



SIERRA CLUB ENDORSEMENTS

VOTE TO RE-ELECT SPOKANE'S THREE STATE REPRESENTATIVES



State Sen. Andy Billig, State Rep. Marcus Riccelli, and State Rep. Timm Ormsby have all been endorsed by the Washington State Sierra Club, having received a 100% rating from our organization. Please vote to re-elect these three representatives to our state legislature.

DAVID GREEN FOR SPOKANE CITY COMMISSIONER, POSITION



Our Spokane County Commissioners decide many important land and water use issues and sometimes weigh in on energy issues as well. David Green, a candidate for Position 2, mentioned the Yellowstone Pipeline proposal when he spoke with us last

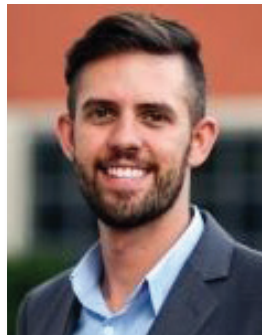
month. "I'm an accountant, and I know that limiting the liability for a spill to \$100,000 is meaningless."

Green is concerned that the candidates currently on the commission will "follow business and developer interests," since they are drawing campaign funds from associated PACs.

The reason Green is so aware of these elements of the commissioners' campaigns is because he is the Vice Chair of the State Democratic Committee. In this position, Green is privy to specific data and knowledge regarding electoral matters. He isn't bothered by the primary election results that skewed in favor of his opponent Mary Kuney. "Turn-out is key," he says, and he expects a big one for the general election.

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ZACH ZAPPONE FOR CITY STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 6



Zach Zappone is a relative newcomer to politics, but he is smart and energetic, and will be an environmental friend when he wins the position of State Representative for the 6th Legislative

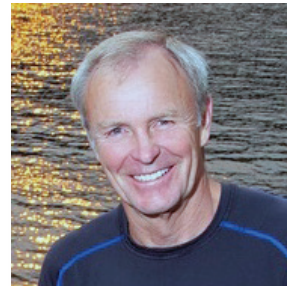
District. This is a wrap-around suburban district that has a basic conservative cast. Zappone reminded us, however, that Dave Wilson "came incredibly close to flipping the district" in 2018.

Zappone has taken up issues that he believes will excite his voters. "My top priorities are creating good jobs that pay livable wages and protecting workers in eastern Washington, advocating for strong schools with workforce training programs, and affordable health care. The environment fits into these priorities because many living wage jobs with high worker standards are environmentally friendly. Green energy sector jobs are an important part of the future.

It is vital to invest in renewable energy and green jobs to protect our planet and to be leaders of the future economy."

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JOHN ROSKELLEY FOR STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT 4



John Roskelley, a long-time member of the Sierra Club, outdoor enthusiast and political activist, is a candidate for State Senator in

Legislative District 4. He will have an uphill battle to win the race in this conservative district, but the Upper Columbia River Group of the Sierra Club urges our members to vote for him and work for his election. His opponent, Mike Padden, has proven not to support the environmental issues so important to the future of our planet. As Roskelley himself says, "Mother Nature can't keep up with humanity's attack on the earth and its wildlife."

Roskelley is no stranger to political office. He understands the issues faced by those of us who reside in Eastern Washington. He has served as Spokane County Commissioner, the Washington Growth Management Hearings Board, and as chair of the Spokane Regional Health Board.

His experience in public service is matched by his knowledge of state-wide issues. Furthermore, he has the courage to stand his ground. "The Hog Fuel bill (HB2848) was passed by the entire House and by all but two senators, yet Inslee vetoed that bill. Damn good thing, too. I fought that corporate giveaway exemption for 17 multi-million-dollar businesses tooth and nail with multiple emails to legislators and the Governor's Office. Its final demise was only due to COVID."

Regarding the shift away from fossil fuels, Roskelley said, "We have yet to realize the complete potential of conservation efforts and new technology. The potential for wind power is there," Roskelley told us,

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NOVEMBER 2020 ELECTION

SIERRA CLUB STRONGLY BACKS INSLEE, BIDEN-HARRIS



Sierra Club has endorsed Jay Inslee for Washington State Governor and Joe Biden for U.S. President in this year's elections.

Governor Jay Inslee is a strong environmental advocate who consistently champions climate action and works for creating jobs in a new clean-energy economy. Inslee values protecting our environment and he has a longstanding and deeply rooted love of the state and our wonderful outdoors.

The Governor knows that Washington State is directly affected by climate change and his work to transition away from fossil fuels sets him apart from his opponent. His leadership on these issues is making Washington state an environmental beacon in the fight against climate change.

This year Governor Inslee received Sierra Club's top award for public officials, the Edgar Wayburn Award. "Governor Inslee has been a lifelong advocate for a safe climate, healthy environment, and a functioning democracy for everyone," said Sierra Club President Ramón Cruz. "He was one of the top environmental champions in Congress in the last 20 years, and then carried the same passion for protecting the natural environment as Washington State's governor and Democratic presidential candidate."

During his 14 years in Congress, Inslee earned a lifetime League of Conservation Voters (LCV) voting record of 92 percent. As governor of Washington State, Inslee has helped usher through one of the nation's strongest state-level 100 percent clean energy laws. He signed the bill into law in 2019.

Former Vice President Joe Biden is Sierra Club's choice for President of the United States. Sierra Club has launched the biggest grassroots political operation in the organization's 128-year history. "We are confident that Joe Biden will be the champion for climate justice that America needs in the White House. As Americans head to the polls in November, our country will be facing crises on multiple fronts, including a climate emergency that disproportionately harms communities of color," said Sierra Club President Ramón Cruz. "This may be the most consequential election of our lives, and it is critical that we replace Donald Trump with a leader who understands the scale and urgency of the climate crisis and is ready to take bold action to solve it."

"No president has been worse for our environment or our nation's public health than Donald Trump. He has sold off our public lands to corporate polluters, waged unprecedented attacks on environmental protections, and prioritized the desires of fossil fuel company executives over the best interests of the American people at every turn. In contrast, Joe Biden has laid out a bold vision of safeguarding our air and water, transitioning to a clean energy economy, and investing in communities that for too long have been left behind and forced to deal with the pollution caused by our reliance on fossil fuels," said Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune. "These ambitious plans came as a result of listening to the calls of the climate justice movement, and we are committed to continuing to hold Biden accountable to making them a reality and evolving still further."

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Upper Columbia
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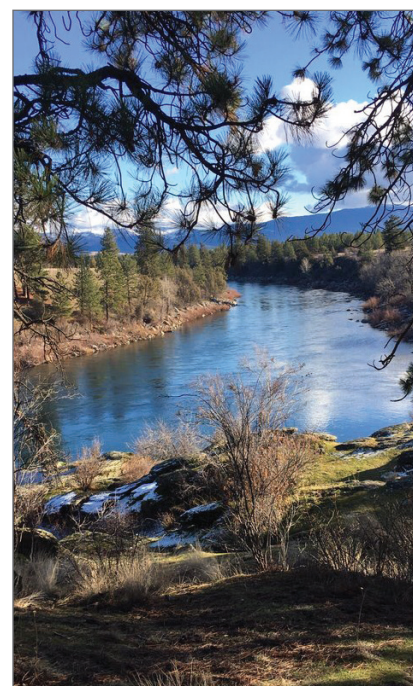


Photo by Barbara McCallister Winkle.

ZACH ZAPPONE CONTINUED

It is vital to invest in renewable energy and green jobs to protect our planet and to be leaders of the future economy.”

With a degree in educational policy and urban planning, Zappone is a natural for supporting walkable neighborhoods and promoting mass transit. He has long been opposed to urban sprawl. “The goal of my campaign is to educate people and work with coalitions.” To this end, he has promised to bring any questions on environmental issues to representatives of the Sierra Club.

Zappone’s campaign is well-conceived and well-executed. His goal is to raise \$100,000 in campaign funds. When we spoke to him, he said that he had already raised \$80,000. “I have out-raised my opponent.” His opponent is Mike Volz, who bested Zappone in the primary but not by much. In addition to funds, the Zappone campaign also boasts “a large number of volunteers.”

Zappone knows his voters. When we spoke to him a month ago he had made inroads into his plan to contact every voter in his district. He persuades voters to take matters that concern them personally, like the summer fires that threaten property and produce hazardous air conditions, and link them to larger issues. In the case of wildfires, of course, Zappone can educate his voters about climate change. In the case of the economy, he can tout green energy jobs and a fairer tax system.

Both the Upper Columbia River Group and the Washington State Political Committee of the Sierra Club have endorsed him for his real promise.

JOHN ROSKELLY CONTINUED

“We just have to utilize it. We should discourage pipelines and plants in the future by higher taxes on the companies, and fees on the purchases and installation of gas appliances.”

If he should become a state senator, Roskelley also pledged that he will “encourage low carbon fuel standards, provide incentives to buy electric vehicles, encourage the use of new engine technology, and invest in transit, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in urban areas.”

Roskelley also weighed in on the matter of better conservation of energy at the home site. “We are still building houses like we did in the 1980,” he told us. “We can improve on insulation, windows, doors, roofs, design aspect, and many more updated building codes.”

He shares the Sierra Club position on a more equitable tax system, wants to remove as many dams on rivers as is feasible—“I paddled the Snake in my sea kayak solo from Clarkston to Pasco to understand the terrain, the infrastructure and complications involved”—and has pledged “to do everything I can to provide services and programs for low income, minorities and the homeless.”

John Roskelley has been endorsed by the local Sierra Club and the Washington State Political Committee.

DAVID GREEN CONTINUED

Green’s interest in the environment led him to serve on a committee that hammered out the Democratic National Council’s policy statement on the “Environment and Climate Crisis.” He understands that “the Green New Deal is the gold standard on environmental policies,” and that his committee’s recommendations fall short of that. “It’s not anywhere near what it should be. Yet it is the most progressive environmental platform ever adopted by the Democratic Party.”

When we asked him about a specific concern, the possibility that the county might allow the integrity of the Saltese Flats to be compromised, Green responded, “Once unique treasures from an environmental perspective are damaged, they’re damaged for good.”

On the matter of the heavily polluting garbage incinerator, he said, “It’s a complicated issue, in so far as the Waste to Energy Facility is owned by the City of Spokane and not Spokane County—and because of the pandemic and other issues, the recycling market has collapsed locally as well as globally. I don’t support the designation of the facility as ‘green energy,’ that’s a bit disingenuous. A Zero Waste of Resources policy agreement in Spokane County is something that I would strongly consider.”

The Green campaign has the records necessary to make targeted contacts to those voters who lean Democratic and who need reminders to vote. He expects to raise and use about \$25,000 to conduct the campaign. “Although we haven’t had a Democratic County Commissioner in nearly 10 years, this is the year to run.”

Green agreed to consult the Sierra Club on future environmental issues and also mentioned that his ties to the Democratic Party allow him to be in contact with state legislators, should we have matters that we would like to lobby them about.

The Upper Columbia River Group is endorsing David Green for Spokane County Commissioner not because he is a Democrat but because his environmental policies square better than those of his opponent with the Sierra Club. It is noteworthy that Mary Kuney did not seek our endorsement. Both our Political Committee and our Executive Committee were persuaded of Green’s potential as a candidate and as a commissioner who would be a friend of the environment.

OUTINGS UPDATE:

Like so many other things this year our Outings program was put on hold. While we were hoping to resume outings before the year is out, it doesn’t look like that will be the case. Most likely they will resume in the Spring, although we don’t yet know what that will look like. We will update everyone when we know. The National Sierra Club’s COVID response can be found on their website: https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra-club-covid-19?utm_content=homepage. You can also find information on our Meetup site once we have anything to announce on when our outings will be starting again: <https://www.meetup.com/Exploring-the-Inland-Northwest-with-Sierra-Club/>. In the meantime, I hope everyone is getting out and enjoying nature. If you need suggestions on places to go hiking you can find our Trail Guides at either Auntie’s Bookstore or at REI. If you do not see them, make sure you request it from the store. Happy Trails!

— Carolyn Leon



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Explore, Enjoy, and Protect the Planet.

OSBORN RECEIVES AWARD; ONE RIVER, ETHICS MATTER



Dr. John Osborn has been awarded Sierra Club's 2020 Special Service Award, which honors a Sierra Club member for strong and consistent commitment to conservation over an extended period of time.

In announcing the award the club noted the following: "John Osborn is an extraordinary Sierra Club volunteer leader in the Pacific and Inland Northwest. His career as an advocate for the waters and forests of our region spans four decades. He has combined a life of exemplary medical service and dedicated conservation, and whenever it was possible he brought the two together for the health of human communities and the natural world."

In 1983 John began his medical career in Spokane. As a resident physician at Sacred Heart and Deaconess Hospitals, he founded the "Spokane Resident Physicians Action League" in order to advocate for forest health and protection. That organization of hospital physicians became the Inland Empire Public Lands Council in 1985. It focused on wilderness protection in Washington and Idaho as well as national forest planning in northeastern Washington and the Idaho panhandle.

Shortly after John arrived in Spokane he joined the Executive Committee of the Spokane Group of Sierra Club as Conservation Chair. He also served as the Northern Rockies Chapter Conservation Chair from 1984 until 2008. John has continued to serve as Upper Columbia River Group's Chair from 1983 until present, and led the establishment of the Columbia River Futures Project for the Sierra Club to fight dam construction and damage to rivers and the health of their communities.

John's thinking about ethical decision-making together with the regional Catholic Bishops' 2001 Pastoral letter on the Columbia River serve as the foundation for the Ethics and Treaty Project, which John initiated in 2013-14. It promotes principles of stewardship and justice in modernizing the Columbia River Treaty under the banner "One River – Ethics Matter."

John also works on contract with the Veterans Administration Hospital in Seattle as an ER doctor. He has led a revitalization of Vashon Island's Medical Reserve Corps and, in the face of the coronavirus pandemic, has worked to advance COVID testing and mental health services for rural and tribal communities.

RIVER OF TIME: FROM CANOES TO FREIGHTERS TO 2160 AND THE 7TH GENERATION

Mark your calendars! Our 7th annual "One River, Ethics Matter" conference will be December 9-10, hosted by the Cowlitz Indian Tribe with WSU serving as academic host. Watch for updates as we finalize this video-based river ethics conference.

We residents of the Columbia River Basin and greater Cascadia bioregion are witnessing worsening climate change with massive wildfires and smoky summers, salmon die-offs, and melting glaciers; the latest chapter in pandemic history; high suicide rates and other mental health challenges in rural and tribal communities; and systemic racism that has yet to recognize tribes and First Nations as co-managers of the Columbia River. How might ethics help us walk a healing path into the future that leads to stewardship, justice, and resilience?

In this pandemic year, the U.S.-Canadian historic friendship is strained as never before. Even the COVID-19 pandemic has closed the border. In Canada, First Nations are part of the negotiating team. In the U.S. where systemic racism has prompted massive marches and protests, the State Department has yet to welcome tribal sovereigns to the U.S. negotiating team. Tribes are denied a voice in major decisions about the Columbia River.

During the first six annual "One River, Ethics Matter" conferences, we have focused upstream on the harms from the Basin's dam-building era and Columbia River Treaty.

Now, with the help of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe and WSU, this 7th river ethics conference will look downstream: below Bonneville dam, focusing on the Estuary and lower river tributaries.

This 7th One River, Ethics Matter conference will look back and look forward. We will:

- Contemplate the benefits of the dam-building era – and who paid the price: the environmental, cultural, and social harms of converting the world's richest salmon river into a machine of dams and reservoirs;
- Explore the injustice of protecting floodplain development for the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area while holding the Columbia River basin hostage through drowned river valleys, uprooted communities, and degraded habitats for fish and wildlife; and
- Build on the strong ties that bind us together through our shared history, community, culture, and economy.

Finally, we will draw on the ethical foundations provided by indigenous cultural leaders and western religious leaders, as well as lessons from the Cowlitz Tribe of Indians, to advance justice and stewardship for the Columbia River in a time of climate change.

For more information, contact: John Osborn, john@waterplanet.ws 509.939-1290; The Rev. W. Tom Soeldner, waltsoe@gmail.com, 509.270-6995