



VERMONT LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

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Thank you Todd. As Todd mentioned, I am standing in for the Board's Chair, David Mears, who could not be with us today. I would like to say at the outset that David, along with Todd, has done an exceptional job in shepherding the Board's quite extensive endorsement review and deliberative process leading to this announcement, today.

This is indeed a special day for the VT League. For the first time, the League is endorsing a candidate for governor in a primary, and committing organizational resources to assist the candidate in the primary contest.

The Board did not take this new, first step lightly. Using the League's Endorsement policy for guidance, the Board first directed Todd to develop an extensive candidate questionnaire. This questionnaire had three purposes: 1) to explore in depth each candidate's vision for VT's future and how core environmental values are reflected in that vision, 2) to allow all candidates to express for the Board their positions on the most pressing environmental issues of the day, and 3) to provide the candidates the opportunity to define their electability in the primary and ultimately the governor's race.

We were then fortunate to conduct one hour, in person, follow up interviews with each candidate. With the background information received and with this amount of personal time available, these interviews really enabled the Board to measure first-hand the role of each candidate's core environmental values within their leadership vision. All six of the major Party candidate participated in this time-consuming process, and we thank them all of them for devoting their efforts to the task.

I would note at this point that all of the candidate's answers to our questionnaires, and the League's endorsement policy, may be viewed at our new website - votegreengov.org. Because of the candidates' efforts, combined, their answers present a compelling dialog on the environmental issues of the day, and we encourage everyone to take a look.

Following the candidate interviews and some time to digest all the information we had received, the Board met in a deliberative session. Again, I would cite that David lead an exemplary review process that gave all Board members the chance to review completely their thoughts and concerns.

In the end, the decision was really reached by itself. Senator Racine quickly and convincingly emerged from our deliberation as the best environmental candidate in the race to be Vermont's next governor. The Board's vote to endorse him was unanimous and most enthusiastic.

Springing from his deep-seated environmental values, Senator Racine has been a consistent leader of Vermont's environmental movement beginning with his first election to the VT Senate, throughout his tenure as LT Governor and during in his current service again representing Chittenden County in the VT Senate.

For this consistent record of leadership and service, the Board is proud to announce that the VT League of Conservation Voters is endorsing Doug Racine in the 2010 race for Governor.

turning your environmental values into state priorities