

Environmentalists must get out the vote in fall

Lauren Stevens' March 19 opinion page column ("Local focus required to counter damage of Scott Pruitt's EPA") was totally true, and deeply depressing. Stevens rightly suggests the "Washington Follies" harms our equanimity. He wisely urges we take the antidote: concrete work on local problems. Although he lists problems that need attention, he doesn't identify whom to contact about each. Listless readers need easy, clear steps to take.

Here's one simple, impactful opportunity: Visit the Environmental Voter Project's website, and volunteer to help from home. EVP, a Massachusetts-based nonprofit, determined that in the 2016 national election roughly 10 million American "super-environmentalist" registered voters didn't vote. EVP argues it's easier to convince environmentalists to vote than to convince environmentally blas voters to make environment their chief voting issue.

EVP has studied how best to motivate environmentalists to vote, and EVP needs volunteers to contact voters in key districts nationwide. With phone calls and texts, help empower your fellow Americans to take back our democracy from the big, dark money donors who sponsor the Washington Follies.

Voter turnout in 2018 will determine whether climate change, green energy and other environmental ballot initiatives sink or swim. Turnout will impact composition of state legislatures and gubernatorial elections.

As you help empower others, you'll be empowering yourself to identify and work on one, meaningful local project, and then another. May your response to the Washington Follies be a life filled with good deeds, each dedicated to making the world — every corner near and far — a better, cleaner, safer, more-welcoming, nurturing place to live.

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