

LWV OF ANCHORAGE

THE VOTER FEBRUARY 2020

From the President:

Welcome to 2020!!! The Centennial Year for League of Women Voters U.S., the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and the 70th Anniversary of the creation of the LWV of Anchorage! The start to the New Year has been particularly cold and has certainly led to an increase in my desire to hibernate. Despite the cold temperatures of the New Year, we still have been busy coming up with all sorts of ways to celebrate. There are all kinds of exciting things coming up soon, most importantly are the LWV of Anchorage Annual Meeting on April 21st and the LWV of Alaska Statewide Convention here in Anchorage on April 24th-26th!! We hope to see all of you at either or both of these events; we will have more details coming soon.

Assembly Watch:

We are still inviting members to stay involved and to help keep the other members of the LWV of Anchorage informed through participating in Assembly Watch. What is Assembly Watch? You sign up to attend a regularly scheduled Anchorage Assembly Meeting, take notes on what happens, send those notes on to me and I share them with the other members. We all lead busy, busy lives and can't be everywhere, but if we share the load then we can all be informed. If you would like to help, click on the link below and select a meeting to sign up for!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040d48acad2da1fe3-anchorage>

Currently, Assembly Watch is set up through March. I'll update it then to a more spring inspired theme! ☺

AK Common Ground Partnership:

Separate messages were sent out, but in the past couple of weeks we have co-hosted two events that were put on by Alaska Common Ground. The first was a continuation of the series they have been doing on Climate Change. This event was on February 4th at 49th State Brewery. It was a collection of different agencies and groups discussing what efforts they were making to address the issue of Climate Change.

The second was just last week on February 11th. It also took place at 49th State Brewery and featured four mini-debates on potential paths for future fiscal policy in Alaska. This is also a continuation of previous events that AK Common Ground has hosted relating to fiscal policy issues in Alaska.

We appreciate our partnership with AK Common Ground and hope to co-host many other events together in the future!

LWV of Anchorage Annual Meeting:

Save the Date! Our Annual Meeting is coming up on Tuesday, April 21, 2020!

Special Guest Speaker: Justice Sen Tan on Judicial Retention in Alaska

What: LWV of Anchorage Annual Meeting

Who: All LWV of Anchorage Members and interested future members

When: Tuesday, April 21st @ 6pm – 8:30pm

Where: BP Energy Center

Why: This is our annual meeting where we determine the direction we want to go with our organization in the coming year. We take positions on issues, elect officers, propose a budget for the year, propose dues for the year, and more!

As part of the Annual Meeting, we will be looking at Positions on Issues. Last year, we determined the following set of issues to continue for the coming year.

***Planning & Zoning:** The League of Women Voters of Anchorage supports comprehensive planning and effective implementation of a plan aimed at quality growth and development.*

***Community Councils:** The League of Women Voters of Anchorage supports comprehensive planning and effective implementation of a plan aimed at quality growth and development.*

***Boards & Commissions:** The League of Women Voters of Anchorage supports broad participation by all segments of the community on Municipal boards and commissions, effective interaction between related boards and commissions, and the periodic review of the effectiveness of all boards and commissions.*

***Election of School Board Members:** The League of Women Voters of Anchorage supports a seven-member school board whose members are elected at-large to serve in designated seats.*

PROGRAM EMPHASIS

- 100th LWV Anniversary Celebration
- Make public information more accessible.
- Promote and support Youth Vote's expanding program emphasis.

If you have suggestions for issues or studies, we'd LOVE to hear them!!

Volunteers Welcome!:

In preparation for our Annual Meeting, we have a number of committees to form that require participation of both members and Board Members. If you have an interest in serving on any of the following committees, please do not hesitate to let a Board Member know!!

- Program Committee
- Nominating Committee
- Food Committee

Other Upcoming Events in the Works:

- *Ballot Review* – the LWV of Anchorage has contracted again with the Municipality of Anchorage to create the Ballot Review to go out to all Anchorage voters with the Municipal ballots. This is always a HUGE undertaking. We have some wonderful members who have taken on this responsibility year after year, but we **are looking for new people to step forward!!** If you are interested in helping put together this important annual creation, please let a Board Member know!
- *501 (c)3* - Thank you to Keri Clark, Tina DeLapp, Diane Mathisen, and all the members of the Board who have worked to help the LWV of Anchorage achieve 501 (c)3 status! We are in the final steps of this lengthy process and are so appreciative of all the work that has been done so far!
- *People Powered Fair Mapping Project* – We have a committee of members who are working with the LWVAK on a grant from LWVUS on Fair Mapping. The LWVUS, LWVAK and the LWV of Anchorage are all very focused on collecting an accurate Census 2020 count so that Fair Electoral Maps can be drawn. The committee is working on a variety of exciting projects to get members, particularly our youth involved in creating fair maps for voting!

That's All Folks! More news coming in March 2020!!