



2020 | NEW MEMBER GUIDE ✓ LCV



OVERVIEW

The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) 2020 New Member Guide summarizes the backgrounds and environmental positions of newly elected federal candidates who were endorsed and/or financially supported by LCV Action Fund and/or state LCV partners. As in past election cycles, LCV Action Fund supported federal candidates who demonstrated a commitment to leading on climate change, promoting clean energy, fighting for environmental justice and the health of our communities, and protecting our air, water, land and wildlife. We are thrilled to have helped elect so many environmental champions to the U.S. House and Senate and maintain the pro-environment majority in the House. It is worth noting that there are other pro-environment new members of Congress who are not included in this document for various reasons, and we look forward to working with them as well.

In the 2020 election cycle, LCV Action Fund endorsed the most diverse slate of candidates ever in 24 U.S. Senate races and 153 U.S. House races -- 40 percent of our endorsed candidates this cycle are candidates of color and 52 percent are women. The new Congress will better reflect the diversity of our country, and include more women, LGBTQ people and people of color, than even the precedent-shattering class of 2018, including more Members of Congress who are “firsts” for their respective communities. For a complete list of LCV Action Fund endorsements, including those of incumbents who were re-elected, please visit: lcv.org/endorsements.

The 2020 New Member Guide includes 3 new members of the U.S. Senate and 10 new members of the U.S. House. LCV is committed to continue working with both new and returning members of Congress to protect the environment and public health.

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U.S. SENATE

JOHN HICKENLOOPER (D-CO)



John Hickenlooper is a former geologist, small business owner, Mayor of Denver and Governor of Colorado. He is a strong supporter of quickly transitioning to a clean energy economy, protecting Colorado's lands and waters, and regaining America's role as a global leader in addressing climate change.

As Mayor of Denver, Hickenlooper worked to expand mass transit, reduce crime, improve educational opportunities, and tackle climate change. As Governor, he helped make Colorado a national leader in climate action by increasing investments in electric vehicle infrastructure and clean energy development and creating the state's ground-breaking methane rules for oil and gas companies in the country—which were then used as a model by federal agencies. Hickenlooper also committed Colorado to meeting the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement even after Trump announced his intent to withdraw from the accord.

As a Senator, Hickenlooper would push for the U.S. to rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement, fight for the transition to a 100% renewable energy economy, grow clean energy jobs, and support science-based solutions for tackling the climate crisis.

Hickenlooper joins the U.S. Senate after defeating Senator Cory Gardner, who earned a spot on LCV's 2020 *Dirty Dozen* with an 11% lifetime score on LCV's *National Environmental Scorecard*.

IN HIS OWN WORDS:

“From day one as senator, I will fight to rejoin the Paris Climate Accord, enforce stricter standards on methane pollution and other harmful emissions, dramatically accelerate development of wind and solar energy, and reverse President Trump and Senator Gardner's retrogressive and reckless policies.”

LCVAF Questionnaire

CAPT. MARK KELLY (D-AZ)



Captain Mark Kelly is a former engineer, U.S. Navy veteran and retired NASA astronaut who is committed to creating good-paying clean energy jobs and taking the actions necessary to combat the climate crisis.

IN HIS OWN WORDS:

“ I have seen the planet change from space, and wanting to stop that and protect our state and our planet is part of what inspired me to run. As an engineer and astronaut, I care deeply about climate change and its impact on our country and our planet.

LCVAF Questionnaire

After a decorated naval aviation career, Kelly joined NASA with his twin brother, Scott to become an astronaut. Kelly logged over 54 days in space spanning four shuttle missions, including to the International Space Station. Kelly did not plan on a career in politics, but everything changed when his wife, U.S. Representative Gabby Giffords (AZ-7), was shot during an attempted assassination and mass shooting in 2011. After retiring from NASA to focus on Rep. Giffords' recovery, he joined his wife in launching Giffords, a nonprofit organization dedicated to stopping gun violence and creating safer communities in Arizona and across the country. Kelly was partially inspired to run for the Senate based on a perspective few on this planet possess: he's seen the impact of climate change from space. He knows what's at stake and that we need quick, decisive action.

In the Senate, Kelly will be a fierce defender of science-based approaches to tackling the climate crisis and a staunch advocate for making the investments we need to create family-sustaining jobs and a safer, cleaner future.

Kelly joins the U.S. Senate after defeating Senator Martha McSally, who earned a spot on LCV's 2020 *Dirty Dozen* with a 7% lifetime score on LCV's *National Environmental Scorecard*.

BEN RAY LUJÁN (D-NM)



Ben Ray Luján is a longtime clean energy and public lands advocate and a true champion for climate action.



Luján grew up in Nambé, a small farming community north of Santa Fe, bordered by the Nambé and Pojoaque Pueblos. Before he was elected to the U.S. Congress, he served as Chair of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission, where he worked to create a renewable portfolio standard and expand clean energy production. As a member of the House Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition and chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus' Task Force on Green Economy and Renewable Energy, he has introduced numerous pieces of legislation that would promote solar energy and provide job training for the clean energy sector.

In the House, Representative Luján earned a stellar 96% lifetime score on LCV's National Environmental Scorecard. In the 116th Congress, Luján was elected Assistant Speaker, where he helped lead the passage of important environmental legislation like the Climate Action Now and Great American Outdoors Acts and served on the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis. In the Senate, Luján will continue to champion the transition to a 100 percent clean energy economy and fight to protect clean air, clean water, public lands and sacred sites in New Mexico, including the Rio Grande Del Norte National Conservation Area.

Luján joins the U.S. Senate to fill the seat of retiring Senator Tom Udall, who earned a 96% lifetime score on LCV's *National Environmental Scorecard*.

IN HIS OWN WORDS:

“ I believe that we must aggressively promote the use of renewable energy in New Mexico and our country to reduce pollution, build a green economy, and protect our environment for future generations. I have been a lifelong champion of the environment, our public lands, and conservation, and will continue to do so in the Senate.

LCVAF Questionnaire

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CAROLYN BOURDEAUX (D-GA-7)



Carolyn Bourdeaux will be a strong ally in the fight against climate change in Congress and is committed to eliminating the influence of the oil and gas industries.

IN HER OWN WORDS:

“ I am deeply concerned about climate change, clean air, and clean water... We must leave a healthy environment for our kids, their kids and future generations.

LCVAF Press Release

Bordeaux, who holds a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Southern California and a PhD in public administration from Syracuse University, has worked as a professor at Georgia State University's Andrew Young School of Public Policy since 2003. She founded the Center for State and Local Finance at the Andrew Young School and served as the Director of Georgia's Senate Budget and Evaluation Office from 2007-2010.

As a U.S. Representative, Bordeaux will focus on investments in next generation infrastructure, such as zero emissions vehicles, trucks, and buses, and zero-carbon pollution commercial and residential buildings. She will also advocate for the United States to rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement and push for the bold, urgent agenda we need to address the climate crisis.

Bordeaux joins the U.S. House to fill the seat of retiring Representative Rob Woodall, who earned a lifetime score of 4% on LCV's *National Environmental Scorecard*.

JAMAAL BOWMAN (D-NY-16)



Jamaal Bowman is a leader in education reform, a strong advocate for racial justice, and a dedicated public servant in New York City, where he was born and raised.

IN HIS OWN WORDS:

“The climate crisis is the greatest existential threat to humanity. All policy needs to be planned through the lens of the Green New Deal, the only plan we have to offer our children a future on this planet. I see education as the necessary vehicle to prepare our children to lead sustainable lifestyles and to be trained for the jobs of the Green Economy.”

LCVAF Questionnaire

Bowman began his career as a crisis management teacher in a South Bronx elementary school. Since 2009, he has worked as the founding principal of Cornerstone Academy for Social Action (CASA) in the Bronx, one of the top public middle schools in New York. He is also a steering committee member of the New York State Allies for Public Education (NYSAPE) and a member of the New York State Early Childhood Blue Ribbon Committee. He was a leader in the opt-out movement, a movement against standardized testing that disproportionately harms low-income communities and communities of color. Throughout his career in public education, Bowman has been a champion for early childhood learning standards, trauma-informed teaching practices, and social justice curricula.

As a U.S. Representative, Bowman will champion intersectional environmental and climate justice, including a focus on: 100% clean and renewable energy by 2030, carbon-free infrastructure, a just transition, and integrating racial justice and equity into the Green New Deal through his Reconstruction Agenda.

Bowman joins the U.S. House after defeating Representative Eliot Engel, who earned a 93% lifetime score on LCV's *National Environmental Scorecard* during his time in Congress

MONDAIRE JONES (D-NY-17)



Mondaire Jones is a long-time advocate for racial, economic, and environmental justice.

At 19, he was elected chair of a committee on the NAACP's National Board of Directors. He then worked in the Obama administration within the Office of Legal Policy at the Department of Justice. After graduating from Harvard Law School, Jones worked as an attorney in Westchester County's Law Department and co-founded the non-profit Rising Leaders, Inc., which teaches leadership skills to underserved middle-school students. He is also a board member of Yonkers Partners in Education.

In Congress, Jones will fight for a Green New Deal, prioritize a just transition to 100% renewable energy and equity for frontline communities, drive strong international action on climate change, and combat deforestation and preserve our oceans. He is also committed to serving his district by replacing the decommissioned Indian Point Power Plant with renewable energy sources. Jones is one of the first Black openly LGBTQ members of Congress.

Jones joins the U.S. House to fill the seat of retiring Representative Nita Lowey, who earned a 94% lifetime score on LCV's *National Environmental Scorecard*.

IN HIS OWN WORDS:

“From the start, I’ve said that a Green New Deal is my number one legislative priority because if we don’t have a planet to inhabit, the rest of the issues I’ve been discussing are truly academic. We need more people in Congress who understand the urgency of climate change, and I’m honored to fight to ensure a livable future and climate justice for all.”

LCVAF Press Release

KAI KAHLE (D-HI-2)



Kai Kahele is a Native Hawaiian and long-time defender of the environment and the country, having served as a Hawaii State Senator and Lt. Colonel with the Hawaii Air National Guard.

Kahele began his work protecting Hawaii as the executive director of Pa‘a Pa‘a Pono Miloli‘I, a nonprofit organization which preserves and protects the cultural, historical, and environmental life and well-being of Miloli‘i, the last Hawaiian fishing village in the state. In February 2016, Kahele was appointed to the Hawaii State Senate by Governor David Ige after the death of his father, Senator Gil Kahele. Kahele subsequently served as the Majority Floor Leader and Chairman of the Committee on Water and Land. As a Hawaii State Senator, Kahele championed legislation that protects Hawaii’s lands, waters, and communities, including: 100% renewable energy; sea level rise adaptation plans; climate change mitigation efforts; and prohibiting waste or disposal facilities from being located in conservation districts.

In Congress, Kahele will continue his work protecting communities by addressing the climate crisis and creating a green economy. He will work to prepare coastal states for the impacts of rising sea levels and protect our country’s natural resources.

Kahele joins the U.S. House to fill the seat of Representative Tulsi Gabbard, who earned a 93% lifetime score on LCV’s *National Environmental Scorecard* and ran for President of the United States.



IN HIS OWN WORDS:

“As a Native Hawaiian growing up in an island state, protecting our environment and natural resources has always been a top priority of mine. I believe if we invest in policies that balance environmental sustainability with economic stability, we can unlock the potential of a green-economy for future generations while creating millions of new jobs that have been lost to globalization.”

LCVAF Press Release

TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ (D-NM-3)



Teresa Leger Fernandez has spent her career fighting to prevent toxic coal mine operations, protect clean water, and safeguard the voting rights of New Mexico's Indigenous communities.

IN HER OWN WORDS:

“As New Mexicans, our land, air, and water are a fundamental part of who we are. I will take the bold and courageous action in Congress that is necessary in this climate crisis to protect this beautiful planet we all call home.”

LCVAF Press Release

Leger Fernandez is an attorney with 30 years of experience representing tribes and their business entities, as well as working with community leaders on affordable housing, civil rights, and community development. As Commissioner of Las Acequias de Chupadero, Leger Fernandez successfully defeated a developer's attempt to take the Acequias' water out of the Chupadero Valley. Leger Fernandez was appointed a White House Fellow by President Clinton and Vice Chair of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation by President Obama. She has advocated to increase community solar, assisted in developing renewable energy legislation, and secured over \$70 million to rebuild contaminated and dilapidated water and wastewater infrastructure for low income villages and communities.

In Congress, she will be a fierce advocate for public lands and Indigenous rights and is committed to tackling the climate crisis and addressing environmental injustice.

Leger Fernandez joins the U.S. House to fill the seat of Representative Ben Ray Lujan, who earned a 96% lifetime score on LCV's *National Environmental Scorecard* and was elected to represent New Mexico in the U.S. Senate.

KATHY MANNING (D-NC-6)



Kathy Manning is committed to safeguarding our environment and combating climate change. She served as a partner at a major law firm for 16 years before starting her own small business. She then led a charitable organization focused on job retraining, mortgage issues, and healthcare.

Manning is opposed to offshore drilling and is committed to investing in renewable energy in North Carolina. In Congress, she will advocate for communities of color who have historically been disproportionately impacted by environmental pollution and injustice.

Manning joins the U.S. House to fill the seat of retiring Representative Mark Walker, who earned a 1% lifetime score on LCV's *National Environmental Scorecard*.

IN HER OWN WORDS:

“*In Congress, I'll fight for clean air and water, and champion clean energy development to create jobs in the 6th District and around the country. I'll also work to protect communities that are hardest hit by the negative impacts of climate change.*”

LCVAF Press Release

MARIE NEWMAN (D-IL-3)



Marie Newman is committed to taking bold and impactful action on climate change. She was born and raised in Chicago's Southwest Side. Newman worked her way to partner at one of the largest advertising agencies in the country before starting her own successful consulting firm.

In Congress, Newman will focus on passing a Green New Deal to reduce carbon emissions in the next decade, re-joining the Paris Climate Agreement, supporting the creation of clean energy jobs, banning ethylene oxide and shutting down polluting facilities, and rebuilding the EPA.

Newman joins the U.S. House after defeating Representative Dan Lipinski, who earned a 91% lifetime score on LCV's *National Environmental Scorecard*.



IN HER OWN WORDS:

“Climate change is this era's greatest global emergency, and we are all first responders. That's why I'm excited to join the fight to combat the crisis of climate change. We need bold, transformative change to leave this planet habitable for our children and grandchildren. That's why I have pledged to fight for a green economy that is powered by 100% clean and renewable energy.

LCVAF Press Release

DEBORAH ROSS (D-NC-2)



Deborah Ross has been a champion for North Carolina's environment as both a state legislator and clean energy attorney.

IN HER OWN WORDS:

“Climate change is one of the most imminent threats facing our country, and we must take immediate action to address it. We cannot put our rich coastal region—including our tourism and fishing industries—at risk.

LCVAF Questionnaire

Ross spent a decade in the North Carolina General Assembly, where she voted consistently to increase clean energy, address climate change, and protect North Carolina's land, air, and water. In her final term, she opposed legislation to roll back years of energy conservation work and supported a bill preventing manufacturers from deceiving customers about the biodegradability of their products. Her efforts earned her a 94% lifetime score on North Carolina LCV's Legislative Scorecard. As an attorney, Ross has worked with renewable energy companies and also to bring light rail and commuter rail to the region. She understands the urgent need to fight the climate crisis, invest in our clean energy future, and protect the country's natural beauty.

In Congress, Ross will continue this leadership by working to advance the clean energy economy, diversify transportation, and make addressing climate change a top priority. She is dedicated to protecting the United States' clean air, water, and land, including from the threat of offshore drilling.

Ross joins the U.S. House to fill the seat of retiring Representative George Holding, who earned a 2% lifetime score on LCV's *National Environmental Scorecard*.

RITCHIE TORRES (D-NY-15)



Ritchie Torres was born and raised by a single mother in a housing project in the Bronx. In 2013, he was elected to New York City Council, becoming the youngest and first openly LGBTQ elected official in the Bronx. During his tenure as an NYC Council Member, Torres tackled housing issues from a sustainability perspective. He addressed mold infestation and advocated for a carbon-conservative building material requirement in public housing. His consistent support of pro-environment legislation has earned him a 100% score from the New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV).

In Congress, Torres will continue to fight for the residents of the Bronx and to address environmental racism. He is committed to rethinking public housing as a model for green and energy efficient buildings to help combat climate change and improve residents' health and quality of life. Torres is the first Afro-Latinx openly LGBTQ and one of the first Black openly LGBTQ members of Congress.

Torres joins the U.S. House to fill the seat of retiring Representative José Serrano, who earned a 93% lifetime score on LCV's *National Environmental Scorecard*.

IN HIS OWN WORDS:

“In Congress, I look forward to fighting to address the greatest global environmental challenges including replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy, limiting carbon emissions, enacting a Green New Deal and righting the wrongs of environmental racism that have hurt Bronx residents.

LCVAF Press Release

NIKEMA WILLIAMS (D-GA-5)



Nikema Williams is a strong advocate for environmental justice and equity, voting rights and fair representation. Williams has served in the state Senate representing Georgia's 39th district since 2017. She co-sponsored legislation to guarantee safe and clean drinking water in Georgia's schools and to ban the use of single-use plastic bags in retail establishments. Williams' leadership earned her Freshman Legislator of the Year award from the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus.

Williams is the first Black woman to serve as Chair of the Georgia state Democratic party and is a member of the Executive and Resolution Committees of the Democratic National Committee. She also served as Vice President of Public Policy for Planned Parenthood Southeast and Deputy Director of Civic Engagement at National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA).

In Congress, Williams will carry on the legacy of the late Representative John Lewis and will continue the fight for environmental justice and voting rights for all.

Williams joins the U.S. House to fill the seat of the late Representative John Lewis, who earned a 92% lifetime score on LCV's *National Environmental Scorecard*.



IN HER OWN WORDS:

“Our most marginalized communities have, for too long in this country, had their lands and communities commandeered for big business, and been used as dumping grounds for pollution and industry. In Congress, I will work around the clock to ensure the people of Georgia are able to thrive regardless of their zip code.”

LCVAF Questionnaire

TOO CLOSE TO CALL

JON OSSOFF (D-GA)

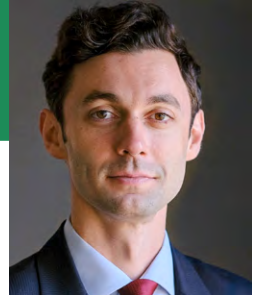


Jon Ossoff is a seasoned foreign policy and anti-corruption advocate who will hold polluters accountable and fight to grow clean energy jobs.

He is a veteran of the Capitol Hill offices of Representatives Hank Johnson (GA-04) and John Lewis (GA-05), where he focused on national security and international affairs issues. Afterward, he took over as managing partner and CEO of Insight TWI, a nearly 30-year old investigative production company targeting corrupt public officials and organized crime for international news organizations. Ossoff narrowly lost the 2017 special election for Georgia's 6th congressional district, where LCV Action Fund was one of his earliest endorsements. Underscoring his commitment to fighting for a clean energy future, Ossoff joined the Board of Directors of LCV's state affiliate, Georgia Conservation Voters.

In the Senate, Ossoff will push for renewed U.S. leadership on tackling climate change by immediately supporting rejoining the Paris Climate Agreement and reversing Trump's disastrous rollbacks of environmental safeguards. He will center science in his approach to policies and supports quickly transitioning to a clean energy economy while holding polluters accountable.

Ossoff joins the U.S. Senate after defeating Senator David Perdue, who earned a 3% lifetime score on LCV's *National Environmental Scorecard*.



IN HIS OWN WORDS:

“In the Senate, I’ll push for America to immediately re-enter the Paris Climate Accords, and I’ll support a clean energy plan to ensure that 100% of grid electricity produced in the United States by 2050 comes from energy sources that do not emit greenhouse gases.”

LCVAF Questionnaire

REV. RAPHAEL WARNOCK (D-GA)



Reverend Raphael Warnock is a community pastor who is a champion for civil rights and racial and environmental justice.

IN HIS OWN WORDS:

“Climate change is a civil and human rights issue. As a Senator, I will advocate for transformative environmental policies that benefit and include all communities—especially those that are disproportionately affected by climate change.”

LCVAF Questionnaire

In 2005, Reverend Raphael Warnock was the youngest person ever to be selected to serve as the Senior Pastor at the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, the former pulpit of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. During his tenure, the church started Project Green: Sustainable Ebenezer to get congregants involved with environmental projects. Warnock's sermons have centered on environmental justice, emphasizing the links between pollution, race and poverty, and helping his congregants see themselves as environmentalists. He has brought attention to critical issues of environmental injustice, highlighting that race is the most likely indicator of where a toxic waste dump will be located, and that black children are five times more likely than white children to suffer from lead poisoning.

In the Senate, Warnock will be a champion for ensuring equitable access to clean air, clean water and a safe climate. He will advance policies that center black, Latinx, and Indigenous communities who have been disproportionately harmed by the coronavirus pandemic, environmental pollution, and systemic racism. Warnock is the first black person elected to represent Georgia in the U.S. Senate.

Warnock joins the U.S. Senate after defeating Senator Kelly Loeffler, who earned a 10% lifetime score on LCV's *National Environmental Scorecard*.

RITA HART (D-IA-2)



Rita Hart is a lifelong farmer and has been a middle and high school English teacher for twenty years. She was elected to the Iowa State Senate in 2012 and re-elected in 2014. In 2018, Hart was the Democratic nominee for Lieutenant Governor.

Throughout her tenure in the Iowa State Senate, Hart focused on water quality and renewable energy issues. She co-sponsored legislation to promote the growth of Iowa's wind energy economy.

In Congress, Hart will continue to prioritize environmental issues. She is committed to addressing the effects of climate change on Iowa's farmers, fighting for a strong renewable fuel standard, and ending EPA waivers to big oil companies.

Hart joins the U.S. House to fill the seat of retiring Representative Dave Loebsack, who earned a 90% lifetime score on LCV's *National Environmental Scorecard*.

IN HER OWN WORDS:

“ I have lived in rural Iowa my whole life and Paul and I have owned a farm for over 30 years. I believe farmers and rural Iowans can lead the way in tackling the challenges of climate change and improving water quality in a way that works for everyone. Working together, we can create jobs, revitalize rural Iowa, and pass on a livable planet to our children and grandchildren.

LCVAF Press Release

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