



The Anchorage VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ANCHORAGE
PO Box 101345
Anchorage, AK 99510-1345
907-274-8477

October 2017

Joyce Anderson, President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Joyce Anderson
Vice-President	Cari Zawodny
Secretary	Margaret McDonagh
Treasurer	Tina DeLapp
Directors	Keri Clark
	Carol Dickason
	Diane Mathisen
	Beth Nordlund
	Shirley Pittz
	Pat Redmond
	Schawna Thoma

Email:

league@lwvanchorage.org

Visit us at:

www.lwvanchorage.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/LWVAnchorage

For Alaska information:

www.lwvalaska.org

For National information:

www.lwv.org

Hi League Members:

Summer seems to have come and gone quickly this year. Welcome to the beautiful colors of our fall season; red, yellow and orange. The crispness in the air is refreshing!

This newsletter contains an update on LWV Anch activities as well as a plethora of information on activities and issues on the federal, state and local level. Please take a few minutes to read the articles. **BE INFORMED.** Remember you input is always welcome.

Become active and be involved!



Fixing the Hole in Our Democracy

Washington DC Statehood

WHEN: Wednesday, October 27
TIME: 2:30 P.M. TO 4:30 P.M.
WHERE: 12100 Coffee & Communitas
12100 Old Seward Hwy

Join us to learn about:

- ♦ The path for DC Statehood
- ♦ Who lives in DC, the facts versus the myths
- ♦ Where the LWV stands on full rights for DC citizens
- ♦ How DC is governed today
- ♦ Congressional intervention in DC affairs
- ♦ The rights of DC citizens are in your hand and what you can do

Brought to you by the LWV Anchorage, LWV District of Columbia, and LWVUS. Funded by the District of Columbia.

(LEAGUE MEMBERS: Please feel free to distribute and forward the attached flier to friends, family, and organizations.)

AK Joins with Other States filing an Amicus Brief against Partisan Gerrymandering

Governor Walker, through the Alaska AG's office, joined with other states in the amicus brief filing addressing partisan gerrymandering for state legislative districts.

On September 12, the LWVAK sent a letter to Governor Walker supporting this action. The League stated, "Gerrymandering can result in the undemocratic reality of politicians selecting their voters rather than voters selecting their elected representatives."

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.

Elections Update—Local and State

ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ELECTION - Vote by Mail

The Municipal Clerk's office is busy preparing for the mock by-mail election to be held December 5, 2017. The election is designed to test the processes/procedures and equipment on a small scale. Internal procedures development is underway. Best practices in other vote by mail jurisdictions are being reviewed as well existing MOA election procedures. Final site acceptance test on the Bell and Howell equipment is planned for October 2017. At the same time, Bell and Howell will train election workers to operate the equipment.

Posters and brochures, highlighting the vote by mail process, are available at City Hall for distribution. The Muni and League are committed to informing the public *Vote by Mail is as easy as 1-2-3*. **LEAGUE MEMBERS:** *If you know of a business or organization willing to post the poster or distribute the brochures, please call 907-243-VOTE for additional information.*

Targeted for October is a mailing to registered voters whose signature is not on file with the State or the Muni. The notification will ask the voter to return a card with their signature. The signature will then be added to the database and used for comparison when the voter returns their voted ballot.

Public Service Announcements (PSA's) are scheduled to air in January and March 2018. Over 60% of Anchorage gets their news through Social Media. Learn more at: TWITTER: @MunicipalClerk WEB: www.muni.org/VotebyMail FACEBOOK: @Municipal Clerk's Office

Within the 90 days prior to the April 3, 2018, Muni election, a postcard notice will be mailed to registered voters asking for an update of the voter's address and/or for a mailing address if different than the voter's address that the vote by mail April 3 ballot may be mailed to.

MONTHLY OPEN HOUSE at the MOA Election Warehouse, 619 E Ship Creek Ave, Suite 110: 2nd Monday of the month from 5-7 p.m. and the 3rd Thursday of the month from 3-5 p.m.

If you missed the ADN article on the September 21 Open House, here is the link:

<https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/anchorage/2017/09/22/heres-how-anchorages-2018-vote-by-mail-election-will-work/>

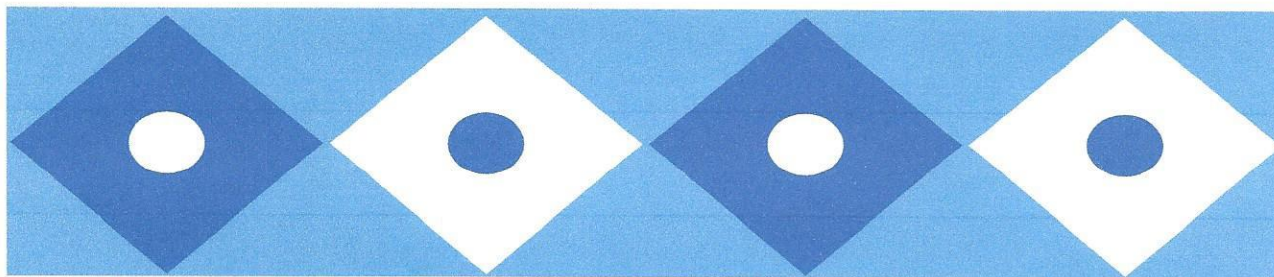
LEAGUE MEMBERS: *The Open House tours will be conducted by LWVAnch members. If you are interested in conducting these tours, please call Joyce at 360-7674. A short training session will be provided along with a fact sheet outlining the vote by mail process and equipment. What better way to learn about vote by mail and BECOME INVOLVED!*

STATE OF ALASKA ELECTIONS - Review of Current System

The Election Policy Work Group (EPWG) has been busy obtaining information on vote by mail elections and a hybrid of other election options for possible use in rural Alaska. The next meeting is scheduled for November 14-15.

Several EPWG members recently visited the Denver County and CO Secretary of State offices to view their vote by mail procedures and equipment. They stated the visit was "incredibly inspiring." A fact finding report will be available shortly.

Due to the Alaska's geography and possible issues connected with mail delivery in rural Alaska, the state is in the process of developing the scope of work, budget and methodology for a rural AK survey research project conducted by ISER to examine these unique circumstances in order to develop a system to best serve rural Alaska voters.



ARCHIVING OF ANCHORAGE LEAGUE RECORDS

Anchorage League records, older than ten years, were delivered to the UAA/APU Consortium Library on September 15. Thank you to John DeLapp and Jim Anderson for their assistance. On September 16, Tina DeLapp, Margaret McDonagh, Pat Redmond, Diane Mathisen and Joyce Anderson spent the day reviewing, sorting and consolidating 24 boxes of records by type of document (minutes, newsletters, treasurer's reports, studies conducted by LWV Anch, awards, newspaper clippings, etc.). Thanks to Arlene Schmuland, Archivist, and Assistant Archivist Veronica Denison for providing guidance as to what records should be archived, shredded or recycled. All materials/studies belonging to LWVUS, Muni, State and other entities were boxed for review to determine if they should be archived as well. After the records are cataloged, they will be available for viewing by the public at the UAA/APU Archives and Special Collections center. What an excellent way for the League name and our activities to be recognized!

While sorting through the materials, we went down memory lane! It's hard to believe the League was involved in so many activities over the years in addition to the wonderful press coverage we received in the 60's, 70's, and 80's. Look for future articles on the history of the Anchorage League.

IMPERIAL COURT ELECTION

We again provided our services to Imperial Court for their Saturday, August 26, election. Thanks to Pat Redmond and Carol Dickason for counting the ballots and submitting a certified report. Imperial Court was charged \$100 for our services.

If you know of an organization that would like the League to observe and/or count ballots for their election, please contact the League at 274-8477.

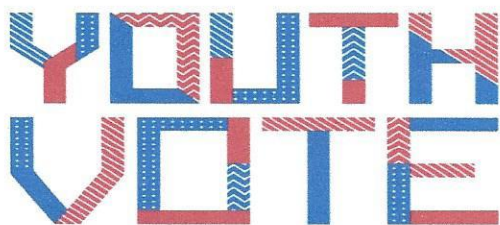


VOTER REGISTRATION

Two naturalization ceremonies have been held since August 7. One was held on September 20 at the Muni Assembly Chambers as part of the annual Welcoming Cities activities. (Welcoming Cities is a national initiative.) Pat Redmond and Marsha Olson covered the ceremony. A total of 46 individuals were naturalized and 20 registered to vote. Way to go! On September 22, a naturalization ceremony was held at Eagle River High School. A total of 65 individuals were naturalized with 20 registering to vote as well as twelve students. Marsha Olson, Marie Murdock, Pat Redmond and Joyce Anderson covered the ceremony.

UAA Campus Vote was held on Monday, October 9, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at five different stations at various locations on campus. Marsha Olson, League member and faculty member at UAA, coordinated the event. She is once again incorporating the voter registration activity as part of her class curriculum for the third year. In August, 34 UAA students registered to vote.

Registering to vote is the first step in becoming a life-long voter.



Youth Vote Update

Youth Vote has been busy since the election! The group's main focus has been Youth Voice and the importance of engaging young people in the issues that impact them today and in the future. To that end Youth Vote has worked in two areas:

- ⇒ News and media literacy – in order to make informed decisions about issues as voters and future voters, students need to understand how to be better consumers of information.
- ⇒ Bullying Prevention – one of the roadblocks to engaging youth in the broader discussions of our state, nation, and world is the lack of civil discourse modeled by our leaders. Youth Vote will encourage their peers to exchange ideas with open-minded conversations, active listening, and compassion.

Here's a quick review of that work so far...

WAM?! or Wait A Minute?!

Last spring the Youth Vote planning team worked with students in the Alaska Press Club to coordinate WAM?!, a project that engaged students and adults through two interactive events around journalism. The first, a discussion about truth in reporting, featured a panel of Alaska journalists as well as Lam Vo, a guest from Buzz Feed. Ms. Vo has been a long-time volunteer with the News Literacy Project, and she was the main presenter at the second WAM?! event – a current events quiz game that drew attention to the amount of “fake News” circulating the internet. After the game, Ms. Vo gave students tips on how to determine if an article was viable. These events were sponsored by LWV Anchorage and Spirit of Youth.

International Bullying Prevention Association Conference

In November 2016, Youth Vote Coordinator, Cari Zawodny, attended the IBPA Conference in New Orleans. The conference featured leading experts in bullying prevention, cyber-bullying, social emotional learning, bullying policy making, work-place bullying, inclusion and many other areas related to this complex issue. There were also many student groups that presented on ongoing efforts in their school communities that have had a positive and lasting impact on bullying in their school communities. This year, Youth Vote students are excited to have the opportunity learn from professionals in the field, and also to share ideas with peers attending the conference. Youth Vote will have the opportunity to share the work they have done through the Bullying Awareness Campaign.

Spirit of Youth Bullying Prevention Campaign

Youth Vote received a grant from Spirit of Youth to create a Bullying Prevention campaign. Youth Vote chose to work with local graphic designer, Jontue Hollingsworth, on a visual campaign. The students spent many hours with Mr. Hollingsworth to create 6 posters all working around the central idea: treat others as you would like to be treated. Each poster features a different word that is important to that idea: Civility, Awareness, Respect, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. These posters were already featured in the August issue of Alaska Business Monthly, and will be available for display this month.

What's next?

Youth Vote and another youth group, the student advisory team for Story Works Alaska, have been selected to serve as the peer selection panel for other groups hoping to receive Spirit of Youth's Bullying Prevention campaign grant. The students will also provide training for grant recipients around positive messaging for Bullying Prevention. In order to do that effectively, Youth Vote has the opportunity to send students to the International Bullying Prevention Association Conference in Nashville this November.

Youth Vote maintains a presence on social media: **WEBSITE:** www.anchorageyouthvote.com
FACEBOOK: [AnchorageYouthVote](#) **INSTAGRAM:** [ancyouthvote](#) **TWITTER:** [ANCYouthVote](#)

HOMELAND SECURITY CONFIRMS

Alaska was Unsuccessfully Targeted by Russian Cyber Actors

Representatives from the US Department of Homeland Security officially informed State Elections Director Josie Bahnke on September 22, 2017, that Russian Cyber Actors made a failed attempt to access Alaska's Voter Registration Database prior to the 2016 General Election.

Ms. Bahnke stated, "Internet security protocols followed by the State of Alaska successfully protected our system and the attempted probe had no effect on Alaska's Voter Registration and Election Management Database or outcome of the election. We are working with the SOA's Chief Information Officer to seek additional information and will continue to work collaboratively with the Department of Homeland Security to ensure that all aspects of our election system remain secure."

More details about the state's election security system can be located on the Division of Elections website: <http://elections.alaska.gov>

LWVUS Statement

Women's Right to Contraceptive Care

League of Women Voters of the United States issued the following statement on October 6, 2017, in response to the announcement that employers can now opt out of birth control coverage, required by the Affordable Care Act.

- ◆ This administration's decision to dismantle vital health care coverage for nearly 62 million women is misguided and discriminatory.
- ◆ Eliminating employer-covered birth control coverage, a requirement under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), is a direct assault on a woman's right to make her own health care choices.
- ◆ The provision included in the ACA has saved women an estimated \$1.4 billion in out of pocket costs for contraception coverage. Nine out of 10 women use birth control at some point in their lives for family planning or other medical reasons. Birth control is critical for effective family planning and preventing unwanted pregnancies, which we know opens up more opportunities for women and increases lifetime earnings.
- ◆ Today's decision turns back the clock for women. It seriously undermines and undercuts the very premise of the ACA that all Americans should have access to health care coverage. Allowing employers and insurance plans to pick and choose what should be covered will lead to discrimination against women. It will shred the essential protections for which generations have struggled.
- ◆ The League of Women Voters strongly opposes this decision.

NEW LWVANCH WEB SITE

Watch for information in our November newsletter for information on launching our new web site. We are very excited. The site will contain a wealth of information on the local, state and national level.

LWVUS

Public Policy Positions

- ◆ Health Care
- ◆ Immigration



LWVUS has policy positions relating to: Representative Government; International Relations; Natural Resources; and Social Policy. Each category has a multitude of subcategories; health care and immigration, for instance, are under the Social Policy category. All policy positions can be accessed at: lwv.org

Health care and immigration are two issues of current importance. We thought it would be helpful to post the League position on each of these issues for your information. LWVUS is active in responding to national issues. Please consider signing up for the LWVUS League Update and receive information on current action taken by League. Access: lwv.org

IMPORTANT: All action at the federal level must be authorized by the LWVUS board.

HEALTH CARE

Every U.S. resident should have access to a basic level of care that includes:

- ◆ The prevention of disease
- ◆ Health promotion and education
- ◆ Primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health)
- ◆ Acute care
- ◆ Long-term care
- ◆ Mental health care

Every U.S. resident should have access to affordable, quality in-and-out patient behavioral health care, including needed medications and supportive service that is integrated with, and achieves parity with, physical health care. Dental, vision and hearing care also are important but lower in priority. The League believes that under any system of health care reform, consumers/patients should be permitted to purchase services or insurance coverage beyond the basic level.

The League favors a national health insurance plan financed through general taxes in place of individual insurance premiums. However, an employer-based system of health care reform that provides universal access is acceptable to the League. The League supports administration of U.S. health care system either by a combination of the private and public sectors or by a combination of federal, state and/or regional government agencies.

IMMIGRATION

Note: The League lobbied in support of the DREAM Act that would provide a path to citizenship for young immigrants who complete a college degree or serve in the military, thereby enabling them to be a fully productive part of American society.

The League believes that immigration policies should promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the U.S.; and be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises. Provisions should also be made for qualified persons to enter the U.S. on student visas. All persons should receive fair treatment under the law.

The League supports federal immigration laws that provide an efficient, expeditious system (with minimal or no backlogs) for legal entry of immigrants into the U.S. In transition to a reformed system, the League supports provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.

The League supports federal payments to impacted communities to address the financial costs born by states and local governments with large immigrant populations.