



The Anchorage VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ANCHORAGE
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November 2018

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Message from the President



Welcome everyone to the start of the holiday season and the end of a long, and very active election season for the LWV of Anchorage!

We had so many exciting things going on in the lead up to Election Day! It was fast and furious and exhilarating!

I want to recognize our Vice President, Cari Zawodny, for all the amazing work she has done this election cycle guiding the student leaders that make up Youth Vote. They truly are an inspiring group of young people and I'm grateful that there is Cari who can help offer support and guidance and still allow the students to lead the way.

I also would like to recognize our Board Members Beth Nordlund and Schawna Thoma who were able to organize a state-wide, coordinated, voter education and get out the vote campaign in very little time! Along with updating our website to make it truly a go-to site for all voting related information. Of course, this couldn't have happened without the support of our Treasurer, Tina DeLapp and the State LWV Treasurer, Cheryl Jebe; who both worked hard to make sure that the money got where it needed to go as quickly as possible. It really was incredible how it all came together so quickly!

For my part, I joined Tina DeLapp at KNBA on October 26th for a radio interview with Tripp Carouse about the LWV of Anchorage and all that we do. Tina and I had a lot of fun being on the radio! Our segment was broadcast on Monday, October 29th and was part of a seven-day series as a lead up to Election Day.

Our Program Committee is inspired by all that we participated in and is coming up with all kinds of fantastic ideas for future events! Stay tuned for more!

Wishing all of you and your families a very happy and peaceful holiday season!

Margaret

Reminder

**ANNUAL
HOLIDAY
PARTY**



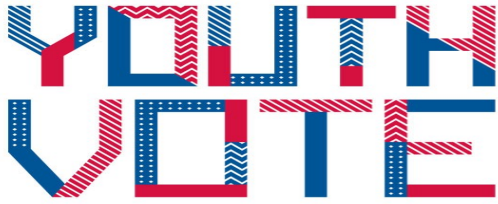
You and your guest are invited

**TUESDAY, Dec 4
6:00—8:00 p.m.**

**Home of Barbara Norrell
5018 Knights Way**

This year's non-profit is STAR. Your financial donations or new clothing is always appreciated.

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.



Youth Vote Candidate Forum

**Olivia Tafs and Ali Butcher
YV Members, West High School**

On October 23rd, Youth Vote hosted the 2018 Candidates Forum. It included candidates from the races for governor and House of Representatives, including Alyse Galvin, Mark Begich, and Billy Toien. The questions asked were submitted by youth from all over the Anchorage School District, and curated by the members of the Youth Vote planning team. The questions covered a broad range of topics young people care about; education, homelessness, mental health, public safety, healthcare, climate change, and the economy - all things that directly impact Alaska's Youth. For the first time, the forum featured a third segment in which the candidates were asked questions about youth voice and civic empowerment. The event was also aired live on KTUU.

Youth Vote gives young people the opportunity to represent youth voice in Alaska politics while promoting political engagement among peers. The forum was led by Youth Vote's high-school and college age members. The event was attended by students from various high schools, who all had the opportunity to see the candidates answer questions and understand more about their ideas in real time. It was a valuable opportunity for students to understand more about the political process and the candidates in November's races. Additionally, the event was led by students and young people in the community. Members of the Youth Vote planning team introduced and moderated the event, timed the responses, asked the questions, welcomed the candidates, and even helped guide the TV production. As moderators and speakers during the event, we were able to present the instructions and questions we curated ourselves on live TV, which was an exceptional and interesting experience as high school students.



Having the opportunity to meet the candidates who attended as well as guide the production of the event was incredibly impactful. Overall, this student-led event was a really interesting way for the members of Youth Vote to connect with youth in the community and help create informed, enthusiastic future voters.



Youth Vote 2018 Mock Election

Cari Zawodny, YV Coordinator

Youth Vote is created By Youth For Youth

The purpose of Youth Vote is to provide a non-partisan venue for “**EMPOWERING YOUTH TO VOTE AND BE INVOLVED IN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS.**”

Nearly 9,000 middle and high school students across the Anchorage School District participated in the Youth Vote 2018 Mock Election held October 23 through October 30. (Youth Vote 2018 is a registered project with the National Student Mock Election.)

Students voted on Alaska's Governor/Lt. Governor, US House, as well as three Youth Vote ballot questions. Students did an incredible job researching and creating voter information about the three ballot questions. Mock Election Voter packets were sent to Anchorage School District Social Studies chairs for distribution.

Youth Vote would not be possible without the efforts of the dynamic student planning team and support from the community, non-profits, many Alaska businesses and the Anchorage School District.

Results—Youth Vote Ballot Questions

FEDERAL—Should the President be elected by popular vote rather than our current system, the Electoral College?

Yes 58.23% **No 41.77%**

STATE— Do Alaska salmon need more government protection?

Yes 68.81% **No 31.19%**

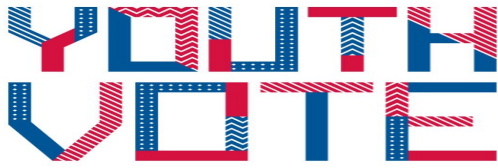
LOCAL— Do you think more resources be put toward health education—especially mental health and healthy relationships—in the Anchorage School District?

Yes 81.46% **No 18.54%**

Results—Alaska Governor / US House of Representatives

Governor/Lt. Governor	Begich / Call 44.89%	Dunleavy/ Meyer 33.31%	Walker/Mallott 14%	Toien/ Cliff 7.8%
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US House of Representatives	Young 56.22%	Galvin 43.78%
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International Bullying Prevention Association Conference

October 2018

Ethan Zawodny
Youth Vote Member, Eagle River High School

Earlier this month, fellow Youth Vote member, Jasmine Carter and I had the opportunity to represent Youth Vote and present at the 2018 International Bullying Prevention Association Conference in San Diego. We were one of a handful of student-led groups at the conference. I feel we gave a very professional presentation of the bullying prevention work Youth Vote has been engaged in with our partners, Story Works Alaska and Spirit of Youth. We also helped audience members assess their current level of youth involvement and leadership, as well as identify ways they could increase youth voice in solution making around bullying behavior.

The conference was very organized and the presentations were inspirational and easy to learn from. I tried to go to as many school based presentations as possible - most of which weren't actually student-led. I think there is more work Youth Vote can do to help other groups understand what youth-led really means, which is why Youth Vote and Story Works Alaska have applied to present at the World Anti-Bullying Forum in Dublin this summer. Selected groups will be notified in late-January. As always, conference opportunities are great learning experiences for students, and IBPA 2018 was no exception.



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

"Vote. Eat Cake. Make Change."

Tuan Graziano, YV Member, UAA Student

This election year Youth Vote was invited to table at an election day event setup by other youth empowerment organizations in the city. Titled, "Vote. Eat Cake. Make Change!", the event strove to increase young voter participation by offering a fun space for young people to hang out and vote, speak with organizations around the city about important issues and topics, and of course eat cake.

The event served to attract many UAA students as well as high school students entering voting age. Youth Vote members Olivia, Ali, Madison, and Tuan tabled at the event and were able to connect not only with students but college and high school educators as well. Having young high school members such as Olivia, Ali, and Madison volunteering at the event conveyed how youth, and members of Youth Vote, who cannot vote know the importance of the voting and are willing to spend their time educating others about youth voice, voting, and empowerment.

Numerous t-shirts and copies of Youth Vote's manifestos were handed out which highlighted how popular our brand and our message was. The results of our mock election shocked visitors to our table and helped us emphasize how important Youth Vote and our mission is. Several other organizations and organizers complimented us on our work, program, and of course our members. Some were so impressed that Madison was asked for an interview by a UAA journalism student and Tuan was interviewed by Margie from the Alaska Center to talk about Youth Vote's work.

For Youth Vote this event was especially important as a replacement to election central. It served as a platform to not only spread the word of Youth Vote on one of the most important days of the year but to also spread the results of the mock election which was especially powerful this year. Overall the event was a success as there was a constant stream of voters at the polling booths and at Youth Vote's table. We look forward to participating in similar events for upcoming election years.



VOTER EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

SCHAWNA TOMA

This past Fall, we were awarded a Tier 1 grant through the Rasmuson Foundation to support a voter education campaign with the purpose of reaching some the 60,000 newly registered voters on the rolls in Alaska. Additionally, a grant was also procured through the Moore Charitable Foundation plus contributions from private donors totaling about \$90,000 in all.

The outreach plan focused on upgrades to our local website, digital advertising and direct mail. The digital advertising featured online ads that directed voters to the website which featured a one-stop-shopping site where voters could look up their voter information, check polling location, find voter information in various languages, get early vote information and more. In addition, an educational video produced by our Youth Vote team was featured.

This Voter Education campaign had two phases, an early vote push then another for the general election. It also grew along with the donations as funds came in.

From the analytics completed by the digital company and webmaster, a little over 2.2 million ad impressions were displayed over a two-week time timeframe to 135,000 Alaskans. These were eye catching ads featuring “**POLAR BEARS**” with a link straight to the Anchorage League landing page. Over 3,000 people viewed our site because of these clicks on the ads with 4,208 page views. 90% of the people using our site were new views and 10% were returning to the site.

We sent a half page full color postcard card to about 79,000 Alaskans. The card featured early voting and election date reminders and included information about the web site as well. The analytic use charts show website use spiking not only with the ad campaigns and but again when people received their cards in the mail.

With new technology, we were able to have a good idea of how many people utilized the voter tools and information produced, all paid for by the Anchorage League of Women Voters. It is heartening to know that thousands of Alaskans saw our trusted brand and used our new online resources to learn more about the November 6 General Election.

We look forward to future campaigns where people will trust in and use our site and turn to the League for answers to election questions. We take our mission seriously and are grateful to the Rasmuson Foundation, the Moore Charitable Foundation and many private donors for making our education campaign possible.

INCREASED VOTER INFORMATION EQUALS MORE INFORMED VOTERS

Good for the Community

Helps Alaskan Citizens Become Part of the Decision-Making Process

UNDERSTANDING VOTER TURNOUT

The four states with the highest turnout for the November 3, 2018 elections were Minnesota with 64.2% (election day registration), Colorado with 62.7% (vote-by-mail), Oregon with 61.6% (vote-by-mail), and Wisconsin with 61.2%.

Alaska’s turnout was 49.8% - in the middle of voter participation among the 50 states and the District of Columbia. In 2014, a similar election year, our turnout was 56.08%. What happened? Our state now automatically registers citizens who apply for the Alaska Permanent Fund and these numbers were included in the number of registered voters when determining voter turnout.

It would be interesting to see how many PFD voters actually voted

Perhaps someone will compile these interesting statistics down the road.