



Florida
Conservation Voters

2017
Year in Review

Dear Conservation Voter,

The politics of Florida don't move as fast as they seem. Movements for broad environmental and social change can't be bought, and they don't happen overnight. It takes a lot of work and a long-term commitment to on-the-ground organizing to create lasting change.

But every fire starts with just a single spark. Every movement begins with just a handful of passionate people with a shared goal.

As one of our best supporters, you are the foundation of the Conservation Voter Movement in Florida. Thanks to you, we are creating a new political vocabulary that emphasizes the importance of protecting our natural world—the life-supporting system that we all rely on. And it starts by holding our elected officials accountable for how they vote.

I invite you to read the following pages for a review of our work over the past year and a glimpse at our ambitious plans for 2018. Florida needs conservation leaders in office now more than ever.

Every fire starts with just a single spark. We can't do it without you.



Sincerely,



Aliki Moncrief
Executive Director
Florida Conservation Voters
FCV Education Fund



FLORIDA CONSERVATION VOTERS BOARD

Lester Abberger, Will Abberger, Pegeen Hanrahan,
Dr. Rich Templin, Sen. Geraldine Thompson



FCV EDUCATION FUND BOARD

Pegeen Hanrahan, Pamela Harting, Clay Henderson,
Susan Glickman

A Common Vision for Florida's Environment

Florida's conservation community is stronger when we work together. That's why FCV Education Fund collaborated with more than twenty conservation experts to assemble a briefing book that serves as a legislator's and citizen's guide to understanding the key environmental issues facing our state.

The FCV Ed Fund Briefing Book is more than an issue guide. It also serves as a rallying point, a literal and figurative way to get the conservation community "on the same page." By streamlining our efforts and working collectively toward a shared vision for Florida, we are better equipped to address the big environmental challenges facing our state. Through the FCV Ed Fund Briefing Book and our work with numerous coalitions, we are making sure we always have the best information and are communicating to legislators with a shared voice. **Thanks to you, we were able to hand deliver this book to all 160 Florida Legislators.**



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A Strategic Pursuit of Smart Policy



Don't Frack Florida

It's an exciting time for those who want to ban fracking in Florida once and for all. Last year, Senator Dana Young's fracking ban legislation became the first ban bill to ever pass a legislative committee in Florida. Although that bill did not make it to the Governor Rick Scott's desk earlier this year, Senator Young and Representative Kathleen Peters have sponsored this important ban once again. Florida Conservation Voters is working closely with these legislators and our colleagues in the Floridians Against Fracking Coalition to mobilize the public and rally support in both chambers on this critical water issue. We've never been closer to banning fracking in Florida than we are right now.



Fund Florida Forever

The 2014 Water and Land Conservation Amendment was a turning point in Florida's conservation history. With overwhelming support, Floridians sent the Legislature a clear mandate to fund our state's most important land conservation programs. Until now, legislators have all but ignored that mandate. But this year, we see signs of a shift in attitude. State Senator Rob Bradley recently sponsored a bill to fund Florida Forever at \$100 million annually. When introducing the bill in committee, he explicitly acknowledged that the Legislature has failed to provide enough land acquisition funding, and as chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, he has the power to fix that. FCV is helping to champion this bill through the legislature and increase the overall funding level along the way.



Florida: The Solar State

Right now, solar energy makes up only 1% of Florida's electricity mix. For a state that prides itself on being the Sunshine State, this is an obvious shortcoming. Florida is on the frontline of climate change and sea-level rise, which is one reason why we are working to make clean, solar energy widely available to all Floridians. Of course, we can't do it alone. That's why in October, FCV Ed Fund convened some of Florida's brightest minds and strongest advocates to collaborate on a path forward for solar in Florida. We're excited to continue our collaboration to advance solar policy in Florida, by building a network of organizations and communities who want Florida's solar energy market to be more open, fair, and affordable in 2018 and beyond.

A Record of Honest Evaluation



In 2018 we will launch our inaugural Legislative Scorecard, which will evaluate and rank state legislators based on their actions (or inaction) on protecting Florida's environment. The scorecard will help focus voters' attention on the most important environmental issues of the year, including conservation lands, water protections, wildlife, energy, climate change, public health, and environmental spending. Florida voters will know which lawmakers heeded their call to step up and become conservation leaders, and take that information with them to the ballot box.

We Elect Conservation Leaders



FCV's mission is to elect conservation leaders to public office. If there was ever a time to make a difference, 2018 is the year to do it. In addition to the Governor and Cabinet, half of the state Senate and the entire House of Representatives will be up for election. Using our Legislative Scorecard as a guide, FCV will engage in elections based on the candidate's environmental record—not their campaign lipservice. This cycle of accountability is how we build power for the conservation community and make sure we have a voice in the room and a seat at the table when our leaders decide on important environmental policies.

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Building the Conservation Voter Movement

Florida's lawmakers decide on dozens of crucial environmental policy items every year. But it's not just environmental groups that are affected by those decisions. We all want clean air and drinking water. We all want access to more affordable energy options. We all want to be able to bring our family to a safe and accessible neighborhood park. The future of conservation in Florida needs a big tent. And FCV will be laying the groundwork to build that tent in 2018.

Democracy Works if You Work It

We all win when more people participate in our democracy. As part of our goal to increase civic engagement across Florida, FCV Ed Fund is partnering with the national League of Conservation Voters Education Fund to kickstart our voter registration program in 2018.

We are also working to support the Floridians for a Fair Democracy ballot initiative campaign to restore voting rights to more than 1.5 million Floridians with prior felony convictions. After a person has paid their debt to society, restoring their voting rights gives them an opportunity to reengage in civic participation and to once again become productive members of their community. You can help FCV Ed Fund place this important amendment on the ballot by visiting www.fcvedfund.org/rights.

Solar for All

Florida's immense potential for solar energy shouldn't only benefit some, but *all* Floridians. That's why we are so excited to welcome Grant Lewis as FCV Ed Fund's new Central Florida Lead Organizer. As part of a multi-year grant from the **Educational Foundation of America**, Grant will be working in Central Florida to bring clean, renewable energy options to underserved communities of color and help shift our energy policy away from fossil fuels.



Grant Lewis, our new Central Florida Lead Organizer

Congratulations to Our 2017 Endorsed Candidates!

FCV is proud to announce that both of our 2017 endorsed candidates won their elections. Congratulations to state **Senator Annette Taddeo** for her monumental victory in Miami-Dade County and St. Petersburg **City Councilwoman Darden Rice**, who became FCV's first ever local endorsement! We are looking forward to working with these leaders in the coming years. Florida's environment will thrive under their leadership.

Darden Rice

St. Petersburg
City Council



Annette Taddeo

Florida State Senate
District 40



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