



TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Bill Holland, LCV State Policy Director, and Matt Davis, LCV VP of Civic Engagement

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RE: Biggest Investment Ever in Environmental and Democracy Ballot Initiatives

With a variety of environmental and voting rights measures on ballots around the country this November, state LCV partners in the Conservation Voter Movement along with the League of Conservation Voters (LCV) are channeling the energy and enthusiasm of their supporters to making their **biggest-ever investment in these campaigns — a combined total of \$8 million**. State LCVs and/or LCV are spending between \$500,000 and \$2 million in each of seven states on ballot measures.

Recognizing the importance and urgency for state and local action in the absence of leadership at the federal level, combined with energy of people on the ground, advocates in a number of states are taking measures to protect public health and increase clean energy directly to voters. Similarly, our network of organizations is making big investments in measures driven by grassroots efforts to address voting rights and redistricting in order to strengthen and bring fairness to our democratic processes.

The unprecedented investment comes as polluters are spending millions of dollars in opposition to several of these measures, and high profile candidate races tend to dominate the news coverage.

Our state LCV partners are most actively supporting the following initiatives:

Colorado: Defending Against Special Interests

Conservation Colorado is actively opposing Amendment 74, an initiative that would require taxpayers to compensate property owners for any law or regulation that might have the direct or incidental impact of reducing — even minimally or temporarily — the market value of their property. Amendment 74 is sponsored by the Colorado Farm Bureau but is being funded by oil and gas corporations — who have spent \$10.8 million on their campaign. Amendment 74 could impact regulations covering everything from waste storage removal and natural resource protections to infrastructure planning and building codes. Taxpayers could be left responsible for billions of dollars in private claims. After a similar initiative passed in Oregon in 2004, there were almost 7,000 claims requesting \$19.8 billion in claims in Oregon before the residents repealed the takings initiative two years later. Conservation Colorado leads the opposition campaign and has built a broad coalition of elected officials and local organizations to defeat the measure. Conservation Colorado and LCV have contributed **\$2.65 million** in opposition to the ballot initiative.

Florida: Voting Rights

Florida voters have the opportunity to restore voting rights to more than 1.5 million formerly incarcerated citizens who have been denied the right because of the state's extremely restrictive clemency laws. Florida Conservation Voters is engaged with a broad coalition to successfully pass Question 4, which requires 60 percent support. Funding has supported hiring a new full-time staff



member to do organizational outreach, door-to-door persuasion and direct support to the Floridians for a Fair Democracy campaign. LCV and FCV have contributed more than **\$800,000** to the campaign.

Michigan: Voting Rights and Redistricting

Michigan LCV is supporting two key democracy ballot initiatives. The first is a measure that would create a randomly selected citizen-led committee with the exclusive authority to approve district boundaries in Michigan. The committee would be bipartisan and establish fair criteria to ensure electoral maps do not disenfranchise communities or favor one political party. The second measure would amend the state constitution to extend deadlines to register to vote by mail, allow residents to register in person at any time with proof of residency, and vote absentee by mail or in person without a reason. The passage of both initiatives could have profound effects throughout the state, positioning Michigan to again be a leader in voting rights and election administration. MLCV and related entities are supporting these measures through community outreach, organizational outreach, communications support and direct contributions to the ballot measure committees, spending **more than \$800,000** overall.

Nevada: Clean Energy and Democracy

Nevada Conservation League is working to pass Question 6, an initiative that would increase the state's commitment to clean energy to 50 percent by 2030. Nevada's current Renewable Energy Standard commits the state to 25 percent by 2025. NCL envisions the initiative as the first step towards Nevada's 100 percent fossil fuel free energy future. NCL helped gather signatures and identified thousands of voters in support of clean energy for Question 6, reached out to community partners on both initiatives and plans to do GOTV phone calls to hundreds of thousands of voters. They are also supporting Question 5, which would create an opt-out, automatic voter registration system in Nevada. All told, NCL and related entities are spending more than **\$1.1 million** on both measures.

Washington: Carbon Pollution

Washington Conservation Voters is one of the lead organizations supporting Initiative 1631, which would charge the state's biggest polluters for carbon emissions and invest in clean energy infrastructure, clean water and healthy forests resilience, and community protection from climate impacts, as well as a just transition for workers. Over one-third of all investments would benefit communities hit hardest by pollution. If successful, the initiative will charge polluters like the oil industry and utilities \$15 per metric ton on carbon emissions starting in 2020, ramping up by \$2 per year until Washington state meets its climate goals. Oil companies have spent [\\$25.8 million](#) to avoid paying for their carbon pollution. In its early years, I-1631 would generate close to a billion dollars a year. If the state meets its 2035 greenhouse gas reduction goals and is on track to reach its 2050 mark, the I-1631 price locks in at \$55 per ton. WCV has been running nightly phone banks and leading canvass operations, in addition to gathering over 25,000 signatures to help place I-1631 onto the ballot. LCV, WCV and Washington Environmental Council have contributed more than **\$1.7 million** to the effort.



Additional initiatives state LCVs are involved in include:

Chispa Arizona, a program of LCV, is prioritizing support for Question 127 — a ballot initiative committing the state to 50 percent clean energy by 2030. Despite being the sunniest state in the country, Arizona only gets 6 percent of its energy from solar power. Arizona’s current clean energy standard seeks to get 15 percent of its energy from clean energy by 2025. Arizona Public Service, the state’s largest private monopoly utility, has spent \$22 million [opposing the initiative](#) through October. Chispa Arizona has been engaging members and spokespeople to educate local communities about the public health and economic benefits renewable energy can provide. They will also be launching three offices in Maricopa, Pima and Yuma counties to do nearly 50,000 GOTV door knocks and 190,00 calls prior to election day, in addition to contributing directly to the Clean Energy for a Healthy Arizona ballot campaign. In Pima County, Chispa Arizona will also talk to voters about Proposition 407, a \$225 million municipal bond to develop and improve parks and open space across the city of Tucson. Investment will build and bring much needed resources to parks, connections, and greenways in the city, creating quality public lands and open spaces for all communities to enjoy. Chispa Arizona engagement in support of local parks is intended to “meet people where they are” when it comes to environmental work, and help challenge traditional ideas of what it means to be a conservationist. Chispa AZ is spending more than **\$1 million** in support of its efforts.

California LCV supports Proposition 1, the Housing Programs and Veterans' Loans Bond, which authorizes \$4 billion in bonds for specified housing assistance programs, along with Proposition 2 to support low-income housing. CLCV opposes Proposition 5, which severely reduces local government funding and Proposition 6 which attempts to repeal the Road Repair and Accountability Act.

Conservation Colorado supports Amendments Y and Z which would establish a bipartisan commission to determine congressional and state legislative redistricting maps. They also support Proposition 110, an effort to invest millions of dollars in multimodal and local transportation projects, and Proposition 112, which requires new oil and gas development projects to be located at least 2,500 feet from occupied buildings and other areas designated as vulnerable.

North Carolina LCV Foundation is investing **\$100,000** in an effort to defeat six misleading constitutional amendments that the General Assembly voted to put on the ballot this year. The measures would threaten the independence and integrity of our democratic institutions by, among other things, eliminating nonpartisan representation on the state Board of Elections, requiring photo ID for voting, and shifting appointment powers for judges in certain cases to legislators instead of the governor.

Oregon LCV supports the Portland Clean Energy Fund which would authorize a one percent business license surcharge on large retail corporations and invest proceeds in clean energy and clean energy job training programs.

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