

2008 General Election ~ U.S. Representative ~ Congressional District 2

1. Did you grow up with animals?

Jared Polis (D)	Yes, my family had a border terrier and other animals that I personally cared for. I have loved animals all of my life.
J.A. Calhoun (G)	Did not respond
Scott Starin (R)	Did not respond
Bill Hammons (Unity)	Did not respond

2. Does your family have animals?

Jared Polis (D)	Right now we are hardly ever at home and believe that it would be an unfair environment to bring an animal into. When our lifestyle allows for sufficient time to care for and train a dog we definitely plan to adopt one from the Boulder Valley Humane Society.
J.A. Calhoun (G)	Did not respond
Scott Starin (R)	Did not respond
Bill Hammons (Unity)	Did not respond

The bills and resolutions referred to in the following questions are from the 110th (current) Congress unless otherwise noted. We thank the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) for some of the legislation descriptions. For more information about any bill or resolution (including its complete text), please visit <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

3. The "Pet Safety and Protection Act" (S. 714 & H.R. 1280) would amend the Animal Welfare Act to ensure that all dogs and cats used by research facilities are obtained legally. Would you be likely to vote for this bill?

Jared Polis (D)	Yes
J.A. Calhoun (G)	Did not respond
Scott Starin (R)	Did not respond
Bill Hammons (Unity)	Did not respond

4. The "Pet Animal Welfare Statute" (S. 1139 & H.R. 2669) would close a loophole in the Animal Welfare Act that allows large commercial breeders ("puppy mills") that sell directly to the public to escape regulation, requiring them to meet the same minimal welfare standards as other facilities. Would you be likely to vote for this bill?

Jared Polis (D)	Yes
J.A. Calhoun (G)	Did not respond
Scott Starin (R)	Did not respond
Bill Hammons (Unity)	Did not respond

5. The "American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act" (H.R. 503 & S. 311) would prohibit the slaughter of horses for human consumption and prohibit their export for slaughter in other countries. Would you be likely to vote for this bill?

Jared Polis (D)	Yes
J.A. Calhoun (G)	Did not respond
Scott Starin (R)	Did not respond
Bill Hammons (Unity)	Did not respond

6. The "Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act" (S. 549 & H.R. 962) would curb overuse of antibiotics in animal agriculture, which supports overcrowded and unsanitary conditions on factory farms and endangers public health. Would you be likely to vote for this bill?

Jared Polis (D)	Yes. Aside from the medical implications associated with residual animal growth hormones and antibiotics making their way into human food supplies, the use of anti-biotic treatments on factory farm-raised animals is also responsible for "masking" serious health problems that make an animal unfit for human consumption. Recent massive beef and chicken recalls underscore the degree to which factory farms use antibiotics to "sweep under the carpet" the otherwise unacceptable conditions in which livestock are raised. These conditions include animals that are forced to stand in their own waste for extended periods of time. Much of these contaminants make way into the products that line grocery aisles. Antibiotics are not enough to render meat safe for human consumption; it has been shown that contaminants still taint meat when it arrives to market, despite the heavy use of antibiotic medicines. Reform must begin with improved living conditions for animals in captive factory farm settings.
J.A. Calhoun (G)	Did not respond
Scott Starin (R)	Did not respond
Bill Hammons (Unity)	Did not respond

7. The "Downed Animal and Food Safety Protection Act" (S. 394 & H.R. 661) would end the use of certain nonambulatory livestock (cattle, sheep, swine, goats, or horses, mules, or other equines) in human food and require that these downed animals be humanely euthanized when presented at slaughter facilities. Would you be likely to vote for this bill?

Jared Polis (D)	Yes
J.A. Calhoun (G)	Did not respond
Scott Starin (R)	Did not respond
Bill Hammons (Unity)	Did not respond

8. The "Dog and Cat Fur Prohibition Enforcement Act" (H.R. 891) would strengthen the current law prohibiting the sale of domestic dog fur by requiring that all fur garments, regardless of value, identify the species of animal used and the country of origin. It would also ban the import of fur from "raccoon dogs," an Asiatic member of the dog family whose fur is often intentionally mislabeled to mislead consumers. Would you be likely to vote for this bill?

Jared Polis (D)	Yes
J.A. Calhoun (G)	Did not respond
Scott Starin (R)	Did not respond
Bill Hammons (Unity)	Did not respond

9. The "Captive Primate Safety Act" (S. 1498 & H.R. 2964) would prohibit interstate and foreign commerce in nonhuman primates (chimpanzees, monkeys, lemurs and others) for the pet trade. Would you be likely to vote for this bill?

Jared Polis (D)	Yes
J.A. Calhoun (G)	Did not respond
Scott Starin (R)	Did not respond
Bill Hammons (Unity)	Did not respond

10. The "Yellowstone Buffalo Preservation Act" (109th Congress - H.R. 2428) would encourage non-lethal management methods and create a moratorium on the killing of Yellowstone bison so they can freely roam federal public lands surrounding the park. Would you be likely to vote for this bill?

Jared Polis (D)	Yes
J.A. Calhoun (G)	Did not respond
Scott Starin (R)	Did not respond
Bill Hammons (Unity)	Did not respond

11. The "Inhumane Trapping Prevention Act" (109th Congress - H.R. 3442) would prohibit interstate commerce of steel-jaw leghold traps and the import, export, or interstate commerce of fur of animals caught with these devices. Would you be likely to vote for this bill?

Jared Polis (D)	Yes. While hunting of animals in the wild is rendered totally unnecessary by the raising of factory-farmed livestock, it is vitally important that while these practices continue, trapped or hunted animals do not suffer. Steel-jaw traps inflict needless pain on captured animals. Furthermore, animals caught in this manner may suffer for days before they are finally captured and put down. In desperate situations, animals caught by steel trap have been known to self-mutilate themselves in an effort to be free. These practices are unacceptable and must be prohibited.
J.A. Calhoun (G)	Did not respond
Scott Starin (R)	Did not respond
Bill Hammons (Unity)	Did not respond

12. The Canadian Seal Hunt Resolution (S. Res. 118 & H.R. 427) calls on the government of Canada to end its commercial seal hunt. The hunt is the largest commercial slaughter of wildlife in the world, allowing hunters to club or shoot up to 975,000 baby harp seals over a three-year period. Would you be likely to vote for this resolution?

Jared Polis (D)	Yes. To further explain my opposition to Candian Seal Hunts: Unwaveringly; the Canadian Seal Hunt is a wholesale slaughter of un-offending animals that goes on year after year, and with no very good reason. The pelts of the slaughtered BABY seals are sold, but the meat goes uneaten, making this annual event both morally reprehensible and unforgivably wasteful. In addition, the Seal Hunt is well-known not to spare animals any pain through the use of more humane slaughter methods; rather, hunters use spiked clubs literally to "bash in" the faces of the hunted pups. I would also like to add that it is important to remember that humans often make their homes among wildlife habitats. It therefore behooves us to ensure that our ecological footprint is as humane as possible. This includes proper disposal of waste to avoid animal casualties, as well as the use of a bittering agent to dissuade animals from consuming toxic products.
J.A. Calhoun (G)	Did not respond
Scott Starin (R)	Did not respond
Bill Hammons (Unity)	Did not respond

13. The "Sportsmanship in Hunting Act" (H.R. 3829) would prohibit interstate commerce in animals destined to be killed for trophies at canned hunting facilities. Would you be likely to vote for this bill?	
Jared Polis (D)	Yes
J.A. Calhoun (G)	Did not respond
Scott Starin (R)	Did not respond
Bill Hammons (Unity)	Did not respond
14. The "Computer-Assisted Remote Hunting Act" (H.R. 2711 & S. 2422) would prohibit internet hunting whereby a person remotely controls the aiming and firing of a weapon to kill an animal at a canned hunting facility. Would you be likely to vote for this bill?	
Jared Polis (D)	Yes
J.A. Calhoun (G)	Did not respond
Scott Starin (R)	Did not respond
Bill Hammons (Unity)	Did not respond
15. The "Antifreeze Bittering Agent Act" (H.R. 4936) would require inclusion of a "bittering agent" in engine coolant and antifreeze. This would reduce the risk of poisoning of animals and children. Would you be likely to vote for this bill?	
Jared Polis (D)	Yes
J.A. Calhoun (G)	Did not respond
Scott Starin (R)	Did not respond
Bill Hammons (Unity)	Did not respond
16. Would you be willing to consider factual documentation from CHVL on a given issue?	
Jared Polis (D)	Yes
J.A. Calhoun (G)	Did not respond
Scott Starin (R)	Did not respond
Bill Hammons (Unity)	Did not respond
This concludes our questionnaire. Please add any general comments below.	
Jared Polis (D)	Animal welfare should be a legal and political priority in this country. The moral and ecological implications of factory farming hold human society responsible for the manner in which its food is obtained. Humane practices must be ensured for animals growing in these conditions, both as a matter of sparing them from needless suffering, and to ensure that human food supplies do not come accompanied with dangerous contaminants. Just as the existence of alternative fuel sources behoove us to reconsider our exclusive use of oil, numerous modern-day advances in farming technology demand that we employ more compassionate factory farming practices. It is a moral imperative that we take advantage of these technologies, and grow not only as a society, but as caring individuals.
J.A. Calhoun (G)	Did not respond
Scott Starin (R)	Did not respond
Bill Hammons (Unity)	Did not respond
Questionnaire Score	
Jared Polis (D)	100%
J.A. Calhoun (G)	Did not respond
Scott Starin (R)	Did not respond
Bill Hammons (Unity)	Did not respond