



LOS ANGELES LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

BREAKING NEWS

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Carrick Promises to Restore Environmental Enforcement in District Attorney's Office

Receives Key Environmental Endorsement

LOS ANGELES, Calif. -- The need for strict enforcement of environmental crimes in Los Angeles County was cited as one of the key reasons for a prominent endorsement in the Los Angeles County District Attorney's race. The Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters (LALCV) has endorsed Roger Carrick for District Attorney to replace incumbent Steve Cooley in the March 2nd election, noting Carrick's commitment to actively enforce laws designed to protect the environment and public health and his thorough grasp of environmental policy.

LALCV President Andi Liebenbaum said that Carrick demonstrated an understanding of the politics involved in the office of District Attorney, and promised to use his position as DA to reinvigorate the Environmental Crimes/OSHA Division of the DA's office, which has experienced significant cuts under Cooley.

"Our endorsement team was very impressed with Roger's political savvy, his knowledge of different tools within the DA's arsenal, and his common-sense approach to law enforcement, both in the environmental arena and in general," explained Liebenbaum. "The full board's endorsement was a very enthusiastic one."

During his interview, Carrick pointed to three particular issues as critical examples of the current administration's failure in the arena of environmental criminal prosecution. According to Carrick, Cooley reduced the number of attorneys and support staff assigned to environmental issues and placed the few remaining staff under the

Consumer Protection Division, thereby diverting their focus and compromising their effectiveness. He also accused Cooley of failing to criminally prosecute many crimes, instead seeking civil penalties to increase his budget at the expense of public health. When combined with his failure to conduct OSHA investigations and prosecutions at the expense of employee and worker safety, the actions of incumbent Steve Cooley have effectively eradicated the Environmental Crimes/OSHA Division of the District Attorney's Office, according to Carrick.

Second, Carrick believes that there existed sufficient evidence in the Belmont Learning Center case to justify criminal prosecution of former school board members and developers – a case, according to Carrick, that represents among the most egregious violations of the public's trust in terms of child safety in the recent history of the DA's office. Carrick told the LALCV endorsement team that he would have approached the case more aggressively, and wants to use his position as DA to restore the public's trust while protecting its health and the environment.

Third, Carrick believes that Newhall Ranch was an opportunity wasted, in which Cooley's staff sought civil penalties rather than criminal prosecutions, so that wrongdoers were not brought to justice for CEQA and other violations, and demonstrating that, under Cooley's administration, money can purchase protection from criminal charges.

Carrick welcomed the LALCV endorsement and claims that he will use the vast array of tools within the District Attorney's power to properly budget his department and appropriately prosecute criminals, including those who violate pollution laws designed to protect public health.

The Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters is dedicated to endorsing those candidates who will protect, preserve and enhance the environment throughout Los Angeles County. In its 20-plus years, LALCV has helped to elect more than 100 environmental leaders to local office in Los Angeles County. For more information on LALCV activities and other endorsements, visit www.lalcv.org.

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