



The Anchorage VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ANCHORAGE
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December 2016

Joyce Anderson, President

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The holidays are upon us and the busy election season is over. Our league was involved in many community election-related activities that focused on our mission statement — Making Democracy Work.

- ◆ Youth Vote Candidate Forum and other student led activities
- ◆ "Running" Series through Alaska Public Media
- ◆ Film showing of Selma: The Bridge to the Ballot and Bad Romance: Women's Suffrage (eight co-sponsors from various organizations)
- ◆ Speaking engagements at various organizations
- ◆ Responding to League phone calls and email inquiries relating to voter registration, candidates, and voting information
- ◆ Assisting Long Term Care Facility residents with voter registration and absentee ballots
- ◆ Working with the Disability Law Center on voter accessibility
- ◆ UAA Voter Registration Project
- ◆ Registering new citizens at Naturalization Ceremonies
- ◆ Registering students at six high schools
- ◆ Teaching students about voting at one high school (in six class periods)
- ◆ Registering attendees at three churches
- ◆ Supporter of the PFD Voter Initiative
- ◆ Co-Sponsor of six Alaska Common Ground forums

We look forward to seeing you at a future League activity.

Become active and be involved!

Joyce Anderson, President



May your holidays
sparkle with love,
laughter and cheer.

MARK THE DATE:

Annual Holiday Party:

Wednesday, January 25, 2017.
5:30 p.m. Place TBD. More information to follow.

2017 Annual Meeting:

Wednesday, April 5. BP Energy Center. 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Plan on attending. Make your voice heard as we plan our 2017 goals & projects.

2017 LWVAlaska Convention:

Friday, April 21; Saturday, April 22; and Sunday, April 23. To be held in Fairbanks.

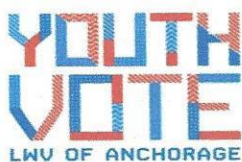


A big **THANK YOU** to Board Members and other League Members for volunteering (on many occasions) your time and energy on these various projects. It is because of your volunteer spirit that our League is a successful working organization that "**makes a difference in our community**".

Without your help these very needed community service programs would not be possible.

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.



2016 Youth Vote Recap

Cari Zawodny, Coordinator

Youth Vote 2016 provided a non-partisan venue for empowering youth to vote and be involved in the democratic process. Youth Vote was successful in its mission due to the efforts of Youth Vote donors and partners like the Anchorage School District, Spirit of Youth, Kaladi Brothers Coffee, and Headron Collider; the League of Women Voters Anchorage board, members and friends of the League; candidates that participated in Youth Vote events; and especially the group of dedicated students who made up the Planning Team.

Twelve students made up the planning team: ten from around the Anchorage School District and two UAA students who were part of Youth Vote 2014. Over the course of several months, each of the Planning Team members contributed approximately 40 hours to the project, and took on a high level of responsibility.

The following goals were met:

- ◆ Educate youth about the rights and responsibilities of living in a democratic society.
- ◆ Provide opportunities to discuss political issues with peers, parents, political candidates and elected officials.
- ◆ Encourage involvement in the electoral process to develop a positive life-long voting habit.

Youth Vote, a multi-faceted project, consisted of four main components:

- * Curriculum and Educator's Resources
- * Youth Vote Mock Election
- * Youth Vote Candidates Forum
- * Candidate Meet and Greet

Youth Vote Curriculum and Educator's Resources

- * On-line curriculum provided by the National Student/Parent Mock Election (NSME) was provided to educators to use in their classrooms. The curriculum was vetted by the ASD.
- * Additional information about voting in Alaska, a list of voting related web resources, and Youth Vote activities were also sent electronically to all ASD social studies and government teachers in middle/high school levels as well as all elementary school teachers.

2016 Youth Vote Mock Election Results

Pres/ Vice Pres	Clinton/Kaine 43.42%	Trump/Pence 29.30%	Johnson/Weld 10.49%	Castle/Bradley 6.82%	Stein/Baraka 5.39%	De La Fuente/ Steinberg 4.56%
US Sen	Murkowski 56.2%	Miller 15.95%	Metcalf 11.90%	Craig 6.04%	Stock 5.90%	Gianoutsos 4.01%
US Rep	Young 51.43%	Lindbeck 26.84%	McDermott 11.36%	Souphanavong 10.36		

Youth Vote Ballot Questions

Should the United States Government create a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants living in the US?	Yes 72.92%	No 27.08%
Have you been invited to participate in the decision-making process for a community issue that impacts you directly?	No 65.84%	Yes 34.15%

Youth Vote 2014 Mock Election

Over 11,000 students in grades 5-12 participated. They were given the opportunity to cast their vote for national and statewide offices as well as two Youth Vote created ballot questions.

Voting was internet based, and required the use of a student ID so that only one vote could be cast per student. The ASD worked with Youth Vote Planning Team members to create the ballot and voting procedures. Youth Vote Planning Team members provided pro and con statements for the “pathway to citizenship” question as well as background and research for the “youth voice” question. Additional information was provided as needed.

Results were announced at a press conference held at the ASD Education Center November 3rd in conjunction with the NSME’s results announcement. NSME is the Nation’s largest student-driven civics project. Approximately five million votes were cast in the 2014 NSME.

Youth Vote 2016 Candidates Forum

The Forum was developed specifically to provide opportunities for students to discuss political issues and issues concerning young people during an election cycle. The Forum took place at 12:00pm on Tuesday, October 25, West High School Auditorium, and was televised live on KTUU Channel 2. U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives candidates were invited. Many community members, city and state leaders, and over 700 ASD students from eight secondary schools attended.

- ◆ The planning team took on the serious task of compiling a short list of twelve questions, out of 100 submitted by ASD students. All questions were submitted to ASD for approval.
- ◆ The Forum was structured in two parts, a moderated Q&A for:
 - US House candidates: Steve Lindbeck, Jim McDermott, and Bernie Sophanavong. Don Young declined.
 - US Senate candidates: Margaret Stock, Joe Miller, Breck Craig, and Ted Gianoutsos. Ray Metcalfe accepted the invitation, but failed to appear, and Lisa Murkowski declined.
- ◆ As a transition between the two segments of the Forum, Youth Vote student leaders presented the Youth Vote Ballot questions concerning Youth Voice in decision-making for our community.

The Forum’s main goal was to provide discussion opportunities to youth, the Forum also had national significance. As a registered project of NSME, supported by the League of Women Voters US, the National Association of Broadcasters, and many other high profile organizations, our Forum was part of a nation-wide effort to increase voter education and discussion/debate on issues facing emerging voters.

Kaladi Brothers Candidate Meet and Greet

On November 1st, the Meet and Greet was held at Kaladi Brothers on Jewel Lake Rd. The event was well attended by youth and State and National candidates. Much of the evening was spent in one-to-one or small group discussion between young people, candidates or candidate representatives.

Comments from those attending indicate the event was extremely worthwhile and provided valuable insight into the election process. Each election year the event grows, but this year more youth attended. Fifteen candidates/campaigns attended including US Senator Lisa Murkowski.

Media Outreach

In addition to television coverage, Youth Vote was featured in the Alaska Dispatch News and in Alaska Teen Media Institute’s *In Other News*. Youth Vote maintains a presence on social media:

FACEBOOK: AnchorageYouthVote **INSTAGRAM:** ancyouthvote **TWITTER:** ANCYouthVote
WEBSITE: www.anchorageyouthvote.com

And for the Future

Youth Vote intends to stay relevant in the media in the coming months. Youth Vote will apply for the NSME award and for awards through the League of Women Voters of the US.

If you have comments or questions about Youth Vote, please contact Cari Zawodny at 233-0477.