



The Anchorage VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ANCHORAGE
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May 2018

From the President: Joyce Anderson

Hi League Members:

Reminder: Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 16, to begin at 6 p.m.

Hope to see you on May 16th. The annual meeting is a time to reconnect and develop new friendships!

Come and hear about the successful April 3, 2018 Vote-by-Mail municipal election.

EXCITING NEWS!!!

The Anchorage League has been chosen as one of three finalists from applications submitted from Leagues throughout the United States for the LWVUS "Strengthening Democracy" award. The winner is to be announced at the upcoming National Convention in Chicago on June 30, 2018.

Our project is titled:

**Voter Engagement through
Voter Registration and Vote-By-Mail
Education and Outreach**

(Additional information is available on our web site.)

MARK THE DATE!

WHAT: Annual Meeting

**WHEN: Wednesday, May 16
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

**WHERE: BP Energy Center
900 East Benson Blvd
Alder/Cottonwood Rm**

All members are encouraged to attend. Voice your opinion as we chart our direction for the coming year.

2017-18 was an extremely busy and exciting time for League. 2018-19 is already in high gear.

We need your INPUT, EXPERTISE and EXPERIENCE.

Bring a friend!

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.
Any person 16 years of age and older, male or female, may become a League member.



[Press Release to be issued](#)
[Monday, May 14, 2018](#)

League of Women Voters of Anchorage Finalist for National Award **Voter Engagement through Voter Registration** **and Vote-by-Mail Education and Outreach**

Anchorage, Alaska – The League of Women Voters of Anchorage was selected as one of three finalists for the “Strengthening Democracy” Award by the League of Women Voters of the United States. The winners will be announced at the upcoming 53rd National Convention in Chicago on June 30, 2018.

This honor is awarded to one state League and one local League for projects that activate their grassroots network to empower voters and advocate change around key issues such as protecting voting rights or increasing voter registration and turnout.

The Anchorage League accomplished these goals by conducting voter registration drives at high schools, UAA, naturalization ceremonies and community events; facilitating for the Municipality of Anchorage requests for speakers and speaking at forty-one venues about Vote-by-Mail; drafting an eight page *Ballot Review* pamphlet distributed to 115,411 households; expanding Facebook posts; creating a new website; drafting and creating a voting PSA for youth by youth; partnering with and assisting the Municipal Clerk’s office with pre-election, Election Day and post-election activities; and participating in the Anchorage Elections Stakeholder Group from July 2015 through April 3, 2018.

“It is a great honor to be selected as a finalist for this award. The Anchorage League has spent a great deal of time focused on voter registration and Vote-by-Mail education and outreach,” said Joyce Anderson, Anchorage League President. “Projects like this help to ensure that all eligible voters have the tools they need to cast their ballot and participate in our elections.”

“As defenders of democracy, the League of Women Voters is always vigilant against attacks on voting rights,” said **Chris Carson**, president of the League of Women Voters of the United States. “Our volunteers spearhead efforts to protect and inform our electorate. It is an honor to recognize such dedication to our greatest civic duty.”

Representatives Shirley Pittz and Cari Zawodny, from the Anchorage League, will attend the National Convention on behalf of the Anchorage League.

Find us online: WEBSITE: lwvanchorage.org and anchorageyouthvote.com FACEBOOK: AnchorageYouthVote and LWVAnchorage INSTAGRAM: ancyouthvote TWITTER: ANCYouthVote

The League of Women Voters envisions a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate. We believe in the power of women and men to create a more perfect democracy.

The winner of the Local League **Strengthening Democracy Award** is to be chosen by the number of votes each of the three finalists receive.

Voting is now open. Here is the link: <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/2018-convention-strengthening-democracy-local-league-finalists>

Please vote for the Anchorage League project. Anyone can vote, so please pass on this information to your family, friends, and organizations you belong to.



Again, thanks for being an **ACTIVE** and **INVOLVED** member of League.



Resolution on the Vote-By-Mail Voting System Utilized in the Municipality of Anchorage

Whereas the Municipality of Anchorage conducted the April 3, 2018 municipal election under the new Vote-By-Mail system;

Whereas the voters of the Municipality of Anchorage embraced and endorsed the new Vote-By-Mail system with a record turnout of 36.31%; and

Whereas the voters of the Municipality of Anchorage expect future elections, local/state/federal, to be conducted in a similar manner to avoid confusion surrounding the logistics and procedures for voting; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the League of Women Voters of Anchorage on behalf of its members

supports the State of Alaska utilizing the Municipality of Anchorage new Vote-By-Mail system beginning with the State of Alaska elections of 2018;

supports the new paper ballot Vote-By-Mail system which proved to be secure and safe from electronic vulnerabilities and is easy, convenient and accessible to all voters within the Municipality of Anchorage; and

supports a hybrid approach using the Anchorage Vote-By-Mail system.

Adopted: May 9, 2018 by Unanimous Vote of Board Members participating in the meeting.

The Resolution along with a cover letter (below) will be sent on May 16, 2018, to Governor Bill Walker, Lt. Governor Byron Mallott, Division of Elections Director Josie Bahnke, Mayor Ethan Berkowitz, Assembly Members and Municipal Clerk Barbara Jones.

COVER LETTER: The League of Women Voters (LWV) of Anchorage, an arm of the non-partisan LWV of the United States, promotes political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and acts on selected governmental issues. The LWV envisions a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate in the democratic process. We believe in the power of women and men to create a more perfect democracy.

The LWV of Anchorage gained first-hand knowledge of Anchorage's citizens acceptance of the new Vote-By-Mail system. We coordinated for the Municipal Clerk's office a plethora of requests for Vote-By-Mail presentations and subsequently conducted forty-one presentations between November 2017 and April 2018 throughout the community. The groups included three major oil company employees, three church groups, three political party chapters, eleven profit and non-profit organizations, fifteen community council meetings and six presentations to large groups including the Women's March.

Our interaction with the community at these events allowed our twelve presenters to gauge the acceptance and skepticism of the new Vote-By-Mail voting system. One comment, or we should say question, that resonated throughout the presentations was would Anchorage go back to the polling place model for state and federal elections. Many felt a change in voting methods from one election to another would be confusing and conceivably reduce turnout.

At our board meeting on Wednesday, May 9, 2018, board members discussed these concerns and prepared a resolution offering a solution to the dilemma.

We recommend the State of Alaska utilize the Municipality of Anchorage new Vote-By-Mail system beginning with the state elections of 2018.

Thank you for your time. We appreciate your attention to this very important matter – the right to vote of every citizen.