



GEORGIA CONSERVATION VOTERS

E-Newsletter

May 16, 2008

In this Edition:

Join Us Next Week at the
2008 Environmental
Leadership Awards

Governor Signs
Conservation Bills

2008 Election Season
Begins

Important Election Dates
for Conservation Voters:
Mark Your Calendar!

Links:

[Visit our Website](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Join Us Next Week at the 2008 Environmental Leadership Awards



We will be honoring legislators working to protect clean air and water,
scenic landscapes and economic opportunities for all Georgians.

[Join GEAN](#)

[Donate Now](#)

[CollectiveGood](#)

Thursday, May 22, 2008

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm



About Us:

Vote by vote, GCV is transforming the political landscape by electing leaders with conservation values and holding them accountable to implementing policies that ensure clean water and air, abundant wildlife, scenic landscapes, and economic opportunities for all Georgians.

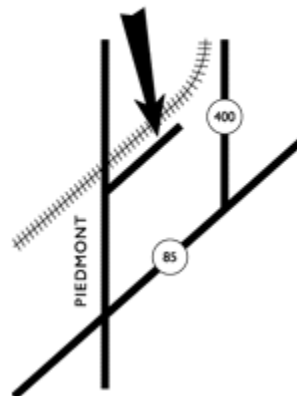
www.gavoters.com

The Fay Gold Gallery

764 Miami Circle

Atlanta, Georgia 30324

FAY GOLD GALLERY
764 MIAMI CIRCLE



Hor d'Oeuvres & Cocktails

Business Attire

Tickets are selling fast! Click [here](#) to purchase yours today.

Governor Signs Conservation Bills



Governor Perdue acted to sign several conservation bills by the 40 day post-session deadline on Wednesday, May 14th. Among the conservation community's priorities, we were pleased the Governor signed:

- House Bill 1274, which amends the Georgia Land Conservation Tax Credit to increase eligibility of certain tracts and types of land donations. It extends the carry forward for unused credits from 5 to 10 years. It updates the definition of fair market value to match that of the IRS while providing for penalties for substantial value misstatements. It also adds eligibility for members of a partnership for a total tax credit of up to \$1 million. And it directs the Board of Natural Resources to promulgate rules to determine the suitability of a tract for conservation purposes.
- House Bill 990, which included the FY09 budget containing \$250,000 in Department of Transportation funds to provide a state match for federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funds that will help retrofit diesel school buses in regions of the state violating Clean Air Act standards with pollution control technology.
- Senate Bill 342, which creates a Water Supply Division within the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority and creates a Georgia Reservoir Fund to fund water supply efforts. We will continue to advocate for the exhaustion of local and state water conservation opportunities before supporting the construction of any new reservoirs. However, the bill includes protection for the greenspace surrounding reservoirs to help protect water quality and adds EPA's WaterSense products to the list of those eligible for the sales tax holiday the first weekend in October 2008.

We were also pleased that the Governor signed the following:

- House Bill 670, which creates an income tax credit to promote clean energy (solar and wind) and energy efficiency technology (geothermal, lighting, and efficient buildings). It also creates tax credits for wood residuals transported to qualified renewable biomass facilities.
- Senate Bill 130, which requires the Department of Community Affairs to adopt policies and procedures to allow the state to design and build more energy and water-efficient buildings. It also encourages the use of building materials from Georgia.

We were disappointed that the Governor signed House Bill 1281. HB 1281 requires local governments to get approval from the Director of the Environmental Protection Division if they wish to implement drought restrictions on water that are stronger than those applied by the state. It also allows local governments to petition the state to be exempted from state-determined drought restrictions.

Election Season Begins



Qualifying to run for election in Georgia ended at noon on Friday, May 2nd, which means Georgia Conservation Voters has launched their work to elect conservation values. In 2006, more than 90 percent of candidates Georgia Conservation Voters endorsed won in the primary and/or general elections.

As a member of the next General Assembly or Public Service Commission, these candidates will have an opportunity to make decisions about policies that will affect the future of Georgia's environment. We've asked the candidates a series of questions on water, transportation, air and energy and

land conservation that are important to Georgians who care about conservation.

In addition to their positions on current conservation issues, we also consider candidates' record, experience, leadership and viability as a candidate, as well as the input of local conservationists when deciding whether to support a candidate.

Stay tuned – we will announce our endorsements of those candidates facing primary opposition in June.

Important Election Dates for Conservation Voters: Mark Your Calendar



June 16, 2008 Voter Registration/Change of Address Deadline for General Primary/Special Election Voting

July 7-11, 2008 Advance Voting for the General Primary

July 15, 2008 General Primary/Special Election


July 28-August 1, 2008 Advance Voting

August 5, 2008 General Primary Runoff (if needed)

Sincerely,

Chris Osborne,

Executive Director



Georgia Conservation Voters
175 Trinity Ave SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303
phone:(404)522-8144, fax:(404)688-5912 info@gavoters.com

copyright ©1999-2008, thedatabank inc.