



# The Anchorage VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ANCHORAGE  
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November 2020

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Hi League Members:



## HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Hope all of you and your family had a good Thanksgiving. However you celebrated Thanksgiving, we have a lot to be thankful for notwithstanding the pandemic creating limitations on gatherings. We hope you are taking advantage of using Facebook, Zoom, Face Time and other electronic face-to-face media to keep in touch on a more personal level - we all need TLC.

## HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE ON ELECTIONS

The Elections are over! The 2020 election marks 100 years since the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920 granting women the right to vote.

While a century apart, the similarities between the 1920 and 2020 elections are striking - a deadly global pandemic (the 1918-1919 flu), massive unemployment (following World War I), civil unrest inspired by systemic racism (1920's race riots and lynchings).

## POINT OF INFORMATION

The Alaska Division of Elections reported 360,684 voters voted in the General Election out of 595,647 registered voters for a turnout of 60.55%.

Way to Go Alaskans!!!

## Presidential Election Years

2016 321,271 Voting  
528,671 Registered  
60.77% Turnout

2012 301,694 Voting  
506,431 Registered  
59.57% Turnout

## THANK YOU LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS



For the last 100 years the League of Women Voters has been building and defending our democracy by educating, registering and empowering voters, and by continuing to advocate for a government where every vote, and the voice it represents, counts.

## THANK YOU to the Board and Members of LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ANCHORAGE

**We will continue to work to promote a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate in the electoral process.**

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.



## WEBSITE MANAGER NEEDED

Our website is formatted using Word Press. We are looking for a person familiar with Word Press (or is willing to learn Word Press) who would keep our website updated with upcoming events, newsletters, and other timely information. The board is considering offering a stipend for performing this work. If you are interested, please contact Cari Zawodny at 223-0477.

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### SAVE THE DATES

LWVAK Annual State Convention  
Saturday, April 17, 2021

LWV Anchorage Annual Meeting  
Tuesday, May 4, 2021

### VIA ZOOM



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## WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE BOOK READING



Marilyn Russell, LWV Anchorage member, reading "Marching with Aunt Susan" at the Loussac Library.

The book relates a story about women's suffrage. All Bessie wants is to go hiking with her father and brothers. But it's 1896, and girls don't get to hike. They can't vote either, which Bessie discovers when Susan B. Anthony comes to town to help lead the campaign for women's suffrage.

Stirred to action, Bessie joins the movement and discovers that small efforts can result in small changes - and maybe even big ones.

Inspired by the diary of the real-life Bessie Keith Pond, a ten-year-old girl who lived in California during the suffrage campaign, author Claire Rudolf Murphy and illustrator Stacey Schuett offer a thought-provoking introduction to the fight for women's rights.

Listen to the reading at: <https://youtu.be/eUOZ-Jyrp3o> (Time: 12 minutes 20 seconds)

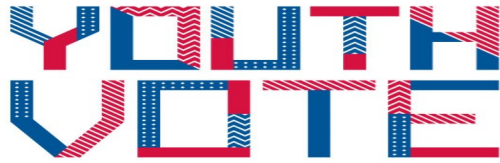
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## ALASKA COMMON GROUND

### Alaska's Fiscal Future: Goal, Problems and Options

Alaska Common Ground hosted a series of discussions focusing on our fiscal future. In the spring of 2021, amidst the severe economic downturn caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Alaska Legislature will face the biggest budget crisis in the state's history. To listen to these discussions, click [here](#).

We want Alaska to be a place where all people have an opportunity to thrive, our children will choose to live, existing businesses will flourish, new enterprises are started, poverty is reduced, and the environment is protected. To achieve this, we need quality services provided by the State of Alaska, including decent education, transportation, public safety, justice, and more.



## Youth Vote 2020 was remarkably successful even during a pandemic!

- ◆ Youth Vote produced a pre-recorded Candidates Forum with the help of Alaska Teen Media Institute. The forum had participation from all major parties for both the US Senate and US House races.
- ◆ The Candidates Forum was shared with middle and high school classrooms, social media, and broadcast live on KTUU, KYES, and on 2 affiliates in Juneau on the Saturday and Sunday prior to the election.
- ◆ Youth Vote members participated in Debate for the State and asked questions on both nights of the program.
- ◆ Youth Vote members participated in two Alaska Teen Media Institute podcasts – one about voter anxiety and one all about Youth Vote featuring brand new member, Ava Earl and long time member, Tuan Graziano
- ◆ Youth Vote’s website (anchorageyouthvote.org) has gone through a re-build and we will continue to add to the site. This election season we launched a Youth Voter Toolkit which provides: Voter guide materials, Candidates Forum, Mock-Election links, and other information that we will keep current.

This year’s Mock Election was conducted on-line rather than in school computer labs. Here are the results:

Results - Youth Vote Ballot Questions

Open Primary	Yes - 60% (1549)	No - 40% (1041)
Ranked Choice Voting	Yes - 47% (1222)	No - 53% (1369)
Do you feel youth voice has been heard by the ASD regarding plans and policies for distance learning and an eventual return to school?	Yes - 48% (1261)	No - 52% (1357)

Results - US Senate & US House of Representatives

Senate	Al Gross - 52% (1348)	Dan Sullivan - 34% (887)
House of Representatives	Alyse Galvin - 59% (1530)	Don Young - 41% (1079)

Results - US President

President / Vice Presidents	Biden/Harris - 56% (1456)	Trump/Pence - 34% (881)
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Youth Vote needs your support! A fundraising effort is underway - if you would like to contribute please visit [lwwanchorage.org](http://lwwanchorage.org) to make an on-line donation or feel free to mail a check to either the LWV of Anchorage (memo: Youth Vote) or the LWVAK (memo: Ed Fund Youth Vote). Thank you for your continuous support of Youth Vote and its outstanding members.



# VOTING STORIES



We collected stories of individual's voting experience during the national and statewide election. We hope you enjoy reading them!

## **Jacob Konrath-Bera**

My daughter and I stood in line for over an hour to vote today at City Hall in Anchorage. As we finally made our way near the front, an elderly woman with a walker came in from the cold. It was a struggle for her just to get in the door. And when she took one look at the line she contemplated leaving. Without hesitation, a man closer to the front jumped out of line and quietly said, "Ma'am...please take my spot." He slowly led her to his place in line, and then walked all the way to the back before anyone could say anything. He likely waited another hour to vote. For the elderly woman, the 15 minutes she still had to wait took a tremendous amount of physical work. Her walker had a seat on it, and she would shuffle a few steps, prop it against the wall, and rest before moving forward again. But she was determined...and she cast her ballot. I don't know how either of these people voted, what party they belonged to, or whether they were liberal or conservative. But frankly, it didn't matter. One American displayed an act of kindness and sacrifice to ensure another could vote. For all of the hollow claims of patriotism I've heard lately, this was authentic...and humble. And it was a reminder of the goodwill our nation is capable of.

## **Penny Goodstein**

I voted in person on the 2nd day the polls opened, at Midtown Mall. I arrived at 8 AM and found a line snaked around the mall, but really looked longer because everyone observed the appropriate distancing. Everyone I saw had masks. No one had blatantly obvious campaign paraphernalia (no hats, no campaign buttons.) The people in front and in back of me line were friendly. This should not have to be important, and should be expected, but with the emphasis on unofficial "poll watchers" that are actually thugs, I was a bit worried. I was out of the polling station in 25 minutes. I love the stickers. I got mine, and one for my husband who voted absentee ballot, dropped in a drop box. BTW: stickers are printable and everyone can have as many we want!

## **Carol Dickason**

Though we had requested and had received absentee ballots, my husband and I decided to vote early in person. Thursday morning, Oct. 22, about 9:15am, we headed to City Hall. There was no line at all, and all workers were masked and generally behind plexiglass - except for those cleaning or assisting with putting our ballots into the box. There were some great new "I Have Voted" stickers which celebrated Alaskan women as we celebrate 100 years of women voting. The only down side - we paid for parking (if there were any "free" spaces in the lot, we did not see them) but it was worth every penny to not have to stand in long lines to vote. For several years now we have voted early - who knows how much snow might fall on Election Day?

## **Ali Butcher**

Voting in the presidential election for the first time was a very special experience which I had been looking forward to since I was a little kid. It was the cumulation of years of my family instilling in me the value of civic engagement, and was now something I could participate in alongside them as equals.



## **MORE VOTING STORIES**

### **Tina DeLapp**

I opted to vote early, in-person on the first day of early voting, despite having received an absentee ballot. Truth be told, all the hoopla about the mail – as well as the inordinately long time it took for a package to get from me to our daughter-in-law in Southern California recently – made me nervous. And then there was the signature-matching issue – what if my careful signature on my absentee ballot was so careful that some election official decided that it didn't match the signature that I quickly scribbled on my last driver's license renewal? Voting at the Midtown Mall was a surprise – both good and bad. I got there early – right around the time the polls opened – and found nearly 200 people in line ahead of me (the bad surprise). But everyone social distanced and, with the exception of one person who loudly proclaimed that she couldn't, everyone wore a mask – and wore it properly, covering both their nose and mouth (the nice surprise). The line moved quickly and steadily along and once I got to the counter, things went smoothly – after waiting nearly an hour to get through the line, I was in-and-out of the polling place in 10 minutes or less (another nice surprise). AND I FELT WONDERFUL – and hopeful – when I was done! (BTW, as a nurse I KNOW there is absolutely NO reason that an individual able to stand in line at the polls and to converse loudly with surrounding people without gasping for breath could not wear a mask – other than personal selfishness – and just to be sure, I just looked it up!)

### **Heather Flynn**

Got my absentee ballot, voted, signed, had my neighbor witness and sign, and put it in the mail. I should have just voted early like I always do because my vote won't be counted until seven (7) days after the election. It's probably unlikely that the absentee ballots will change the outcome, but in this climate, one never knows. I'm considering prayer.

### **Camille Mercil (special needs student)**

I turned 18 in January. My grandma registered me to vote because she is a registrar. I couldn't wait to vote for President. My Mom and I went to Sunset Hills Church at 1 p.m. and walked right in. No line. My grandma explained the ballot to me so I knew what was on it. She told me that my vote was confidential and I did not need to tell anyone how I voted. I got a "I Voted" sticker with a girl and the big dipper on it and wore it all day. My Mom posted a picture of us on Facebook wearing our sticker with our thumbs up!

**Voting is a Powerful tool.**

**The large voter turnout in this year's election**

**is a testament to this statement.**

# 2020 Elections Highest Voter Turnout Since 1900's Most Secure Election in History

## VOTER TURNOUT

2020 has broken both national and state records — and votes are still being counted. So far, 63.9 percent of Americans eligible to vote cast a ballot in the 2020 election, the highest portion since 1908's record 65.7 percent turnout. Turnout in all but eight states is projected to exceed 40-year records, with turnout in Minnesota and Wisconsin coming close to 80 percent.

Overall, total 2020 turnout is projected to rise to 66.5 percent once all votes are tallied, the highest since 1900's 73.7 percent turnout among eligible voters. A much smaller voter pool was eligible to cast ballots in 1900 and 1908, as women, Asian Americans, and some Native Americans could not vote, and other non-white Americans were discouraged from voting through Jim Crow laws and intimidation.

## ELECTION SECURITY

November 12, 2020 WASHINGTON – The members of Election Infrastructure Government Coordinating Council (GCC) Executive Committee – Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Assistant Director Bob Kolasky, U.S. Election Assistance Commission Chair Benjamin Hovland, National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) President Maggie Toulouse Oliver, National Association of State Election Directors (NASED) President Lori Augino, and Escambia County (Florida) Supervisor of Elections David Stafford – and the members of the Election Infrastructure Sector Coordinating Council (SCC) – Chair Brian Hancock (Unisyn Voting Solutions), Vice Chair Sam Derheimer (Hart InterCivic), Chris Wlaschin (Election Systems & Software), Ericka Haas (Electronic Registration Information Center), and Maria Bianchi (Democracy Works) - released the following statement:

“The November 3rd election was the most secure in American history. Right now, across the country, election officials are reviewing and double checking the entire election process prior to finalizing the result.

“When states have close elections, many will recount ballots. All of the states with close results in the 2020 presidential race have paper records of each vote, allowing the ability to go back and count each ballot if necessary. This is an added benefit for security and resilience. This process allows for the identification and correction of any mistakes or errors. **There is no evidence that any voting system deleted or lost votes, changed votes, or was in any way compromised.**

“Other security measures like pre-election testing, state certification of voting equipment, and the U.S. Election Assistance Commission’s (EAC) certification of voting equipment help to build additional confidence in the voting systems used in 2020.

“While we know there are many unfounded claims and opportunities for misinformation about the process of our elections, we can assure you we have the utmost confidence in the security and integrity of our elections, and you should too. When you have questions, turn to elections officials as trusted voices as they administer elections.”