

Op-ed for sportsmen/women

Att: NYS Sportsmen/Women...You Have a Voice and a Vote!

Hunting, fishing, trapping and other traditional outdoor pursuits contribute over 5 billion dollars annually to the New York State economy, according to NYS Comptroller Tom DiNapoli. In fact, New York ranks second in the nation in this area... a fact often overlooked by state, federal and local elected officials. The sporting community in NYS has great power, but it is seldom used to the extent it could be. Well, election day is almost here, and your voice can be heard at the voting booth...**but, you must vote to be heard!**

Many sportsmen and women I know, tend to be quiet about their outdoor activities...they just go about their business and hope to be left alone to enjoy these traditions without government interference or negative stereotypes. I am telling you now, that you must be involved...you must use your voice and your vote, to help preserve what you value most.

The sportsmen and women of our nation are the original *conservationists*...they have done more to protect wildlife, open space and encourage wise use of our natural resources than all the other groups combined. License sales in NYS provide almost 50 million dollars annually for wildlife management and conservation programs. This is further reinforced with nearly 25 million in dedicated matching federal funds. When you add this all up, it really shows the incredible contribution the sporting community makes to the economy and the environment of New York State.

I am not writing this to tell you who to vote for...that's up to you. But, I am adamant that you must vote if your voice is to be heard. If you are a sportsman/woman, you know what values are important to you...**make sure the politicians know too on November 3rd.**

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