



TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Bill Holland, LCV State Policy Director
DATE: November 20, 2018
RE: After Election Day, States Leading the Way Toward 100% Clean Energy for All

With nearly a dozen pro-environment governors slated to be sworn in come January, governors' mansions and state legislatures are now the center for U.S. climate action. Newly elected governors and candidates for state legislature nationwide campaigned on the opportunities that bold clean energy plans would provide their states — from offshore wind in Maine to solar in Nevada. And with wins up and down the ballot, our opportunity for climate action at the local level is greater than ever.

As part of LCV and the Conservation Voters Movement's [Clean Energy for All](#) campaign, **over 550 winning state and local candidates have committed to moving toward 100 percent clean energy, including nine successful governors-elect.** See the full list [here](#).

The Clean Energy for All campaign built off of our New Jersey affiliate's [Green in '17](#) initiative, which asked all candidates running for governor in 2017 to commit to 100 percent clean energy. In the same way that NJLCV was able to translate Governor Phil Murphy's bold clean energy commitment during the campaign into policies making New Jersey a [clean energy leader](#), LCV and our state partners will now prioritize work to deliver on these campaign commitments and unleash local clean energy strategies so everyone can choose to live in a pollution-free community.

With new state and local clean energy champs, we will aggressively campaign to ensure state legislatures and governors enact laws that keep the U.S. on track to fulfill the Paris Agreement and increase access to clean energy for all communities. This includes supporting policies that expand state renewable energy standards, limit carbon pollution, expand community solar programs targeted in low-income communities, and use Volkswagen settlement funds for electric school buses, particularly in the most impacted school districts. In many states, we will also push pro-clean energy governors to enact executive orders expanding renewable energy and harnessing the many jobs and economic benefits wind and solar energy provide.

States where we are most excited about potential policy opportunities include Colorado, Illinois, Maine, Michigan, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada and Oregon. Summaries of the initiatives our state league partners plan to pursue are included below.

COLORADO

Governor-elect Jared Polis; Attorney General-elect Phil Weiser; Pro-conservation State Senate

What's on the agenda: With a pro-conservation trifecta, Colorado has a remarkable opportunity to enact nationally-leading climate policy. From limits on carbon pollution to cleaning up transportation to other agenda items outlined as part of the [Colorado Conservation Future](#) vision, Conservation Colorado and its partners are committed to making Colorado a leader on solving climate change. Like Governor-elect Jared Polis, newly elected Attorney General Phil Weiser ran on an environmental platform and is expected to stand up to the Trump administration's attacks on clean air, clean water and public lands.



Our Earth Is Worth Fighting For

ILLINOIS

Governor-elect JB Pritzker; Attorney general-elect Kwame Raoul; state legislature supermajorities

What's on the agenda: Governor-elect JB Pritzker [committed](#) to 100 percent clean energy by 2050 as part of the Clean Energy for All campaign. The Illinois Environmental Council [plans to advocate](#) to make Illinois carbon free by 2030 and push for 100 percent renewable energy. As part of the “Listen. Lead. Share.” campaign, activists statewide have turned out to engage candidates around transitioning to renewables, and we expect the momentum to continue to grow. Attorney General-elect Kwame Raoul, a strong supporter of clean energy, will ensure that Illinois continues to stand up to the Trump administration’s environmental attacks. Finally, new pro-environment supermajorities have the potential to make Illinois a clean energy leader.

MAINE

Governor-elect Janet Mills

What's on the agenda: Climate change was [a deciding issue](#) in Maine’s governor race, and Governor-elect Janet Mills’ [commitment](#) to 100 percent clean energy by 2050 puts the state on a path toward reducing its carbon footprint. As Attorney General, Mills regularly took on Governor LePage and the Trump administration on conservation issues including fighting the Clean Power Plan repeal, opposing offshore oil and gas exploration off of Maine’s coast, and arguing against the proposal to undo the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. Maine Conservation Voters and allies are developing plans to increase Maine’s commitment to renewable energy through expanding the class of newly generated resources in its clean energy standard. MCV will also push for fixes to Maine’s solar policy including implementing a community solar program to expand solar access for low-income communities.

MICHIGAN

Governor-elect Gretchen Whitmer; Attorney General-elect Dana Nessel

What's on the agenda: Governor-elect Gretchen Whitmer [committed](#) to 100 percent clean energy by 2050 as part of the Clean Energy for All campaign. Whitmer also plans to establish an Office of Climate Change, join the U.S. Climate Alliance and expand the [state’s renewable energy standard](#). In recent years, Michigan LCV has won bipartisan support for clean energy policies in the legislature and will push to enact strong efficiency and renewable policies that support the continued retirement of dirty coal plants, increase incentives and financing mechanisms like on-bill financing, and increase access to solar energy at the residential and community level by lifting the net metering cap and establishing community solar. Newly elected Attorney General Dana Nessel is also expected to stand against Trump administration attacks to clean air, clean water and public lands.

NEBRASKA

Nebraska and Omaha Public Power Boards



Our Earth Is Worth Fighting For

What's on the agenda: Despite ranking third among states in wind energy potential, Nebraska ranks 20th in installed capacity. Building on five pro-clean energy members elected in 2016, Nebraska LCV won a clean energy majority on both the Nebraska and Omaha Public Power Boards thanks to their work in the 2018 elections. [Three new clean energy champions](#) on the Omaha Public Power Board and another elected to the Nebraska Public Power Board will grow that state's wind energy economy. NLCV will now prioritize mobilizing public support for 100 percent clean energy so that Nebraska begins to match the ambitious clean energy capacity of neighboring states like Iowa.

NEW MEXICO

Governor-elect Michelle Lujan Grisham; Commissioner of Public Lands-elect Stephanie Garcia Richard; Public Regulation Commission

What's on the agenda: Governor-elect Michelle Lujan Grisham [ran aggressively](#) on moving half of New Mexico's energy to renewables by 2030, a top priority for Conservation Voters New Mexico. Her plan also includes [moving toward 80 percent renewables by 2040](#) and limiting [methane emissions](#). Commissioner of Public Lands-elect Stephanie Garcia Richard will also oversee methane emissions and has an opportunity to limit the potent greenhouse gas. Finally, the new majority on the Public Regulation Commission will steer the utility toward more clean energy.

NEVADA

Governor-elect Steve Sisolak; Attorney General-elect Aaron Ford

What's on the agenda: Like nearly two-thirds of Nevada voters, Governor-elect Steve Sisolak [supported](#) Question 6, Nevada's ballot initiative committing the state to 50 percent renewable energy. He also [expressed support](#) for getting the state towards 100 percent clean energy. Nevada Conservation League will work to ensure the 50 percent standard is enacted legislatively as a next step towards 100 percent clean energy, along with establishing a community solar program and policies that expand access to clean energy for all Nevadans. Newly elected Attorney General Aaron Ford is also expected to stand up to the Trump administration's attacks on clean air, clean water and public lands.

OREGON

Governor Kate Brown

What's on the agenda: Newly re-elected Governor Kate Brown [committed](#) to 100 percent clean energy by 2050 as part of the Clean Energy for All campaign. Governor Brown made acting on climate change a [core part of her campaign](#), and the first question of the first gubernatorial debate was on the issue. Oregon LCV and partners are prioritizing enactment of the Clean Energy Jobs bill, which seeks to charge polluters for greenhouse gas emissions and reinvest proceeds into programs that further reduce carbon pollution and drive investment in local communities.