



The Anchorage VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ANCHORAGE
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August 2021

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Dear League Members:



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The Board reluctantly accepted the resignation of Tina DeLapp, our treasurer, on July 20th. She has been on the board since 2012 in various positions. As treasurer, two of her major projects involved changing banking accounts and working with Keri Clark in gathering information to apply to the IRS to obtain a 501(c)3 status. She also kept our Membership List up to date. As chair of the Voter Service

Committee, our outreach in registering voters increased tremendously. Tina coordinated and set up a routine commitment to register high school students and newly naturalized citizens. She organized registering UAA students and coordinated voter registration activities at community events. She worked with the Muni during the election to assist nursing home and hospital residents with the opportunity to vote.

We wish her well and will greatly miss her energy, enthusiasm, and promptness in caring out her League responsibilities. Thank you, Tina. And unquestionably, Tina has indicated she will continue to be an active member.



We welcome Blythe Campbell to the board as the new Treasurer. Her term will run until the 2022 annual meeting.

THREE CHEERS FOR THESE CREATIVE WOMEN

- ◆ Margaret A. Wilcox invented the **car heater** in 1893!
- ◆ The **fire escape** was invented by Anna Connelly in 1887.
- ◆ The **medical syringe** which could be operated with only one hand was invented by Letitia Geer in 1899.
- ◆ The **life raft** was invented by Maria Beasley in 1882.
- ◆ The **electric refrigerator** was invented by Florence Parpart in 1914.
- ◆ The **ice cream maker** was invented by Nancy Johnson in 1843. Her patented design is still used today!

Since 2017, Blythe Campbell has been a self-employed speaker, trainer, and consultant, specializing in essential communication skills for executives and emerging leaders. Prior to 2017 she had a 30-year career in communications and marketing roles for Alaska organizations in the telecommunications, finance, energy, and engineering sectors. Blythe has been involved in nonprofit organizations for many years:

- Current Board Member, Anchorage Downtown Rotary and Alaska Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. Former Treasurer, Alaska Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America.
- Former Secretary, Alaska Kidney Foundation, a private foundation with \$10 million in assets (foundation dissolved and assets transferred to the Alaska Community Foundation.)
- Past board member and Chair of the Alaska Community Foundation, Camp Fire Alaska, Anchorage Library Foundation, Anchorage Municipal Library Advisory Board, Anchorage Community Education Association.

Blythe is a third-generation Alaskan, married to Rob, with three adult children. Her late mother, Judy Hopkins, was active in League for many years. Blythe enjoys gardening and completed her Alaska Master Gardener certification in 1999. She also enjoys cooking, entertaining, and travel.

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.

UPDATE from the LWVUS



LWVUS on June 3, 2021, wrote to Judy Andre, our LWVAK president. The following is a recap of the letter.

Congratulations! 2020 was an unprecedented year in many ways and Leagues across the country were there to meet the challenges successfully. To celebrate and reward your hard work, **LWVUS will be depositing \$2,000 Making Democracy Work Capacity Awards into the account of each of the 50 state leagues, as well as LWVDC and LWV Virgin Islands.**

This award will be a one-time deposit to show our appreciation for all you and your Leagues do, and continue to do, to make the League network stronger, more impactful, and more reflective of the communities we serve. These funds are unrestricted funds. We hope you will leverage the award to build your League's capacity to further our Making Democracy Work goals of expanding voter access, protecting voters' rights, fighting for fair districts, and registering and engaging new voters in sustainable, equitable and inclusive ways. Thank you again for your unwavering and unapologetic work to empower voters and defend democracy.

Dr. Deborah Turner, MD, JD
President, LWVUS

\$500 Donation from Bank of America

Tuan Graziano reported our League will receive a \$500 donation from the Bank of America for 50 hours of employee volunteer services. Thanks, Tuan, for applying for this donation. Bank of America's volunteer donation is awarded twice a year.

"Alaska's Young People Can't Wait Around for Change" Anchorage Daily News Opinion Piece, July 10, 2021



Board member, Jasmine Carter, co-wrote this opinion piece with Macy Kenworthy, Arctic Youth Ambassador. Jasmine serves as Youth Civic Engagement Coordinator for the Alaska Center Education Fund.

On June 24, members and alumni from Alaska Youth for Environmental Action and Arctic Youth Ambassador met with Senator Lisa Murkowski to talk about the American Jobs Plan. "Passing this bill means providing rural Alaska the funds it needs to pursue clean energy projects, such as the proposed Makushin Volcano geothermal plant outside of Dutch Harbor." ... "Our group hopes that Senator Murkowski and the rest of the U.S. Senate pass the American Jobs Plan with funds to transition to a green energy future."

In closing, "As young people in Alaska facing an uncertain future, we aren't willing to wait around for piecemeal changes. Our future is on the line, and we are not willing to compromise on climate for jobs. Thankfully, the American Jobs Plan doesn't require us to compromise our climate future for our economic future. Now we have to make sure our leadership doesn't compromise our climate either."

To read the entire opinion piece, visit:

[Alaska's young people can't wait around for change - Anchorage Daily News \(adn.com\)](https://www.adn.com/news/local/alaska-young-people-cant-wait-around-for-change)

To read about the American Jobs Act of 2021 visit:

[FACT SHEET: The American Jobs Plan | The White House](https://www.whitehouse.gov/fact-sheet/the-american-jobs-plan)



Consider Applying for a Position on a Muni Board, Commission or Committee

The League urges you to consider applying for a position on a Board or Commission or Committee. These boards, commissions and committees make the recommendations the Assembly will act on to govern our Muni.

The time commitment varies depending on the number of meetings held and the prep work needed to be done. There are some that require a member from a nonprofit public organization. *Practically written for a LWV member to apply.*

Each League member has background that would benefit the workings of a particular board, commission or committee OR several. You all have a favorite area of concern. Share your concerns and knowledge with Anchorage. *You become a voice for your neighbors and all of Anchorage.*

There are 44 opportunities to become a member. For a list of boards, commissions and committees, visit: [OnBoard2 | Anchorage AK \(muni.org\)](#) The list contains the name of the entity, the board members names and terms of service, and a description. Some of the entities include: Budget, Building Regulations, Historic Preservation, Library, Park and Recreation, Senior Citizens Advisory Board, Transportation and Youth Advisory Commission.

To apply, visit: [OnBoard2 | Anchorage AK \(muni.org\)](#)

Our city needs you!

State Division of Elections -- Proposing Changes Title 6, Chapters 25 and 27 of the Alaska Administrative Code Implement Ranked Choice Voting/Ballot Measure #2 -- and Other Changes/Additions/Corrections



As required by law, the State Division of Elections has *publicly noticed* changes relating to Rank Choice Voting and other aspects of Ballot Measure #2 for a 60-day period beginning August 8, 2021 through October 6, 2021. The public may comment on these proposed changes during this time period. For additional information see the links below or call Brian Jackson, Election Program Manager at 907-465-4611 or email brian.jackson@alaska.gov

For an overview of the proposed changes, visit: https://mail.gci.net/service/home/~/?auth=co&loc=en_US&id=86124&part=2

For the actual language in the Administrative Code that has been added/changed/deleted, visit: https://mail.gci.net/service/home/~/?auth=co&loc=en_US&id=86124&part=6

A new “Guide for Poll Watchers” is being proposed. See: https://mail.gci.net/service/home/~/?auth=co&loc=en_US&id=86124&part=4

A new “Registrar Handbook” is being proposed. See: https://mail.gci.net/service/home/~/?auth=co&loc=en_US&id=86124&part=5

Your Voice in Assuring our Election Process is Accurate and Accessible is Essential

Summer Civics Fair - July 26th Grow North Farm in Mountain View



We participated in the Grow North Farm **SUMMER CIVICS FAIR** sponsored by the Alaska Literacy Program, Anchorage Public Library, Catholic Social Services and Anchorage Community Land Trust. The civics fair was the culmination of a six-part series focusing on providing an overview of how different parts of local government work together to run the Muni. To view the entire series, click here: [Week 1 \(June 17\) - Introduction to Municipal Government - YouTube](#)

The booth was staff by Board members *Joyce Anderson, Shirley Pittz and Margaret McDonagh* - thank you for volunteering. Information was provided about the League, Ranked Choice Voting, For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

Grow North Farm also offered vegetables for sale. There were 100 attendees -- including three Assembly members, two community councils, a school board member, the newly elected mayor, a State House Rep, and representatives from the Governor's office. Plus, seven community members were vaccinated and the evening ended with a great dance lesson.

Bear Paw Festival - Eagle River - July 15-18th

The League of Women Voters of Anchorage partnered with the Alaska Center Education Fund and provided a booth at the **Bear Paw Festival**. We provided LWV information and used candy bars (Kit Kat's, Reese's Pieces, Reese's and Hershey's) to educate festival participants about how Ranked Choice Voting works. The three day event was a success. A total of 91 votes were cast.



The booth was staffed by League board members Jasmine Carter, Margaret McDonagh and Shirley Pittz and two AK Center staffers - thank you for volunteering.

Jasmine is to be commended for her energy in planning and coordinating the three-day event and for providing posters and on-line ranked choice voting tools.

The results of the ranked choice voting exercise was interesting. Click here to see the results: [Ranked Choice Voting flyer.pdf](#)