



Missouri Votes Conservation

Building the Political Power of the Conservation Community



Missouri Votes Conservation

Who We Are

- Statewide organization founded in 2004
- Transform environmental values into public policy
- Non-partisan: work with Republicans and Democrats
- 501c(3), 501c(4), and PAC
- State affiliate of League of Conservation Voters

Missouri Votes Conservation

What We Do

Look for common ground

- Identify consensus issues among diverse conservation and environmental groups

Focus on political arena

- Legislative: push for strong laws and defend against bad ones
- Electoral: endorse pro-environment candidates and work to get them elected
- Administrative: work with governor, state agencies

Missouri Votes Conservation

Key Programs

- Annual Statewide Environmental Summit
- Annual Conservation Scorecard
- Conservation Lobby Day
- Lobbying coalition: Missouri Conservation and Environmental Alliance

Missouri Conservation and Environmental Alliance (MCEA)

- MVC founded it in 2007 to increase effectiveness of conservation community
- Coalition of diverse groups which pool resources to hire lobbyists
- Allows a 501 (c)3 org. to lobby under IRS rules
- Cost effective way to leverage resources of each group
- Powerful voice in Capitol: numerous legislative successes

MCEA Members in 2009

- Audubon Missouri
- Conservation Federation of Missouri
- Missouri Coalition for the Environment
- Missouri Parks Association
- Missouri Recycling Association
- Missouri Sierra Club
- Missouri Votes Conservation
- U.S. Green Building Council, St. Louis

2009 Legislative Successes for MCEA

- HB 661 passed – omnibus DNR bill (includes extension of waste tire fee)
- SB 118 failed – yard waste allowed to mingle with other landfill waste
- HB 246 passed – sand and gravel mining limits
- HB 191 passed – econ. develop. bill (retains historic preservation tax credits)

(more)

2009 Legislative Successes for MCEA

- SB 376 passed – energy efficiency bill
- HB 647 failed – audit privilege bill
- SB 228 failed – repeal of CWIP law

2009 Legislative Setbacks and Stalemates

- SB 430 failed – included tax deduction for hybrids, green building and energy efficiency provisions, etc.
- SB 364 failed – recycling requirements for TVs
- HJR 32 failed – included state park improvements in omnibus bonding bill
- HB 642 failed – complete streets bill

Planning for 2010

Determine MORA's legislative priorities for next session
(help us help you)

- Research model laws in other states
- Develop ideas for proposed legislation
- Prepare for legislative defense

Planning for 2010

Political strategy

- Identify industry allies
- Identify legislative leadership

Active engagement during session

- Jefferson City
- Local communities

Contact info

Missouri Votes Conservation

Liz Forrestal, Exec. Director

(314) 725-9494

www.movotesconservation.org

Lobbyists

Jim Farrell (314) 369-5642

Kyna Iman (314) 651-1185