

Rock the Vegan Vote

Wednesday, October 17 @ 6pm PT/9pm ET

Special Guests: Michael Markarian ([@mmarkarian](#)) and Nick Cooney ([@NickCooney2](#))

It's an important election season and we'll chat with policy experts to understand what our most compassionate choices in candidates and legislation.

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT

(beginning of chat starts at the end)

○

[about 15 hours ago](#) RT @VegNews: Q8: What's the best way for the public to stay educated on legislation that affects animals?#VegNewsChat



○

[about 15 hours ago](#) RT @VegNews: Q10: What's the #1 factor in whether or not a state legislature is animal-friendly?#VegNewsChat



○

[about 15 hours ago](#) RT @VegNews: Q9: Is it easier to pass animal-friendly legislation in states that don't have big ag contingents?#VegNewsChat



○

[about 15 hours ago](#) RT @VegNews: Q8: What's the best way for the public to stay educated on legislation that affects animals?#VegNewsChat



○

[about 16 hours ago](#) RT @VegNews: Q13: How do the president and Romney compare on issues of animal protection? #VegNewsChat



○

[about 16 hours ago](#) @VegNews Thanks very much! #vegnewschat



○

[about 16 hours ago](#) @VegNews Have a great night! #vegnewschat



○

[about 16 hours ago](#) @VegNews A14: Start by asking your Reps/Senators to support HR3798/S3239 to ban battery cages!<http://t.co/Iue6laQv> #vegnewschat



○

[about 16 hours ago](#) And we're out of time! Thanks so, so much to@NickCooney2 and @mmarkarian for all their insights and resources tonight! #VegNewsChat



○ about 16 hours ago @VegNews A14: Your calls, letters, emails make a difference. Lawmakers need to hear from you to know voters care about animals. #vegnewschat



○ about 16 hours ago @VegNews A14: Books like "How to Win Friends and Influence People" (or even "Change of Heart") good for upping persuasion skills #vegnewschat



○ about 16 hours ago @VegNews A14: Tell lawmakers how the issue affects you personally, don't get discouraged, it's a marathon not a sprint. #vegnewschat



○ about 16 hours ago @VegNews A13 We want candidates to talk about animal protection policy issues, not just dog on roof: <http://t.co/KWaCJ9st> #vegnewschat



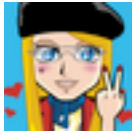
○ about 16 hours ago Q14: Any parting advice for those who want to protect animals? What's the best piece of lobbying advice you've ever received? #VegNewsChat



○ about 16 hours ago @VegNews A13: Administration has made progress on puppy mills, horse soring, other issues, but not wolf killing, ag subsidies. #vegnewschat



○ about 16 hours ago @VegNews A13: ...impacts on wildlife habitat and poisoning, meat prices and meat consumption, etc. #vegnewschat



○ about 16 hours ago RT @VegNews: Q13: How do the president and Romney compare on issues of animal protection? #VegNewsChat



○ about 16 hours ago @VegNews A13: I reviewed the Obama record on animal protection on my blog: <http://t.co/jsFmd1lO> #vegnewschat



○ about 16 hours ago @VegNews A13: Important to keep in mind that economic, environmental, and farm subsidy policies have major impacts on animals.. #vegnewschat



○ about 16 hours ago RT @NickCooney2: @VegNews A5: Ousting Steve King would certainly be a help: <http://t.co/KCu79AEg> (King blasted by Colbert) #vegnewschat



○ about 16 hours ago Q13: How do the president and Romney compare on issues of animal protection? #VegNewsChat



○ about 16 hours ago @VegNews A12: Sadly even a few outsider animal orgs try to make a name by OPPOSING anti-cruelty bills:<http://t.co/Or7d4xQ2> #vegnewschat



○ about 16 hours ago Interesting! MT @NickCooney2 A12: Some mainstream environmental groups oppose animal-friendly legislation—many members hunters #VegNewsChat



○ about 16 hours ago RT @VegNews: So great! RT @mmarkarian@VegNews NC group has great example, a video of voters speaking out: <http://t.co/xKkdtChq> #VegNewsChat



○ about 16 hours ago @VegNews A12: A number of mainstream environmental groups sometimes oppose animal-friendly legislation; many members hunters #vegnewschat



○ about 16 hours ago Wow! Only 10 minutes left in the chat! #VegNewsChat



○ about 16 hours ago So great! RT @mmarkarian @VegNews NC group has great example, a video of voters speaking out:<http://t.co/xKkdtChq> #VegNewsChat



○ about 16 hours ago @VegNews NC group has great example, a video of voters speaking out: <http://t.co/6tCxPsKx> #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago Q12: Are there any groups that people would be surprised to learn lobby against animal protection? #VegNewsChat



○ about 17 hours ago @VegNews A11: When initiative passes, it demonstrates political strength & voter support for animal protection bills. #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago @VegNews A11: Initiatives a last resort, very expensive & time consuming. Only when representative government is unresponsive. #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago RT @VegNews: To get started on the right foot, in case anyone still needs to register to vote, do it here:<http://t.co/dYneI5k7> #VegNewsChat



○ about 17 hours ago RT @VegNews: Q10: What's the #1 factor in whether or not a state legislature is animal-friendly? #VegNewsChat



○ about 17 hours ago @VegNews A10: As Mike mentioned, the ground game and involvement level of local advocates is important #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago Q11: Are ballot initiatives the most effective way to change state law? What about states that don't allow them? #VegNewsChat



○ about 17 hours ago @VegNews A10: They need to hear from constituents who care about these issues. And need to know these issues matter to voters. #vegnewschat



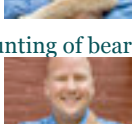
○ about 17 hours ago Q10: What's the #1 factor in whether or not a state legislature is animal-friendly? #VegNewsChat



○ about 17 hours ago @VegNews A9: People in every state care about animals, it takes dedicated group of supporters working to pass sensible reforms. #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago @VegNews California is #1 ag state, but passed raft of animal bills, banning tail docking of cows, hound hunting of bears, etc. #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago @VegNews A8: I also write a blog called "Animals & Politics" available at <http://t.co/ku509O6B> #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago Q9: Is it easier to pass animal-friendly legislation in states that don't have big ag contingents? #VegNewsChat



○ about 17 hours ago @VegNews A8: Also, sign up to HSUS's and HSLF's email listserve for updates on important legislation and action alerts #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago @VegNews A8: <http://t.co/dxSBP1tq> is great resource for legislation, and <http://t.co/KiuVRfUd> for lawmaker ratings. #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago @VegNews A8: The Humane Scorecard covers important current and recent federal legislation:<http://t.co/purLpzMn> #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago @VegNews A7: Also volunteer w/ @HSLegFundor a state animal group for canvassing, phone banking, other voter outreach. #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago RT @VegNews: Q8: What's the best way for the public to stay educated on legislation that affects animals? #VegNewsChat



○ about 17 hours ago Q8: What's the best way for the public to stay educated on legislation that affects animals? #VegNewsChat



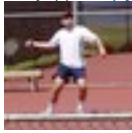
○ about 17 hours ago @VegNews A7: Volunteer for candidates at state/local level. They appreciate it and often run for higher office later in career. #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago Scary! MT @NickCooney2 Steve King's Farm Bill amendment could've overturned Prop 2, foie gras ban, + more:<http://t.co/V8P1vFRZ> #VegNewsChat



○ about 17 hours ago @VegNews A7: Not politically-related, but here is a great place to start for general animal advocacy:<http://t.co/92MvklFR> #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago RT @NickCooney2: @VegNews A5: Ousting Steve King would certainly be a help: <http://t.co/KCu79AEg> (King blasted by Colbert) #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago @VegNews A6: Important races in every state, and @HSLegFund has a Voter Guide as a resource:<http://t.co/9u7gdqsY> #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago Q7: What are your top tips for individuals who want to start campaigning for animals? #VegNewsChat



○ about 17 hours ago @VegNews A6: IA is important bc King has one of the worst records on animal cruelty, opposing laws on animal fighting, etc. #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago RT @mmarkarian A6: ND is 1 of 2 states w/ no felony cruelty (SD is other). In 1991 7 states had it, now nearly every state. #VegNewsChat



○ about 17 hours ago @VegNews Steve King (Iowa)'s Farm Bill amendment could have overturned Prop 2, foie gras ban, and more:<http://t.co/unq2hptc> #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago @VegNews A6: ND is 1 of 2 states w/ no felony cruelty (SD is other). In 1991 only 7 states had it, but now nearly every state. #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago @VegNews A5: New TV ad launched today urging North Dakotans to vote #YESonMeasure5 - <http://t.co/PFQdYVdt> #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago Q6: How did Iowa and North Dakota become pivotal states? #VegNewsChat



○ about 17 hours ago @VegNews Also YES! on Measure 5 in North Dakota to establish felony penalties for animal cruelty.<http://t.co/xg100PME> #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago RT @NickCooney2: @VegNews A5: Ousting Steve King would certainly be a help: <http://t.co/KCu79AEg> (King blasted by Colbert) #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago Burn! RT @NickCooney2: A5: Ousting Steve King would certainly be a help: <http://t.co/PHS6Cvsg> (King blasted by Colbert) #VegNewsChat



○ about 17 hours ago @VegNews A5: Important race is Steve King in IA. @HSLegFund is letting voters know about his record:<http://t.co/XZcKM8eq> #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago RT @SuperVegan: Going on now! RT@VegNews: VegNews Twitter Chat: Rock the Vegan #Vote<http://t.co/IjDzLwPo> #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago @VegNews A5: Ousting Steve King would certainly be a help: <http://t.co/KCu79AEg> (King blasted by Colbert) #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago @VegNews You can also take action and urge your Reps/Senators to support the hen bill here:<http://t.co/Iue6laQv> #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago @jchenwriter , HSLF's Humane Scorecard is perfect for federal senate and house candidates:<http://t.co/purLpzMn> #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago @jchenwriter You can check out the@HSLegFund recommendations in your state at the Voter Guide:<http://t.co/9u7gdqsY> #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago Cool #vegnewschat going on rt now w/@mmarkarian and @nickcooney2 re politics & animal protection (hosted by @VegNews)



○ about 17 hours ago @VegNews A4: The momentum on legislation to ban battery cages is very exciting, supported by animal groups & egg industry. #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago Q5: What are the most crucial races this election cycle for animals? #VegNewsChat



○ about 17 hours ago Going on now! RT @VegNews: VegNews Twitter Chat: Rock the Vegan #Vote <http://t.co/IjDzLwPo>#vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago For anyone unfamiliar w/ hen bill:<http://t.co/IqqkWCJI> RT @NickCooney2 @VegNews A4: I think the federal hen bill is monumental #VegNewsChat



○ about 17 hours ago What are some ways that regular folks who care about animals make sure that they vote for compassionate candidates? #VegNewsChat



○ about 17 hours ago @VegNews It's always been designed to be a tough system: About 10,000 bills introduced in Congress every session, only 4% pass. #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago @VegNews A4: Progress at the state level, 69 bills passed in 2012: RI gestation crates; OH exotic pets; NJ horse slaughter, etc #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago Is this getting worse, or standard? RT@mmarkarian A main obstacle is partisan gridlock, and not much getting done in general. #VegNewsChat



○ about 17 hours ago @VegNews A4: I think the federal hen bill is monumental: industry forced to the table to support ban on a factory farm practice #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago RT @VegNews: Q4: Good to hear that Congress is receptive. What in your opinion is the biggest step since 2008's Prop.2 in CA? #VegNewsChat



○ about 17 hours ago Q4: Good to hear that Congress is receptive. What in your opinion is the biggest step since 2008's Prop.2 in CA? #VegNewsChat



○ about 17 hours ago @VegNews A3: A main obstacle is partisan gridlock, and not much getting done in general. Bills have to clear many hurdles. #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago RT @VegNews: Q3: What's the state of animal advocacy in DC? Are people receptive to animal-friendly legislation? #VegNewsChat



○ about 17 hours ago @VegNews A3: Congress is receptive to animal protection. Bills passed in recent years on animal fighting, fur, sharks, etc. #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago @VegNews Mike, that is :) Sorry, long day! #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago RT @mmarkarian: The animal protection movement has won 30 of 44 statewide ballot measures, for a 69% win rate. #vegnewschat



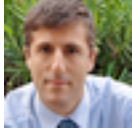
○ about 17 hours ago @VegNews A3: I think Mark can answer that one better than I #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago Q3: What's the state of animal advocacy in DC? Are people receptive to animal-friendly legislation? #VegNewsChat



○ about 17 hours ago @VegNews A2: Been working on legislation & ballot measures since early 90s. Interested in policy change to prevent cruelty. #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago @VegNews A2: Mid-twenties; realizing how much directly campaigning for a candidate would win their support for pro-animal bills #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago Great stat! RT@mmarkarian The animal protection movement has won 30 of 44 statewide ballot measures, for a 69% win rate. #VegNewsChat



○ about 17 hours ago RT @VegNews To get started on the right foot, in case anyone still needs to register to vote, do it here:<http://t.co/FVBISWuJ> #VegNewsChat



○ about 17 hours ago @VegNews The animal protection movement has won 30 of 44 statewide ballot measures, for a 69% win rate. #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago Q2: For both of you, what ages were you when you first got involved? What drew you to politics? #VegNewsChat



○ about 17 hours ago Q1: @VegNews , My first real exposure was campaigning for a city councilman who had introduced a foie gras ban in Philadelphia #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago @VegNews A1: My first involvement was through ballot initiatives, working on elections to ban traps, hounding/baiting of bears. #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago RT @VegNews: To get started on the right foot, in case anyone still needs to register to vote, do it here:<http://t.co/dYneI5k7> #VegNewsChat



○ about 17 hours ago Q1: OK experts, first question! How did you become involved in politics, and specifically campaigning?#VegNewsChat



○ about 17 hours ago @VegNews Thanks for having me, and thanks for providing the voter registration link. #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago Hey there @VegNews , thanks for having me on the chat! #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago To get started on the right foot, in case anyone still needs to register to vote, do it here: <http://t.co/dYneI5k7#VegNewsChat>



○ about 17 hours ago Hello @mmarkarian! He is president of the Humane Society Legislative Fund (@HSLegFund) and writes the blog Animals & Politics. #VegNewsChat



○ about 17 hours ago Hi @NickCooney2! Nick founded@TheHumaneLeague, is a @FarmSanctuary Compassionate Communities manager, & wrote Change Of Heart #VegNewsChat



○ about 17 hours ago T-minus five minutes until the chat begins!#VegNewsChat



○ about 17 hours ago Join me for a #vegnewschat TweetChat in ten minutes (9 pm EST) at: <http://t.co/uk2mM21M> #vegnewschat



○ about 17 hours ago I am joining a @VegNews Twitter Chat at 6pm PT/9pm ET about politics and elections. Follow #VegNewsChat if you'd like to check it out.