at (804) 225-1902 or visit www.valcv.org.

Blue Ridge - \$25,000+ Jacqueline Mars

Loral and Roy Hoagland
Lisa and George Neall
Irene and Alan Wurtzel

Liz Gibbs and Dan Gecker
Vicki and Paul Hasse
Missy and Bill Janes
Joan and Freeborn Jewett
Mary Lynn and Nick Kotz
Judy and Michael Lamana
Susan and Jim Lang
Anthony LaRocco
Ronda and Henry Lavine
Cathy and George Ledec
Mark Logan

Piedmont - \$10,000 - \$24,999

Sam Bleicher
Marilyn and Les Cheek
Bunny and Dan Gabel
Loren Hershey
Lori Keenan and Sean McGuinness
Dana and David Krauskopf
Karin and Mark Ohrstrom
George Ohrstrom
Jean Perin
Nancy and Dick Raines

Tidewater - \$2,500 - \$4,999

Carol and Landon Butler
Sherri and Jesse Crawford
Thayer Drew
Mary Buford and Fred Hitz
Carey Whitehead

Chesapeake - \$1,000 - \$2,499

Deanna and Charles Akre
Dave Belote
Marguerite and Sheldon Clark
Caroline and Bertrand Collomb
Lucy and Brian Conboy
Josephine de Give
Nancy and Tom Dungan

Shenandoah - \$5,000 - \$9,999

Steven Dahllorf and Tom Foster
Marcia and George de Garmo
Anne Edwards

Virginia LCV: Conservation's Political Voice in the Commonwealth

The Virginia League of Conservation Voters is the political voice of conservation in the Commonwealth. We work tirelessly to protect all of Virginia's treasured natural resources – clean air and water, thriving communities and rural landscapes, productive farms and forests, historic battlefields and Main Streets, and ample public lands and open spaces.

To do this, we advocate for and secure strong public policy at the state level, hold elected officials accountable for their positions on conservation issues, and endorse conservation-minded candidates to state office. Of the organizations in Virginia's conservation community, Virginia LCV is unique in that we provide the political power of bringing legislators' records on conservation issues to the forefront of their campaigns and the minds of their voters.

Conservation Endorsements

As conservation's political voice in the Commonwealth, Virginia LCV proudly endorses and seeks to elect and re-elect candidates to office who prioritize conservation. In addition to using the Conservation Scorecard, we issue an inclusive candidate questionnaire, research the dynamics of races, and lead candidate interviews to determine which candidates deserve our "conservation seal of approval."

Virginia LCV's endorsed candidates receive our guidance on how to make conservation issues a priority in their races, our financial support, and our outreach efforts to ensure Conservation Voters in their districts know of our endorsement. All of these factors are important to seeing our candidates win and to seeing a Conservation Majority in the legislature.

Conservation Accountability

Virginia LCV's annual Conservation Scorecard provides the only comprehensive look at how legislators voted on the year's most important conservation issues. From land conservation, to water quality, to transportation, to energy, the scorecard provides an inside take on what happened in Richmond on a full spectrum of issues. Further, the Scorecard provides a distinctive and useful tool for voters as they choose who represents their conservation values in Richmond. As a constituent and a Conservation Voter, it is important for you to let your elected officials know you saw their scores. Thank those who helped protect Virginia's natural resources and urge those who didn't to do better.

Conservation Advocacy

After candidates are sworn in, Virginia LCV staff and members work diligently to advocate for conservation values in the General Assembly. Our efforts are essential to guaranteeing legislators are best educated on the importance and value of protecting our natural resources and safeguarding our clean air, clean water and open spaces. The more they hear from us, and especially from you, the more victorious we will be.

Join Our Team

Check in at valcv.org to keep updated on what's happening with conservation issues in Virginia. There, you can take important conservation actions, support our work, get updated on Virginia LCV news, and follow our positions on critical legislation during the General Assembly session.



Photo Credit: *Sharp Top at Peaks of Otter* by Rob Marshall of Lynchburg | Courtesy of Scenic Virginia

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Virginia LCV is a nonpartisan, nonprofit advocacy organization and gifts to it and its Political Action Committee are non-tax deductible.



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