

Conservation Voters for Idaho Endorsement Policy

Conservation Voters for Idaho (CVI) is a statewide, bipartisan organization that works to pass laws protecting the environment in Idaho. In order to protect Idaho's quality of life; our air and water, wildlife, open space, and human health—we must elect people to office at the city, county, and state level who will support pro-conservation policies.

The Board of Directors is responsible for making candidate endorsements for Conservation Voters for Idaho. Conservation Voters for Idaho does not endorse in every race, and instead focuses on supporting candidate campaigns where we can make the most positive impact.

CVI has a preference for a single endorsement in a race as opposed to multiple endorsements. As a result, we choose the best candidate to endorse even if there are other candidates in the race who are espousing pro-conservation messages.

The “best” candidate is not merely who represents themselves as the most pro-environment, but is defined by who will best advance the effort to protect open space, clean water and clean air, wildlife, and human health.

Past actions or votes by incumbents are given greater weight than pledges of action in the future and/or unsubstantiated claims.

When considering which candidates to support, consideration will be given to the following:

- Response to CVI's candidate questionnaire.
- Past actions or votes demonstrating a commitment to conservation issues.
- Is the candidate viable in this election? Considerations regarding candidate viability include, but are not limited to:
 - Participation in campaign training
 - Time and ability to raise money to implement a campaign
 - Operating from a written campaign plan
 - An understanding of the office being sought
- Demonstrated ability to work with and support the conservation community in efforts to advance the goals of conservation and environmental protection.
- Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively within context of elected office or other position of leadership to support pro-conservation positions.
- Working knowledge of environmental issues and commitment to protecting clean water, clean air, open space, wildlife, and human health.
- Any previous co-sponsorship or leadership for pro-environment initiatives or active leadership in defeating anti-environmental initiatives.
- Would the candidate be an effective official once elected, with leadership potential?

The Board of Directors will make its decision regarding endorsements after evaluating candidate responses to the CVI questionnaire, and analyzing the political landscape to determine which races CVI support will make the most difference.