



# The Anchorage VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ANCHORAGE  
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**June 2020 - 2nd Edition**

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## SUFFRAGE — FROM THEN TO NOW

### *Continuing the Fight for Voting Rights*

## ALASKA SUFFRAGE Upcoming Events

Please Join the League of Women Voters of Anchorage for a series of events celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passing of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment granting women the right to vote, highlighting some of the pioneers impacting the Suffrage Movement in Alaska, and most importantly, advocating for voting rights to be extended and protected for all of those who are currently shut out.

The first piece of legislation passed by the first territorial legislature in 1913 gave women the right to vote; House Bill 2, To Extend the Elective Franchise to Women in the Territory of Alaska. The bill passed both the Territorial House and Senate without controversy.

## ALASKA WOMEN AND THE VOTE IN THE 1910'S AND 1920'S

The Alaska State Museum has an online exhibit, ALASKA's SUFFRAGE STAR, detailing the effort by Alaskan women to obtain the right to vote during the 1910-1920 era.

Please take a few minutes to view the exhibit. You will find their effort to be enlightening and very informative.

Our League contributed \$1,000 to the success of the project.

<https://lam.alaska.gov/suffrage-star>.

## Mark the Dates for these ZOOM EVENTS

*NOTE: You do not need to be a member to participate. Please free to share this information with others who may be interested.*

**WHEN:** Tuesday, July 1st  
**TIME:** 7:00—8:00 p.m.

**WHEN:** Thursday, July 23rd  
**TIME:** 7:00—8:00 p.m.

### **TO REGISTER for ZOOM EVENTS:**

Email: [anchorageleague@gmail.com](mailto:anchorageleague@gmail.com)

### **MARCH and PRESENTATIONS**

**WHEN:** Wednesday, August 26th  
**TIME:** Noon—1:00 p.m.

Details to Come!

**(more detailed information in newsletter)**

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.

## The LWV supports:

- ◆ Passing the Voting Rights Act of America, which restores the protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that were stripped by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2013.
- ◆ Transparent and accountable redistricting processes and the end of hyper-partisan practices. We support the institution of independent redistricting commissions.
- ◆ Reforming our nation's campaign finance systems to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, and enable candidates to compete more equitably in public office and allow maximum citizen participant in the political process.
- ◆ The elimination of discriminatory voter photo ID laws, the fight against attacks against the voter registration process, and holding lawmakers accountable when they try to institute last-minute Election Day barriers.

## July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, 7:00-8:00 p.m. - Zoom Event Presentation and Discussion

Guest speaker: Beverly Beeton, Ph.D.

Beverly Beeton holds a Ph.D. in social and intellectual history from the University of Utah. She served as a university administrator for 25 years, most recently as Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Alaska Anchorage. (See full bio on next page.)



### Cornelia Templeton Jewett Hatcher

*In 1909, forty-two-year-old women's rights advocate and national temperance leader, Cornelia Templeton Jewett took a cruise to Alaska. She met and married Robert Lee Hatcher of Hatch Pass and Independence Mine fame. They lived in Knik (later in Wasilla) where she got a petition for votes for women signed and sent to Alaska's first territorial legislators. This inspired passage of their first law that granted Alaska women voting rights. Then Cornelia went on to organize and lead the campaign for prohibition of liquor effective, January 1, 1918. Thus, Alaskans voted 2 to 1 for prohibition in 1916 resulting in 16 years of Bone Dry Alaska 1918-1934. However, Hootch continued to flow.*

## July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, 7:00-8:00 p.m. - Zoom Event Presentation and Discussion

Guest speaker: Beverly Beeton, Ph.D.

### Lena Morrow Lewis

*The summer of 1912, when she was forty-four-years-old, Lena Morrow Lewis, an ardent suffragist and first woman elected to the national executive committee of the Socialist Party of America, moved to Alaska. She lived in Fairbanks, Juneau and Anchorage where she edited 4 different newspapers and ran unsuccessfully for city council in Juneau and territorial delegate to congress. While women did not vote in large numbers for Lena for public office, they went to her speeches on women's rights and looked to her for political education through her parliamentary law classes that she taught around Alaska. Lena was known for rallying Socialist and labor union members to support votes for women and prohibition of intoxicating drinks.*



(\*\*Both Cornelia and Lena are highlighted in the Alaska's Suffrage Star Exhibit. See link on first page.)



Beverly Beeton holds a Ph.D. in social and intellectual history from the University of Utah. She served as a university administrator for 25 years, most recently as Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

Dr. Beeton has published a wide variety of books, articles, and reviews. Her best-known work is *Women Vote in the West: The Woman Suffrage Movement, 1869-1896* (New York: Garland Publishing, 1986). She served on the Alaska Historical Commission, the Commission on Colleges of the Northwest Accreditation Association, Anchorage Museum Association and the Building Committee that planned the major expansion of the museum

with art, history and science galleries including one with objects from the Smithsonian. An advocate for taking academic knowledge outside the academy, Dr. Beeton has made numerous presentations at national and regional professional associations, civic groups, and television audiences. Currently, she is researching and writing a social history of Alaska around World War One. This study tells the story of community and railroad building with special emphasis on why the first bill passed by Alaska's first legislature granted women voting rights 7 years before the national amendment to the Constitution in 1920, Alaskans voting 2 to 1 to prohibit liquor before national prohibition, restricting prostitution in the Far North, and the leftist and socialist movements in early Alaska. She is lecturing around the country on her findings regarding Alaska's history and its relationship to the rest of the nation.

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### **OTHER NATIONAL HISTORICAL FACTS ABOUT VOTING RIGHTS**

- |                |         |  |
|----------------|---------|--|
| 15th Amendment | 1870    | Abolished the disenfranchisement of black voters.  |
|                | 1870-71 | Enforcement Act. Gave the President authority to send in Federal troops to enforce voting laws and prohibited election officials from disenfranchising black voters. |
|                | 1897    | U.S. Supreme Court ruled voting was not an automatic right of citizens and that states were empowered by the Constitution to establish their voting regulations.     |
| 19th Amendment | 1920    | Abolished the disenfranchisement of women voters.  |
|                | 1924    | Indian Citizenship Act. Citizenship for Native Americans. As citizens they would have the right to vote.   |
| 24th Amendment | 1965    | Civil Rights Act. In Federal elections no citizen shall be denied or abridged by the U.S. or any State by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax.        |
|                | 1970    | Lengthy residency requirements declared unconstitutional.  |
| 26th Amendment | 1971    | Granted 18 year old citizens the right to vote.  |
|                | 1975    | Voting Rights Act. Required 24 states to provide bilingual voting information.   |

# REMINDER: Important Information About Voting in the 2020 Primary Election



## VOTER REGISTRATION STATUS

<https://lwvanchorage.org> Click CHECK YOUR VOTER INFORMATION

You **must** be registered:

- under your current name; and
  - with your current address
- in order to be properly registered to vote.

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

## TO REGISTER OR UPDATE VOTER INFORMATION

Go to <https://voterregistration.alaska.gov> – have your Alaska Driver’s License or Alaska ID Card handy – You will need that information to complete your registration.

**REMEMBER: Your completed voter registration form must be received by SUNDAY, July 1st, by the State Division of Elections or postmarked by July 1st.**

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## INFO ON REQUESTING AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

You can apply to receive your absentee ballot by:

Mail, Electronic Transmission, or Fax

Applications can be downloaded at: <http://www.elections.alaska.gov/doc/forms/C06C.pdf>

Check the status of your request at: <https://myvoterinformation.alaska.gov>

## DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING REQUEST:

TO RECEIVE BALLOT BY MAIL – Saturday, August 8

TO RECEIVE BALLOT BY FAX OR EMAIL – Monday, August 17, 5:00 p.m.

### IF YOU VOTE ABSENTEE Remember To:

- + Sign the return envelope sent with your ballot -AND-
- + Have your signature witnessed by an individual at least 18 years old.

NOTE: If decide to apply for and receive an Absentee Ballot but then decide to vote in-person on Election Day instead, you can still do so as long as you haven’t mailed your completed absentee ballot.

## OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- ◆ There will be 160 plus Early Voting locations throughout the State if you decide to vote in-person prior to Election Day.
- ◆ Registered voters who are 65 years of age or older will automatically receive an absentee ballot application that will be mailed out by the State Division of Elections.
- ◆ The State Division of Elections will be conducting a major public relations campaign informing voters of the options to vote in this year’s elections due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Watch for news on the radio, TV and printed articles!



**League of Women Voters of Alaska  
League of Women Voters of Anchorage**

P.O. Box 101345, Anchorage AK 99510

June 12, 2020

Dear Editor:

The League of Women Voters of Alaska (LWVAK) and the League of Women Voters of Anchorage (LWVAnch) issued the following statement in response to the murder of George Floyd.

The members of LWVAK and LWVAnch grieve over the loss of George Floyd. We mourn for the countless others who have lost their lives or found themselves injured both bodily and mentally by police brutality. We grieve for the baseless accusations made by those police who go about their job of policing while assuming that all persons of color are guilty of something and by those civilians who call police about bird watchers, joggers, park users, mothers, fathers, simply for the color of their skin.

We are a country built on racism and stolen land, land often tilled by those enslaved. We must look honestly at this history, for without that knowledge and understanding, we cannot heal and go forward. The process is painful if you are white, but necessary if change is to happen. When the phrase Black Lives Matter is countered with All Lives Matter, that response ignores the fact that throughout our history, to the powers that be, black and brown lives have mattered much less than white lives.

We are at a turning point now, and we must take the turn if our democracy is to thrive. When we call our governmental system a democracy, we should be talking about a system that gives all of its citizens equal rights regardless of skin color, ethnicity, gender, ability, religion, and place of origin. This talk must be backed up by action when needed to protect those rights. One of those rights is to be treated equally and fairly in encounters with police without the fear of physical harm. To this end, the League supports meaningful reform in policing and criminal justice practices while appreciating those police who have championed the rights of the people and the spirit of protest.

So how do we effect positive change? We use our right to peaceful assembly to let our leaders, our community, and our friends know how we feel. We use the power of the vote to elect leaders who stand for and make the changes needed to move us toward a more perfect system. These rights are enshrined in our Constitution. The League of Women Voter of Alaska believes that one group within a society should never be allowed to determine which of the eligible citizens can vote easily and which must wait in line for hours or never be allowed to vote at all. The League considers the right to vote and to be informed on the issues facing a nation's people and its government to be essential. The League pledges to continue its work to help support a nation of voting citizens armed with the knowledge they need to make choices that respect the rights of all citizens and to create a system that is based on justice, equality, and equity.

The officers and board members of the League of Women Voters of Alaska  
Judy Andree, President

The officers and board members of the League of Women Voters of Anchorage  
Cari Zawodny, Vice President