



The Anchorage VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ANCHORAGE
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June 2021

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RECORD TURNOUT IN THE MAY 11th MAYORAL RUNOFF ELECTION

The runoff election shattered prior Muni election records with 90,816 ballots cast and a record **38.36%** voter turnout.

Of the 90,816 ballots cast, 94.8% of voters voted from home. Only 4% voted in person at a vote center. The remaining 0.2% voted remotely through email or fax.

VOTE BY MAIL/VOTE AT HOME - A SUCCESS!!!

Dear League Members:

Our Annual meeting was held on Tuesday, May 4th. A short recap of items discussed and approved are outlined on page 2 and 3.

Congratulations to returning board members Shirley Pittz, our new President; Cari Zawodny, Vice President; Carol Dickason, Secretary; and Beth Nordlund and Keri Clark, Directors.



We also welcomed two new board members as directors - Barbara Derr and Tuan Graziano. In 2020, we welcomed Jasmine Carter to the board holding the position of director.

We forward to our board and League members' ideas, suggestions and comments as we plan for FY 2021-2022 year.

TUAN GRAZIANO: Tuan is a UAA student and avid advocate in the Anchorage community. He moved to Alaska when he was around 10 years old and has volunteered with Youth Vote since 2014 when he first joined as a high school senior at Dimond. Tuan joined to educate his peers on the importance of voting and participating in the democratic process and dialogue in our country. He inherently believes in the power and ability of young people to enact positive change. At UAA, he serves as the Secretary-General for the Model United Nations Program of Alaska as well as various leadership positions at USUAA, the student government of UAA, including his current position as UAA student body president.

BARBARA DERR: Many years ago I was lucky to be hired to work for the Alaska legislature and then the Governor's Office in their IT departments. Throughout my time working in those positions, the Division of Elections staff has always impressed me with their work ethic and non partisan efforts to help Alaskans to vote. They have an important mission and I was honored to support them when I could. Joining the LWV is a way for me to support Alaskans and Americans right to vote in a volunteer organization.

JASMINE CARTER: Hello my name is Jasmine Carter (she/her), I am Alaskan born and raised. I recently graduated from the University of Alaska Anchorage with leadership honors. I am the new Youth Civic Engagement Coordinator at the Alaska Center Education Fund. In addition to being on the Anchorage League of Women Voters board, I am also part of Anchorage Youth Vote. I am passionate about voting and community organizing. When I am not working I love to spend time with my family, paint, and get outside.

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.

Recap - Annual Meeting, May 4, 2021



The meeting was held via Zoom. There were seventeen participants. The minutes of the April 25, 2020 annual meeting were approved.

Speakers: Jasmine Carter and her sister, Daisy Carter, traveled to Washington D.C. to experience the ambiance and importance of a Presidential inauguration. Of course, due to COVID, they were not able to view the actual inauguration in person. They talked about their experiences along with a slide presentation. A podcast of their journey is in progress and will be noted in a future newsletter. The report was both enlightening and informational. Thank you.

Board Member and Committee Reports: Vice President Cari Zawodny gave a brief recap of our 20-21 year. Virtual Events: Justice Without Politics; Dr. Beverly Beaton on “Alaskan Women and the Vote in the 1920’s and 1930’s;” 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment “The March Goes On.” Co-Sponsored Events with Alaska Common Ground, Ballot Measure #1 Oil Tax and Ballot Measure #2 Better Elections. Letters: three Letters to the Editor covering Systematic Racism, Special Election for Interim Mayor and Lack of Ballot Information for General Election; and letter to Senator Mike Shower and State Elections Office regarding SB 39 addressing language prohibiting vote-by-mail elections. Other: Municipal Ballot Review pamphlet for April 6th Muni Election, making significant updates to our website; and membership increased by more than 15% this year.

Treasurer: Tina DeLapp reported that as of March 31 we have a total of \$29,929.51 in our checking account and \$10,035.21 in a money market account for a total of \$39,954.82. We have been approved for a credit card in the name of the LWV Anchorage through First National Bank of Alaska. 501(c)3 conversion was sent to the IRS in early March 2020; have not yet received a response and have had no luck reaching anyone at the IRS to check on the application status.

Youth Vote: Cari Zawodny reported the following:

2020 Election Activities: Website updates, educational materials for students, a candidate forum, a mock election, and guest spots on KTUU’s Debate for the State.

Presentations: LWVUS conventions (2), International Prevention of Bullying Association/ Facebook webinar, Anchorage Youth Development coalitions (2); Spirit of Youth Virtual Service Summit; DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) Adolescent Health Conference.

YouthLink: a social media campaign to connect young people to resources in our community and online.

Youth Service Zone Grant Projects on National Days of Service: 911 Day of Service – Youth Needs, Your Action, Virtual Service Summit, MLK Day of Service, Youth Leadership Connection Launch, Global Youth Service Day – **Spirit of Youth** Awards and Positive Youth Recognition Campaign (YV’s fiscal agent for this grant is Center for Safe Alaskans because YSA will not fund LWV programs directly).

Census PSA/ERA & VRAA PSA: YV produced 2 PSA projects this year with the support of both the Anchorage and the state Leagues.

She detailed YV’s many partners and future plans, including applying to present at the 2021 World Anti-Bullying Forum in Stockholm, PSAs and a series of interviews on Free and Fair Elections, and beginning work on packaging YV for other communities which will involve trademarking our branding, creating user licenses for our materials, and more speaking opportunities. She is so very proud of the work YV is doing and how they have adapted to a virtual world, focused on DEI along with mental wellness and self care.



Voter Service: Voter Service Chair, Tina DeLapp, reported the Covid-19 pandemic has squashed all in-person voter registration and education activities over this past year. The LWV shifted to providing teachers with printed information suitable for posting on course and school websites to share user-friendly information with potentially eligible students about how to get registered to vote in time to participate in the 2020 Fall statewide and national election and in the 2021 Spring Municipal election. We partnered with Youth Vote students and staff, who assisted with transforming relatively “dry” and content heavy information into a format that was likely to be visually pleasing to youth users. The information was shared with the social studies & particularly U.S. government teachers across the Anchorage School District via e-mail.

We are also monitoring the Immigration Court website of the Alaska Federal Court system to ascertain when in-person Naturalization Ceremonies will resume and plan to reapproach the Anchorage Women’s Club to explore potential collaboration opportunities. Registrar training offered by the Division of Elections has not been done for some time.

Ballot Review Pamphlet/Municipal Election: Under contract with the Muni, we once again produced the *Ballot Review* for the April 6 Municipal Election. Approximately 115,415 copies were mailed to Anchorage residents. The pamphlet was posted on our Facebook page and website, on the Muni’s Clerks Election page, and distributed to local media as well Community Councils, Anchorage Senior Center with their Meals-on-Wheels program. This project is our largest fundraiser. It is a time-intensive project. Question: Should the *Ballot Review* continue to be sent to residents or should we be sending to registered voters?

Two virtual presentations were made - Anchorage School Board Communications Committee and a short live TV presentation on KTUU. Thanks to Chair Keri Clark, Carol Dickason, Pat Redmond and Patty Ginsburg.

We received 55 calls regarding the April 6th election and three (at the time of the annual meeting) concerning the May 11th run-off election. Most times the caller obtained the phone number from the *Ballot Review*.

FY 2021-2022 Budget: The proposed budget was adopted without objection. The budget was included in the April [newsletter](#) (click on “newsletter” link to view entire April newsletter).

New Business—Action Items:

By-laws amendment approved. Change reflected conforming language from LWVUS By-Laws on diversity, equity and inclusion. (See April newsletter for additional information.)

Anchorage Program. Program and positions adopted without change. (Complete description of positions available at www.lwvanchorage.org.)

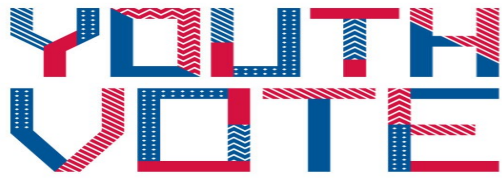
Dues for FY 2021-2022. Dues were approved without change. (See link for April newsletter.)

For the Good of the League: Continue increasing the visibility and influence of League by informing and educating the community about the various levels of government and how they affect our every day lives.

Appointments to the Board

By-Laws state: *“The elected members shall appoint such additional directors, not exceeding six, as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the League. The terms of office of the appointed directors shall be one year and shall expire at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting.”*

Joyce Anderson, Margaret McDonagh and Pat Redmond were appointed as directors to the board for a one year term at the June 8, 2021 meeting. Congratulations!



GO TEAM!

LWV Anchorage Youth Vote is pleased to announce that we have been selected to present at the 2021 World Anti-Bullying Forum (WABF) in Stockholm, Sweden.

In 2019 we presented at the WABF held in Dublin, Ireland. This was an incredible experience. Youth Vote was the only youth-led workshop, excluding the few presented by graduate students (ages unknown), at the forum. We anticipate that this year we will find ourselves in the company of more of our peers, and we are thrilled to have the opportunity to once again lead the way for youth working in bullying prevention to present on the world stage.

This year's presentation, Not Decoration: Empowering Youth and Building Resilience Through Meaningful Engagement, will focus on practical ways that adults and organizations can improve the typical ways youth are often included in community events - as entertainment, announcers, ushers, in short as decoration. Youth Vote feels that with some simple, thoughtful, best-practices organizations can engage youth in a much more meaningful way that will help foster resilience in young people which can protect youth from risky behavior including bullying.

WABF 2021 is a hybrid event, with delegates participating both on-site and online, November 1st - 3rd, 2021. Organizers of WABF 2021 are closely following the development of the ongoing pandemic, and the safety and well-being of all conference participants is their topmost priority. Youth Vote has elected to participate in person (as safety allows). We will be launching an online fundraising campaign later this summer to assist with airfare, hotel, and meals. If you are interested in supporting our work right now, you are welcome to donate on lwanchorage.org or by check - please just indicate that the funds are for Youth Vote.



The Board decided to not hold meetings in July or August. If any business comes to light that would require board action, the board will either discuss the item via email or schedule a virtual meeting.

Have a great summer!!

