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Environmental issues / Keep pressure on

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This was a shocker (or should have been):

A recent Zogby International poll commissioned by the William I. Hughes Center for Public Policy in Princeton found that 40 percent of voters listed the environment as one of their top two concerns.

In the past, the environment has ranked as a top issue for large numbers of voters, particularly in southern New Jersey. That's why every candidate in this region goes out of his or her way to say how concerned they are about clean air and clean water, open space and spawning

Of course, even as they say that, many of them are taking large campaign donations from developers and working behind the scenes to undermine environmental rules.

And that's exactly why it's so scary that environmental issues are not a chief concern of voters

building condos in the middle of Barnegat Bay.

At a forum last week at the Hughes Center, the general consensus was that the state's fiscal health are what this election is about.

And that makes a certain amount of sense in these difficult economic times.

But the N.J. Sierra Club, the N.J. Environmental Federation and the N.J. Environmental Lobby

say it's even worse than simply bypassing environmental issues in favor of

in the state's budget.

open-space question to ever fail in New Jersey.

So subtle it all.

Well, cutting economic

strategies to work their way into recession

Ditto for putting the fiscal health of state government at the top of the agenda.

But this is clear and true: If voters aren't vigilant

a serious threat to the environment.

It is critical for voters who are concerned about environmental issues to remain vigilant - and vocal.

Point that exact where they stand on the environment, and how far they will go to protect it.

Let them think twice.

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