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## **ENERGY, WATER TOP VOTER CONCERNS IN '06 ELECTION**

POST-ELECTION POLL RESULTS DEMONSTRATE BROAD PUBLIC SUPPORT  
FOR CONSERVATION ISSUES

**Denver, CO:** According to a poll released by the Colorado Conservation Voters and National Wildlife Action, conservation issues played a significant role in Colorado's 2006 election, and the candidates who were best able to connect with voters on these issues gained a tremendous advantage. Renewable energy, water, the environment, and protecting our land and wildlife played a critical role in the decision-making process for many Colorado voters.

"The purpose of the poll was to find out why people selected the candidate they did, what issues were most important to them, and the effect of conservation issues – energy, water, and public lands – in the election," said Carrie Doyle, Colorado Conservation Voters Executive Director. "Clearly, the results demonstrate that conservation issues played a key role in election outcomes."

Voters were asked two questions about eight different issues – how important was it in their voting decision, and which candidate did they trust to address that issue. The results show that Colorado voters placed a high value on conservation issues and found Bill Ritter more trustworthy than Bob Beauprez. For several issues which voters were extremely concerned about, namely renewable energy and the environment, Ritter held a 20% or greater margin over Beauprez.

The impact of conservation issues were also felt in the state legislature where pro-conservation candidates earned strong approval from voters looking for clean energy, balanced water policies, and wildlife habitat protections. The Colorado Conservation Voters Action Fund (CCVAF), a nonpartisan political action committee dedicated to electing environmental candidates of both major parties to public office in Colorado, endorsed Bill Ritter for Governor, 39 candidates for the House of

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Representatives and 11 candidates for the Senate. Of the candidates endorsed by CCVAF, 48 were elected to the state legislature in addition to Bill Ritter's winning gubernatorial campaign. At the federal level, candidates also benefited from their support for renewable energy and protecting public lands.

Poll results include:

- \* All voters placed a high priority on conservation issues, listing environmental protections and renewable energy among their top concerns.
- \* Unaffiliated voters, listed renewable energy as a top concern, second only to immigration.
- \* Western Slope voters placed renewable energy, water protection, and the environment as three of their four top concerns in this year's election.
- \* Sportsmen valued renewable energy and water protection as their top environmental concerns, and demonstrated strong support for Bill Ritter by more than 15% on both issues.

The results very clearly show that amongst those surveyed issues such as the environment, renewable energy, and water were key deciders in the outcome of the election. There were strong correlations between the pro-renewable energy and environment stances held by Ritter and the election results.

"Colorado voters delivered a clear message this year by electing candidates with strong conservation values," said Sue Brown, National Wildlife Action Executive Director. "In return, our elected officials at the state and federal levels have an incredible opportunity to enact legislation protecting Colorado's natural resources and wildlife."

Please visit the Colorado Conservation Voters website for a copy of the poll results: <http://www.coloradoconservationvoters.org/resources.htm>

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**Colorado Conservation Voters**, a 501 (c)(4) organization, is the independent political voice for Colorado's environment. CCV works to build a pro-environment majority in state government and the governor's office. [www.coloradoconservationvoters.org](http://www.coloradoconservationvoters.org)

**National Wildlife Action** is a 501 (c)(4) organization that advocates for the conservation interests of hunters, anglers and outdoor enthusiasts from all walks of life and political stripes. We are committed to encouraging participation in the democratic process and inspiring Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future. [www.nwa.org](http://www.nwa.org)