



Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters

Conservation Voter

Summer 2008

Mark Ridley-Thomas Secures LALCV Endorsement for 2nd District County Supervisor

This November, residents of Los Angeles County's 2nd District will be asked to cast their vote for a new County Supervisor as State Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas and City Councilmember Bernard Parks face off in a critical election to replace retiring Yvonne B. Burke. Burke has represented the 2nd District for 16 years.

Supervisors wield tremendous power and because there are no term limits, tend to have considerable longevity once elected. An open seat on the Board of Supervisors is a rare occurrence and is also an opportunity for the environmental community to choose a Supervisor who will take on the many pressing quality of life issues facing the district.

The Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters endorsed Mark Ridley-Thomas to succeed Burke in the 2nd District. The endorsement came on April 24, 2008 following a live debate between Ridley-Thomas and Parks, sponsored by LALCV and the League of Women Voters. Prior to making the endorsement, LALCV board members also reviewed the candidates' histories and written interviews.

Both Ridley-Thomas and Parks have extensive histories in public service, and are well regarded by their constituents. The League found that Ridley-Thomas, with his grassroots organizing background and rise to state-level politics, not only has a wide range of experience in environmental policy and legislation, but is also a coalition builder with a strong history of working on quality of life issues for his constituents.

As Mitchell Schwartz, LALCV President observed, "Senator Ridley-Thomas will bring leadership and progressive ideas to the Board of Supervisors and work closely with environmentalists to make the right choices for the 2 million residents of Los Angeles County who live in the 2nd district."

With only five County Supervisorial seats, each Supervisor represents more people than a U.S. Congressional

Representative. While many of the services provided by the County focus on unincorporated areas, cities are also affected by decisions made by the Board.

Environmental problems abound in the 2nd District, including some of the most contaminated air, soil and groundwater in the state, oil drilling, park shortages and many others. To date, the Board of Supervisors has shown a lack of leadership in these areas including their recent weak response to a plastic bag ban, passivity towards substantive public transit, and a reluctance to take more aggressive steps to improve air and water quality.

The LALCV believes that a visionary with tremendous negotiating skills and a broad network of supporters is the District's best choice to steer the Second District towards a healthier quality of life.

"The Senator is a great choice for the Second District because he intimately knows the special environmental needs of our area," said Sandra Hamlat, planning associate of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy and League board member. "For example, he's worked to protect the community from oil drilling in Baldwin Hills, created parkland in our park-poor district and is committed to building much-needed housing along transportation corridors, which will reduce air pollution. He is also the rare politician that gets the job done by empowering communities."

"For me the deciding difference between the candidates was summed up when Senator Ridley-Thomas said, 'It is not acceptable to push problems to other levels of government; leadership steps up,'" said David Allgood, Southern California Director of the California League of Conservation Voters and Los Angeles League board member.

The League believes that Ridley-Thomas deserves our support and as Supervisor in the 2nd District will step up and be a champion for the residents of the district and the County.



LALCV Hosts County Supervisor's Debate Between Ridley-Thomas and Parks

On April 24, 2008 the Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters hosted a televised debate between Los Angeles Councilmember Bernard Parks and State Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas who are set to face off in November in their battle to be the next Los Angeles County Supervisor for the 2nd District.

The debate, sponsored by the Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters (LALCV) and the League of Women Voters, took place before a capacity crowd of 250 people at the Westside Jewish Community Center.

Nine candidates filed papers to run for the open seat in the June primary; Ridley-Thomas and Parks are now in a runoff election on the November ballot as they seek to represent the 2 million residents of the 2nd District and succeed Yvonne B. Burke who is leaving office after 16 years.



The debate was hosted by Mark Brown of KABC. Moderators were LALCV board members Effie Turnbull, a land use and real estate attorney, Sandra Hamlat, planning associate for the Baldwin Hills Conservancy and David Allgood, Southern California Director for the California League of Conservation Voters.

Although the debate focused on a number of environmental issues, the moderator's questions included quality of life questions such as the need for healthcare and the King Hospital closure, as well as public safety concerns

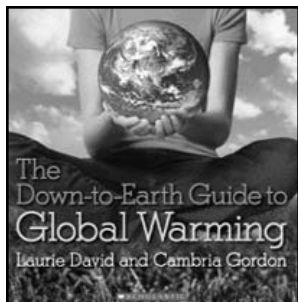
including gang violence in the district.

Los Angeles County's 2nd District is a central region of the county that extends from mid-Los Angeles south to Carson, comprised of nine cities and more than a dozen sections of unincorporated county land.

Parks was elected to the city council in 2003 and re-elected this past March. The councilman spent 38 years as a Los Angeles police officer, and became chief of the department in 1997.

State Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas has worked as a classroom teacher, civil rights leader, City Councilmember, State Assemblyman and State Senator.

Following the debate, which was the final piece of the LALCV's review process, the members of the LALCV board officially endorsed Mark Ridley-Thomas in the race.



BOOK REVIEW:

The Down-to-Earth Guide to Global Warming
by Laurie David and Cambria Gordon

Are you a parent or teacher who has been trying to figure out an engaging way to talk about global warming with your children? Or a young person who wants to learn more about climate change and what you can do to help?

This new book could be just what you are looking for. Check out *The Down-to-Earth Guide to Global Warming* by Laurie David and Cambria Gordon. This book is filled with entertaining ways to explain climate change, as well as many great ways young people can be a part of the solution. You won't find a more colorful and interactive book on the subject and when you buy the book you don't have to feel bad about the resources used to produce it: the book was printed using soy ink and post-consumer recycled paper.

Conservation Tips

FEELING THE HEAT?

This summer is already one of the hottest in memory. And forecasters are predicting more of the same in the coming weeks. We all need to conserve energy in order stay cool, lower our energy bills, reduce the strain on the electrical grid, and help win the fight against global warming.

Fortunately, there are a number of simple steps we can take which — if we all work together — can make a significant difference.

- ◆ Reduce air conditioning costs by using fans, keeping windows and doors shut and closing shades during the day.
- ◆ Turn off unnecessary lighting and use desktop lamps with compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) instead of overhead lights.
- ◆ Turn off unnecessary appliances — especially computers, monitors, and printers when not in use.
- ◆ Use CFLs; they save more than 65 percent on lighting bills and last 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs. If every Californian replaced five bulbs with CFLs, it would be like taking 275,000 cars off the road.
- ◆ Keep your refrigerators and freezers as full as possible. A full refrigerator uses less energy than an empty one.
- ◆ When at home, set your thermostat 5 degrees higher than normal. It will result in a 10 percent savings in cooling costs.
- ◆ When away from home, set your air conditioner's thermostat at 80 degrees or higher.
- ◆ Wash only full loads in your clothes washer and dishwasher. Fewer loads reduce energy and water use. Use the air-dry option instead of the heat-dry.
- ◆ Avoid using appliances between noon and 7 p.m. — the peak demand hours for electricity.
- ◆ Dress appropriately to the weather. Wear light clothing to reduce the need for air conditioning.

Energy conservation is the quickest, cheapest, cleanest way to extend the world's energy supplies. It creates greater energy security, a healthier economy, and a cleaner environment.

GREEN TIP: Get Rid of Junk Mail!

Sick of all of those junk mail ads?

Want to eliminate all of that paper waste that ends up in your mailbox every day?

Here are two free solutions!

1 <http://www.catalogchoice.org/> -- Catalog Choice is a free service that allows you to decide what makes it to your mailbox, while helping to save natural resources. Catalog Choice is sponsored by the Ecology Center and endorsed by the National Wildlife Federation and the Natural Resources Defense Council. The only drawback is you have to select one catalog at a time.

2 <https://www.optoutprescreen.com/> -- Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), Consumer Credit Reporting Companies are allowed to include your name on lists used by creditors or insurers to make firm offers of credit or insurance that are not initiated by you ("Firm Offers"). The good news is that the FCRA also provides you the right to "Opt-Out", which prevents Consumer Credit Reporting Companies from providing your credit file information for Firm Offers and eliminates all those unwanted offers arriving by mail every day.

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Hello Friends and Supporters,

It's summertime and the livin' is easy. We at the Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters (LALCV) were delighted to be joined by our friends in the environmental community at Dodger Stadium on July 9, 2008 for our annual 'Green' outing at the ballpark. Staffers from many groups including NRDC, Heal the Bay, Environment Now, Environment California, Environmental Defense Fund, Green LA, Coalition for Clean Air, Sierra Club, TreePeople, Liberty Hill Foundation and others joined us at the stadium. More than 250 activists enjoyed the Dodgers 2-1 victory over the Atlanta Braves.

Summertime is also when we hike in the woods, go to the beach and otherwise enjoy in this beautiful state of ours. Thus it makes sense to me that we take time to appreciate all the good work done by our colleagues to protect the beauty and viability of the environment all of us enjoy. Every group in attendance at the Dodgers game has worked hard to help protect and clean up our environment; whether it be Heal the Bay working to ensure the cleanliness of our beaches, or Coalition for Clean Air advocating on behalf of cleaner air, or NRDC suing to make sure the laws that we support actually get followed and enforced, and of course our sister organization, CLCV, which helps elect environmentally friendly candidates to political office. On behalf of the Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters, we salute you and thank you for all your hard work!

When summer ends and fall arrives, the environmental community will be faced with a number of interesting political races that will have a huge impact on the environment in California and Los Angeles County. There will be several propositions on the Statewide ballot (specifically Props 7 and 10) that deal with renewable energy and alternative fuels. In Los Angeles County, our friend and recent LALCV award recipient Denny Zane, has worked tirelessly to help prepare the way for a vote on raising the sales tax to generate desperately needed monies for public transportation. Our Board has not yet taken a position on this, but we certainly can recognize the great work that Denny has already done.

For our LALCV Board, the coming months will be exciting ones. In addition to the ballot items there is also a run-off election for County Supervisor. In that race, LALCV has endorsed Mark Ridley Thomas. We will also be unveiling our new, and long overdue, website with all types of bells and whistles. And in December we will have our annual Holiday Party fundraiser. Please keep an eye out for details about this event.

On behalf of the Board of LALCV we wish you a happy and healthy summer and look forward to your continued support.

Thank you,



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