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41-05-12

RESOLUTION:

The Problem:

Voting on nature & wildlife issues is a citizen right. The current process co-sponsored by the hunting lobby (self-named the "Conservation Congress") and the Department of Natural Resources is flagrantly undemocratic and cumbersome. Citizens have only a several hour time frame to appear in person to elect candidates and vote on important nature and wildlife issues. Elderly folk and those who cannot attend are left out of the process. Candidates do not debate the issues publicly and the issues are only those proposed by the hunting lobby, and not published to the public at large before the vote. ~~Hunters run the vote and count the vote. Non-hunters are not allowed to place literature in the voting site, but hunters design and create all of the literature having to do with the vote and election.~~

Whereas non-hunters have not been a part of the voting process, and are unaware of the importance of the election or the issues,

And whereas the non-hunting environmentalist is reviled and made to feel unwelcome and uncomfortable, and UNSAFE,

Be it Resolved, the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting, held April 9, 2012, recommends that the Dept. of Natural Resources take action to correct this situation by creating a traditional structure of voting, tied to the general county elections the first week in April, with non-partisans running and counting the vote, and use a traditional format of walk-in secret ballot voting. We want absentee voting options. This election has been secretive. We want candidates announced publicly at least 6 weeks before the election, and issues debated openly in public forums in each county.

Submitted by: Beth Sellers

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County Vote: Yes No: