

# THE CONSERVATION VOTER

## Oregon's Environment Wins Big in the 2006 Elections

by Katy Daily, OLCV Political Director

Reflecting back on November 7<sup>th</sup>, it is hard to describe the range of emotions those of us gathered at the OLCV office experienced as the incredible results of that evening began to unfold. Nervous anticipation gave way to incredulous disbelief, followed by waves of euphoria and sometimes even shock.

In the end, Oregon's environment won big on election night. We are proud of the work that OLCV accomplished on behalf of pro-environment candidates across the state. Let's recap our major victories of 2006:

**1) We achieved our number one goal of electing a pro-environment majority to the Oregon House for the first time since 1991.**

OLCV focused a large portion of our resources and volunteers to help six targeted House candidates, five of whom were victorious on election night. In all, OLCV spent over \$105,000 working to re-elect environmental champion Larry Galizio (Tigard) and to elect newcomers David Edwards (Hillsboro), Chris Edwards (Eugene), Brian Clem (Salem), and Jean Cowan (Newport). Although Rob Brading (Troutdale) did not succeed in his attempt to unseat House Speaker Karen Minnis, our support of his race helped force her to spend over \$1 million on her election, diverting that money from other polluter-backed candidates.

**2) We maintained our pro-environment majority in the Senate and helped re-elect our pro-environment Governor.**

"The Oregon League of Conservation Voters was a crucial contributor to my election victory. They provided me with the on-the-ground, grassroots support I needed not just for the general election, but during the primary as well.

"On the Metro Council, I'm looking forward to promoting responsible land use and sustainable practices wherever possible. Like OLCV, I'm committed to preserving what we love about our region for future generations."

-Metro Councilor Kathryn Harrington



"OLCV was critical to my victory. They made a concerted effort to contact voters on a one-on-one basis, which has the biggest impact. OLCV volunteers and staff were a consistent presence at the doors of voters, educating them about one of the important issues of the election, my support of biofuels.

"As a member of the Ways and Means committee, my goal this session will be to support investments in alternative energy and biofuels so Oregon can take a leadership role in promoting energy independence."

-Rep. David Edwards, HD 30 (Hillsboro)



OLCV focused resources and volunteers to help re-elect Senator Vicki Walker from Eugene, who faced a tough re-election battle. OLCV was one of the earliest and largest supporters of Walker's campaign, providing much needed volunteer and direct mail support.

**3) We helped elect ten pro-environment candidates to local offices around the state.**

OLCV's active campaigns are also directed at winning key city council and county commission races because local government officials make many decisions that impact our air, water, and land.

Between the primary and general election, OLCV campaigns helped elect or re-elect county commissioners in Clackamas, Jackson, Lane, and Washington counties. In two of those cases, we ousted incumbents with bad environmental records. We also helped pro-environment



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leaders prevail in four city council races, one Mayoral race, and a Metro Council race.

Overall, 16 of OLCV's 22 targeted candidates won their races in the primary and general elections. In the general election alone we organized over 900 volunteer shifts, spoke to over 80,000 voters, and sent over 100,000 pieces of mail. In several races, including the Governor's, OLCV aggressively exposed the role of money from polluters - particularly those who'd violated Oregon's pollution laws - in funding the campaigns of incumbents with poor environmental records.

It's too early to tell, but we may very well look back on November 7, 2006, as a watershed moment in Oregon's environmental history. For 15 years, Oregon's House was controlled by legislators more interested in weakening environmental safeguards than enacting them. With new leadership in the House and a re-invigorated Senate and Governor, we can make a fresh start in addressing our environmental challenges, work to promote renewable energy, clean up our air and rivers, and protect our precious natural places for future generations of Oregonians.



*"I could not have won the election this year without a huge team effort. OLCV was a big part of that effort. I felt like every time I was in the campaign office, an OLCV volunteer was always present, ready to help and pitch in with anything asked of them. I am so fortunate that OLCV decided to become as involved with my race for re-election as they did."*

-Sen. Vicki Walker, SD 7 (Eugene)



*"OLCV is the best endorsement a local candidate can get. They let voters know that I was the pro-environment choice, and provided me with invaluable campaign expertise, organizational skills and super volunteers."*

*"I have a whole list of important environmental goals for the next four years including implementing a sustainability plan for Lincoln City as well increasing our amount of open space."*

-Lori Hollingsworth, Mayor of Lincoln City

**Take Action!** *Lobby Your Legislators for Oregon's Environment*

- Gear up for the 2007 legislative session and learn how you can help to pass important environmental legislation at the Oregon Conservation Network's Citizen Lobbyist Trainings!
- The Oregon Conservation Network unites conservation groups around the state in an effort to protect Oregon's environmental heritage in the State Legislature. OCN is offering a series of free, two-hour workshops around the state on how to make your voice heard. Come and hear what's happening in the Legislature this session, learn some skills and strategies for having the greatest impact on decision-makers, and find out how you can take action and get involved.
- These FREE trainings are happening in January and February in **Eugene, Bend, Salem, Milwaukie, and Beaverton**. Visit [www.olcveducationfund.org](http://www.olcveducationfund.org) for more information, or contact Nathaniel at 503-227-8073.



## ***From OLCV Executive Director Jonathan Poisner***

In my ten years at the helm of OLCV, I've written 40 updates from the Executive Director for OLCV newsletters. This is the 41st - and of all of them, the most fun to write.

I'll start with a simple statement: The leadership of Oregon's Legislature has a track record of working to promote and enhance the protection of Oregon's environment.

That's a very satisfying sentence to write. For more than a decade, the opposite was the case, either for both Legislative chambers or the House.

It's not just satisfying because OLCV played a key role in electing the new Leadership by helping win so many close races for city, county, and legislative seats last fall.

It's satisfying primarily because we have a tremendous opportunity to make Oregon healthy again: to protect our people, our economy, and land - for the long run.

Put most succinctly, we're saying goodbye to an era when the short-term interest of polluters were consistently put first by our Legislature, and saying hello to an era when . . .

. . . I find it's not so easy to complete that sentence.

We hope it will be a new era and not just a one session blip. And that means we must maintain and build OLCV's electoral capacity headed into 2008.

We hope it's an era that makes our children think back as fondly on this Legislature as many Oregonians feel about the Legislature of the mid-1970s.

We hope that it's an era marked by accomplishments, and not just good intentions.

Our challenge is to assist our Legislature's leadership in leaving a great legacy. Of course, by "assist," I mean something very different than "doing what they tell us." After all, they're our elected officials, serving the public.

Rather, we need to assist them in living up to their own aspirations.

How? By combining three strategies:

First, by presenting a clear set of priorities to the leadership, so they can deliver for a public that's hungry for accomplishments. We've done that through the Oregon Conservation Network, where more than 40 groups have agreed upon six Priorities for a Healthy Oregon. Read about them at [www.oregonpriorities.org](http://www.oregonpriorities.org).

Second, by rallying thousands of citizens across the state - that means you! - to become citizen-lobbyists: writing, emailing, calling, and showing up in person in Salem to let your elected leaders know what you care about. You can become an email advocate by signing up for SalemWatch at [www.oregonpriorities.org](http://www.oregonpriorities.org), or, better yet, come to one our Citizen Lobbyist Workshops (see announcement on the previous page).

Finally, by being in Salem every day. OLCV's lobbyist, Sybil Ackerman, backed up by the rest of OLCV's staff, will be in Salem every day working directly with legislators. If they start to go astray, we won't be shy about pointing that out. And if they do the right thing, we'll be the first to educate the public about legislators who deserve our thanks.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Poisner  
Executive Director

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

**OLCV's 10th Annual Dinner  
for the Environment  
April 27, 2007, Portland**

***Celebrating OLCV's 35th Anniversary***

**Keynote Speaker:  
Jerome Ringo,**

**President of the Apollo Alliance**

*Tickets and table sponsorships available.*

*Visit [www.olcv.org](http://www.olcv.org) or call Molly at 503-224-4011  
for more information.*

***In 1972, Jeff Golden dropped out of college, moved to Southern Oregon, and settled 20 rural acres in the Cascades with a used chainsaw...***

Jeff spent the next several years learning how to live off the land and fighting to stop mega-dams from destroying his beloved whitewater rivers in the Sierras and the Rogue Valley. In the early 80s, he felt the pull of local politics and public broadcasting, started a family, and moved to Ashland.

Since that time Jeff has served as Jackson County Commissioner, wrote a novel about the timber wars in the West, and helped raise two “magnificent” kids, Daniel (23) and Sarah (21). He also became a member of OLCV, inspired by his desire to protect Oregon’s natural beauty in the most practical and long-lasting way.

As Jeff says: “Envisioning a greener Oregon is a pleasant way to pass the time, but it’s not much more than that without practical tools for anchoring our goals in public policy. OLCV has consistently and effectively provided those tools; if it hadn’t our landscape would look very different today.”

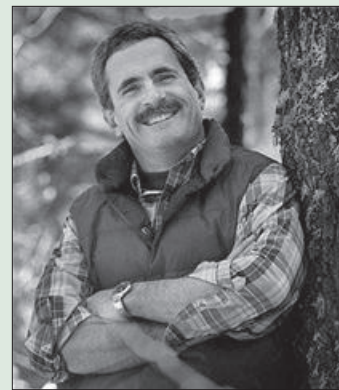
**In his mid 40s, Jeff deepened his commitment to protecting Oregon’s rivers and forests by deciding to make a planned gift to OLCV.** After all, he reasoned, “since you can’t take it with you, what better drop-off place is there?” With a few simple steps, Jeff made OLCV a beneficiary of his estate in his will.

Jeff’s decision was originally inspired by the prevalent “sense of community and appreciation of our natural treasures, along with a sense of responsibility to steward them well” that he found when he first moved to Oregon. Since that time, he feels he has watched this spirit weaken. In this way, his bequest is an extension of his activism: it will continue to help rebuild that sense of stewardship and responsibility after he is gone.

Of course, Jeff wanted to make sure that he trusted that wish to the right organization. Since it was important to him to make sure his bequest was “spent intelligently and cost-effectively when I’m not around to nag and second-guess anymore,” he looked hard at OLCV’s “durability and track record.” His conclusion?

**“If there are environmental organizations in the state who score higher on those standards than OLCV, I haven’t found them.”**

Adding OLCV to your will is simple: just give our tax ID number (93-1176721) to your financial advisor or lawyer. For more information on planned giving, contact Molly Kramer at 503-224-4011 or [molly@olcv.org](mailto:molly@olcv.org). You can also find easy steps for adding OLCV to your will on our website at [www.olcv.org/leavealegacy](http://www.olcv.org/leavealegacy).



*Jeff Golden: Since you can’t take it with you, what better drop-off place is there?*



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