



GEORGIA CONSERVATION VOTERS

GCV ENewsletter: Vote Now and Help Elect Pro-Conservation Leaders

September 30, 2008

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Meet the Candidates We Endorse

Last week, we released our first set of 2008 general endorsements for the General Assembly and Public Service Commission. Our endorsements include four Senate candidates, ten House candidates and one Public Service Commission candidate.

Jim Powell (D): Public Service Commission District 4

Public Service Commission District 4 covers the Northern portion of Georgia, but voters statewide will have a chance to vote in this race. With decades of experience at the U.S. Department of Energy, Mr. Powell is ready to take action to reduce energy prices through energy efficiency and promoting a more diverse mix of sources of energy.



Charles Jenkins (D): House District 8

Charles Jenkins has represented House District 8 since 2003. This district includes parts of Union, Town, White, and Rabun counties. He is retired from the aerospace field and formerly served in the U.S. Air Force. Representative Jenkins has been a strong advocate for the protection of clean, plentiful water and scenic views in Northeast Georgia.



Barbara Massey Reece (D): House District 11

Barbara Massey Reece has represented House District 11 since 1999. This district includes Chattooga County and part of Floyd County. Prior to serving in the Legislature, she was a home economist, teacher, and partner in a catering business. Representative Reece has worked in favor of bringing economic development to areas with an abundant water supply, like Northwest Georgia, rather than transferring water from Northwest Georgia into other river basins.



Katie Dempsey (R): House District 13

Katie Dempsey has served one term representing House District 13, including the city of Rome and surrounding areas. She is a former Rome City Commissioner and also ran two small businesses. As a freshman legislator, Representative Dempsey showed courage by opposing water-related legislation that lacked enough protection against the transfer of water out of Northwest Georgia rivers.



Jeannette Jamieson (D): House District 28

Jeannette Jamieson has represented House District 28 since 1985. This district includes Banks, Stephens, and part of Franklin County. She is a former Stephens County Commissioner and serves as the president of the Georgia Resources Conservation and Development Council. A veteran of the General Assembly, Representative Jamieson is well-versed in the soil and water conservation needs of her constituents.



Rich Golick (R): House District 34

Rich Golick has represented House District 34 since 1999. House District 34 includes the city of Smyrna and surrounding areas. He is an attorney who works as Southeast Regional Counsel for Allstate Insurance Company. Representative Golick has consistently worked for common sense solutions to protect green space and provide cleaner energy more efficiently.



Sheila Jones (D): House District 44

Sheila Jones has represented House District 44 for two terms, since 2005. District 44 includes part of both Cobb and Fulton Counties. She works for Lockheed Martin. Representative Jones has championed stronger rewards for Georgians who conserve water.



Mike Jacobs (R): House District 80

Mike Jacobs has represented part of DeKalb County in House District 80 since 2005. Representative Jacobs is an attorney at Hall, Booth, Smith & Slover, P.C. He has one of the highest GCV scores of any Republican House member.



Jill Chambers (R): House District 81

Jill Chambers has represented House District 81, part of DeKalb County, since 2003. In addition to serving as a representative, she and her husband own a small business. Representative Chambers continuously advocates for transparency and accountability in government while also tackling transit challenges facing the state.



Stephanie Stuckey Benfield (D): House District 85

Since 1999, Stephanie Stuckey Benfield has represented House District 85. This district includes part of DeKalb County. She works as an attorney with Stuckey and Manheimer and was a public defender prior to serving as a legislator. As a member of the House Natural Resources & Environment Committee, Representative Benfield has been an articulate advocate for the protection of Jekyll Island, recycling and waste reduction, and water efficiency and conservation.



Mark Hatfield (R): House District 177

Mark Hatfield has represented House District 177 since 2005. This district includes Charlton and Ware Counties. In addition to serving as a representative, he is an attorney for Hatfield & Hatfield, P.C. Representative Hatfield has worked tirelessly to speak up for private property rights of residents threatened by landfills and has championed the water rights of those living downstream.



Doug Stoner (D): Senate District 6

Doug Stoner has represented Senate District 6, southeast Cobb County, since 2004. He previously served one term in Georgia's State House and is also a business owner. Senator Stoner has worked across the aisle to help solve the state's transportation challenges, advocated for clean, renewable energy and spoken out for water conservation.



Seth Harp (R): Senate District 29

Seth Harp has represented Senate District 29 since 2000, representing Harris and Meriwether Counties and part of Muscogee and Troup counties. He is also an attorney with the law firm of Harp & Associates, P.C. Senator Harp has been dedicated to protecting water rights of West Georgians and ensuring safe and scenic highways.



David Adelman (D): Senate District 42

David Adelman has served Senate District 42 since 2002. This district includes part of DeKalb County. He is also a partner in the Sutherland law firm. Senator Adelman has championed moving Georgia towards a clean energy future.



Bill Cowsert (R): Senate District 46

Bill Cowsert has been the senator for District 46 since 2006. This district includes Oconee County as well as parts of Clarke and Walton Counties. He is an attorney with Cowsert & Avery. In his freshman term, Senator Cowsert displayed a thoughtfulness on water and clean energy policies.



We'll be releasing more endorsements soon. [Sign up](#) to receive the latest news.

Not sure who your state representative and state senator are? Visit the [Secretary of State](#) to find out.

Don't see your state legislator listed? Check out the [2007-08 Legislative Scorecard](#) to see if they voted to protect the environment.

Don't Wait – Vote Now



On November 4th, 2008, we anticipate a dramatic increase in voter turnout due to the historic, highly contested presidential election.

And if you're like us, you're probably wondering how you can vote without getting stuck in line for hours.

Here's information on two easy and convenient ways to vote in advance and avoid the lines:

Voting by Mail

Any registered voter in Georgia may cast an absentee ballot instead of voting in person.

You are not required to have a specific reason when applying for an absentee ballot by mail.

In order to vote by mail, you can request an absentee ballot [from the Secretary of State](#). After completing the application, send it to [your county registrar's office](#) by mail or fax and they will send you your ballot by mail.

Absentee ballots are also available now at your county registrar's office if you would rather vote in person.

Advance Voting

You can also vote in person the week before Election Day. Advance voting for the 2008 General Election will take place Monday, October 27th through Friday, October 31st. Most counties offer fewer locations for early voting, so you should find out about the early voting locations in your county from your [county registrar](#).

Detailed information about voting by mail or advance voting is available from the Georgia Secretary of State Elections Division [online](#) or by phone at (404) 656-2871.

Still need to register to vote? Moved and need to update your registration? You can download a registration form [online](#). The last day to register is Monday, October 6th.

Buy Your Tickets Now – Help Elect Pro-Conservation Leaders

Join us on Tuesday October 14th at EcoManor, the home of Laura and Rutherford Seydel, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm for an event benefiting Georgia Conservation Voters Action Fund (GCVAF), Georgia's only environmental political action committee.



The most important decisions made on the environment are made by elected officials, so one of the most critical things we can do to protect the environment is elect pro-conservation candidates. That's why supporting GCVAF is such a critical investment that will leave a legacy of clean air, clean water and natural areas for future generations to enjoy.

Purchase your tickets [today](#).

Sincerely,

Chris Osborne,
Executive Director

About Us:

Georgia Conservation Voters works to preserve and enhance the quality of life for all Georgians by making conservation a top priority with Georgia's elected officials, political candidates and voters. GCV understands that the most important decisions made on the environment are made by elected officials, so one of the most important things we can do to protect the environment is to elect pro-conservation candidates.

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