



The Anchorage VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ANCHORAGE
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June 2022

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POINT OF INFORMATION **RANKED CHOICE VOTING** **STATS AND INFORMATION**

As of June 2022, 55 cities, counties, and states are projected to use RCV for all voters in their next election. These jurisdictions are home to over 11 million voters.

Maine - adopted RCV in 2016, first used in 2018

Alaska - adopted RCV in 2020, first used in 2022

1 county - Benton County, Oregon - adopted RCV in 2016, first used in 2020

52 cities across the United States have adopted and use RCV

For more info, click [here](#)

Greetings LWV members:

This was an eventful week for the League of Women Voters. The LWVUS held their national convention in Denver, Colorado. Several Alaskans attended the convention and our Anchorage Youth Vote Group presented a caucus as you will see later in the newsletter.

It was also an eventful week for the country and our state.

President Biden signed into law the first **gun control legislation** in 28 years. This is what bipartisanship looks like, prioritizing people over politics to make our democracy a better/safer place for all. The Supreme Court voted 6 – 3 on the decision of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which overturns the constitutional right to abortion as recognized for nearly 50 years in the landmark cases of **Roe v. Wade** and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*. The League of Women Voters believes every US resident should have access to affordable, quality health care, including birth control and the privacy to make reproductive choices. We know that safe access to health care, including abortion, is essential to our democracy.

In Alaska, more than **7,500 ballots were rejected in the special primary election** to fill the remainder of the late Congressman Don Young's term. More than a third of the ballots were rejected due to a lack of a witness on the returned ballot. Rural Alaska was over-represented in returned ballots.

These three items alone, remind us of the need to remain persistent and committed to the issues we care about and are important to a thriving democracy. We must continue our work to support access to voting and educate the public about when, where and how to complete the ballot so it will be counted.

Several Board members recently attended a **"Train-the Trainer"** event hosted by Alaskans for Better Elections and provided by Democracy Rising on **Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)**. We are now prepared to explain how this will work to our members and any interested parties. The August election will be particularly confusing due to "Ranked Choice Voting" for the special General election on one side of the ballot and "Vote for One" Primary election on the other side. Please let us know if you are interested in hosting a training or becoming a trainer yourself. We will need the efforts of many to ensure that voters are ready to vote and participate in this next election.

You are welcome to attend our **monthly Board meeting** if you are interested. We are also hoping more members will get involved in our **Program Committee**, assist with **Voter Registration** or support our other activities for **"Making Democracy Work"**! Give us a call or send us an email, and keep checking our updated website for more information.

Enjoy the rest of your summer! Shirley Pittz, President

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.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 2022

- Fri 08 Election Commission Meeting and Public Session of Canvass for New District 1 Assembly Seat L Election, MOA Election Center, 619 Ship Creek Avenue, Door D ([click here for more information](#))
- Tues 12 Certification of District 1 Election Results by Assembly
- Sun 17 Last Day to Register to Vote for the Tuesday, August 16, Statewide Elections
- Tues 19 LWV Anchorage Monthly Meeting, 7 p.m. by Zoom (Date Tentative)

Aug 2022

- Mon 01 In-Person, Special Needs and Electronic Transmission Voting Begins for the Tuesday, August 16th Statewide Elections
- Tues 16 **Special Statewide General Election** for U.S. Representative (to fill vacant seat for the remainder of the late U.S. Rep Don Young's term which expires on January 3, 2023)
Method of Voting: Polling Place. Ranked Choice Voting - three top candidates from June 11 Special Statewide Election and a write-in candidate.
- Tues 16 **Statewide Primary Election** for U.S. Senate, U.S. Representative, Governor/Lt Governor, State Senate Districts A through S, and State House Districts 1 through 40.
Method of Voting: Polling Place. Vote for one candidate.
([click here for more information on the August 16th Statewide Elections](#))
- Tues 16 LWV Anchorage Monthly Meeting, 7 p.m. by Zoom (Date Tentative)



RANKED CHOICE VOTING Ruling by Alaska Division of Election, Alaska State Court, and Alaska Supreme Court

Superior Court Judge William Morse ruled June 24 that Alaska elections officials do not need to put the fifth-place finisher in this month's U.S. House special primary on the upcoming special election ballot in place of candidate Al Gross who withdrew. His decision was appealed to the Alaska Supreme Court. On June 25, the Alaska Supreme Court agreed with the Superior Court.

Division director Gail Fenumiai said because independent Al Gross withdrew less than 64 days before the scheduled August 16 special election, state law did not allow the fifth-place candidate, Republican Tara Sweeney, on the ballot in his place. That means the August special election ballot would include three candidates and a space for voters to rank a write-in candidate.

A lawsuit filed by three registered voters Thursday said the division misinterpreted the law and that the timeline cited by the division did not apply to special elections. The lawsuit sought to have Sweeney placed on the special election ballot.

The special primary was our first election held under the new ranked choice voting system that ends party primaries and institutes ranked-choice voting in general elections. While the division said it is "sympathetic to the public expectation" that under the new system four candidates would advance, "it lacks the discretion to relax an unambiguous statutory deadline to effectuate this goal," attorneys for the Department of Law, representing the division, said in court filings.

Morse in his written order said the timeline under which a substitution could occur in this situation "could hardly be briefer." But, he wrote, "that is the period set by statute and the one the Division must apply."



RECAP OF ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, June 1, 2022

Anchorage Positions - Retained all current positions: Planning and Zoning, Community Councils, Boards and Commissions, and Election of School Board Members. *Please click [here](#) for an explanation of the positions.*

Program Emphasis - Retained all proposed items: Politicizing officials such as Municipal Clerk and Attorney-General, Notification of Meeting Dates and Times, Charter Amendment for Vacancies in the Assembly and Mayor, Election Commission, Youth Vote Support, Ranked Choice Voting, Constitutional Convention and Civil Discourse.

Proposed Dues - Approved recommended dues: \$65 for Individual Membership, \$97.50 for Household Membership, \$0 for College Student Membership and Youth ages 16-18.

Proposed FY 2022-2023 Slate of Officers and Directors - Proposed slate approved unanimously. Pat Redmond and Joyce Anderson appointed to Director positions at the June 21 board meeting. Please see a listing of officers and directors at the beginning of this newsletter.

Proposed FY 2022-2023 Budget - Approved as presented.

By-Laws Proposed Changes - Approved as presented. *Please click [here](#) for updated By-Laws.*

Response to Mayor Dave Bronson's December 2021 proposal to change city law to make the Municipal Clerk's position an elected office



Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks (AAMC)

The AAMC adopted Resolution 2022-01 on April 27, 2022 supporting the appointment of Municipal Clerks in Alaska; urging municipalities to retain the appointment of the Municipal Clerk, and opposing efforts to alter the position of the Municipal Clerk from an appointed official to an elected official.

The AAMC expressed their non-partisan, professional concern that altering the position of Municipal Clerk from an appointed position to an elected position would jeopardize the role of the clerk as a fair and impartial referee in elections and cause clerks to violate the state's conflict of interest law. In the interest of preserving integrity in elections, the AAMC believe municipal clerks should adhere to the highest ethical standards as well legal requirements.

Click [here](#) for the complete text of Resolution 2022-01 and the transmittal letter.

LWV Anchorage

The LWV of Anchorage will be bringing this item to you, our members, for consideration and asking for a consensus to make a statement expressing our reasoning and merits for retaining the appointment of the Municipality of Anchorage's Municipal Clerk and voicing our opposition to changing the position to an elected one.

In researching the issue, we found that the Municipal Clerk is the oldest of public servants in local government, along with the tax collector. Additionally, Municipal Clerks have become the hub of government, the direct link between the inhabitants of their community and their government. The clerk is the historian of the community, for the entire recorded history of the city and its people.

LWV of Anchorage Member Involvement **In the Community**

Answering Election Calls

For the Municipal Special Election June 21, 2022 for New Assembly Seat L, District 1 and the Special Statewide Primary Election June 11, 2022 for the U.S. Representative seat to fill the remainder of the term for late U.S. Representative Don Young, eighteen calls were received asking for information: didn't receive my ballot, how do I vote in person, do I need a stamp to mail my ballot back - Yes for Muni election and No for State election, does the State have drop off boxes, can I put my voted State ballot in a Muni drop box, where are in-person voting places for the State election, and why didn't I receive a Muni ballot for the Special Muni Election - not in the new District 1 Seat L. Providing information on elections is one major component of the League's mission statement.

Presentation to Ole!

OLE! - Opportunities for Lifelong Education. A non-profit, volunteer-run organization in Anchorage offering stimulating courses designed for intellectually curious adults over 50.

A four week course on Municipal government, organized by LWV Anchorage member Heather Flynn, was offered to OLE! members in March/April. The course covered Title 29, boroughs, mayor/manager form of government, municipal clerk, the Charter - implementation, impact and amendments, legal/manager, clerk, elections, ombudsman, internal audit, school boards/districts, labor relations and LWV involvement in the Muni.

Joyce Anderson gave a presentation on the LWV Anchorage contribution to the Muni on various levels and the process the League follows when taking a position on an issue - we STUDY, we take a POSITION, and then we take ACTION. Heather stated that is how we became so heavily involved in unification.

Thank You Letter to Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks

We sent a thank you letter to the Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks for passing Resolution 2202-01 addressing the subject of appointed municipal clerks. (See article on page 3.) The AAMC is in opposition to changing the Anchorage Municipal Clerk's position from an appointed one to an elected one. The resolution will provide background when the topic is discussed by the Assembly and the Mayor scheduled tentatively for August.

Working for the Special District 1, Assembly Seat L, Vote-By-Mail Municipal Election June 21, 2022

Joyce Anderson worked as an Observer Liaison on Tuesday, June 21st, and Wednesday, June 22nd, at Election Central. An Observer Liaison receives training and is responsible for answering questions from the public, candidates, and registered observers for candidates during the timeframe when vote-by-mail ballots are mailed until the Election Commission Canvass is held. The election was less busy than the regular municipal election since only one district was on the ballot with fewer candidates and fewer registered observers; hence, less actual time working at Election Central. The experience was enlightening and added a different outlook to elections and the inner workings of the entire election process.

Thank you League members.

We do Make A Difference through our education and advocacy.

Tina DeLapp, LWV Anchorage Member and Former Board Member Receives Meritorious Service Award from UAA

The Meritorious Service Award is bestowed to an individual who has demonstrated significant work in the areas of public, academic, volunteer or philanthropic service to the University of Alaska or an Alaskan community.

The Meritorious Service Award was awarded to Tina DeLapp at the 2022 Spring Commencement Ceremonies. Tina arrived in Alaska in 1969 to work in Bethel. Her diverse leadership roles throughout her 30-year career at UAA included working as a team coordinator, assistant, associate and full professor, and associate dean and director of the UAA School of Nursing. Even after her retirement as director in 2004, Tina remained active as an instructor and program coordinator, on search committees and offering her skills in preparation for a program self-study. In 2011, a lecture hall was dedicated to Tina in the Health Sciences building. Tina also founded the Recruitment and Retention of Alaska Natives in Nursing (RRANN), gave presentations across the state/nationally and provided mentorship for School of Nursing students through thesis and dissertation committees. Tina's extensive reach and contribution to nursing education are unparalleled. She has been honored with a number of awards, including her induction as a fellow into the American Academy of Nursing. In 2020, Tina, with fellow emerita UAA nursing faculty, established the Nursing Endowed Scholarship to provide tuition assistance and related educational expenses to students enrolled in a nursing program at UAA or community campuses across the state.





LWVUS 55th National Convention Recap

Sunday, June 26th, concluded the 55th League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) National Convention. This was the League's first hybrid Convention, with 1000+ members from all 50 states joining both virtually and in-person in Denver, CO.

Notably, the 2022 Convention coincided with the Supreme Court's decision to overturn the constitutional right to abortion. In her [opening remarks](#), LWVUS board president Dr. Deborah Ann Turner reflected on her experiences as an obstetrician/gynecologist and the League's dedication to reproductive justice.

"We hold the power to create a more perfect democracy. Women's rights are human rights, and we will continue to fight until the right to abortion is restored," Dr. Turner stated. "This is the work that the League of Women Voters does... We fight for our freedom. And that's why we are here today at Convention."

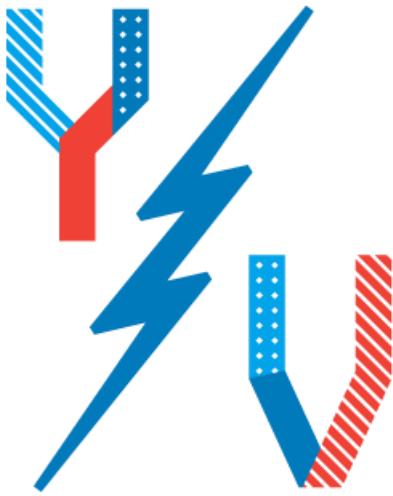
Dr. Turner closed by announcing the League's next "moonshot" goal: abolition of the Electoral College. The League has [long supported this goal](#) due to the college's racist history and many shortcomings. Friday evening, Convention attendees joined Denver activists in marching to the Colorado State Capitol Building and rallying for abortion justice.

Thoughtful action remained a focus throughout Convention. On Thursday, June 23, [a panel of women leaders](#) in the voting rights and social justice movements spoke to the ways in which women can power democracy. Later, [MSNBC political analyst Joy Reid reflected](#) on the essential nature of our work in her keynote address. The League also shared its [2020-2022 biennium report](#), which showcased the League's impact over the past two years. Throughout three days of plenary, delegates elected the [2022-2024 LWVUS Board of directors](#). Dr. Deborah Ann Turner was once again elected as board president, a role she has held since 2020. Delegates also voted on several motions, including the LWVUS budget and various bylaws amendment proposals. Read the [decision summaries](#).

Delegates had the opportunity to attend dozens of workshops and caucuses throughout Convention on topics as diverse as mis and dis-information, activating young voters, using OutreachCircle, and more. Due to time constraints, the presentation of Biennium Awards was postponed and will be held the week of July 11.

Thank you again to everyone who made our 55th Convention a time of community, action, and inspiration. This past week reminds us of both the urgency of our work and the power of our members to create a more perfect democracy. The next two years will determine the course of our nation; as Dr. Turner said, we will "keep on keeping on." And we will win.

Yours in League, Team LWV



Anchorage Youth Vote LWVUS Convention Report

Anchorage Youth Vote was selected to give a caucus presentation at the LWVUS Convention in Denver last week. Our presentation "**Amplifying Youth Voice to Save Democracy**" was an exploration of best practices in meaningful youth engagement, examples of Youth Vote's informational and action campaigns, and a workshop to help Leagues across the country understand the benefits of youth empowerment for all of us. The caucus was held Saturday morning with a full audience, many of whom attended our caucus presentations in 2018 and 2020. We heard from in-person attendees as well as those in the virtual space that their Leagues have been working toward more meaningful youth engagement in-

spired in large part by Youth Vote's example. In fact, when we presented in 2018, Anchorage Youth Vote, and by extension the Anchorage League, was the only group to discuss youth participation and leadership in a substantive way. In just four years, that number has grown and youth from Maine, Wisconsin, Arizona, Ohio, and California attended Convention and spoke to the tremendous value of youth participation.

In addition to hosting a caucus presentation, two Youth Vote members, Olivia Tafs and Tuan Graziano, served as the Anchorage Delegates for Convention. Convention attendees participated in a protest march to the Colorado Capitol in response to the SCOTUS decision on Roe v. Wade on Friday.

"I really enjoyed getting to connect with other young people from across the country, and I felt like we made a big difference in people's perceptions of the role of young people in LWV. It was also very meaningful to me to be in community with a huge group of people who all care about reproductive rights on Friday, and to be able to take action together right away." said Olivia.

Tuan had this to add, *"Going to convention this year brought hope and progress, frustrations and challenges. We inspired many members and leagues and continue to inspire them with our presentation. We raised our voices for reproductive rights and better representation within the League for youth. While we didn't accomplish all that we wanted, we advanced to a better future. We learned first hand that while the moral arc of the universe is long, it does bend towards justice."*

Edison Wallace Moyer, one of Youth Vote's newest and most active members, attended Convention as an observer and was the youngest person there.

Edison had this to say, *"Going to Convention was an incredible experience for me because I saw that there are people trying to and making change. It made me feel a lot more hopeful."*

Youth Vote is grateful to both the LWV of Anchorage, the LWV of Alaska, and individual members who made this trip to Convention possible. Thank you for your continued support for the work we do to provide young people with a platform to make change.

Pictures of LWV Anchorage Youth Vote attendees
LWVUS Convention
Thursday, June 23rd, through Sunday, June 26th
Denver, Colorado



Anchorage Youth Vote is now part of a rising coalition of League sponsored youth programs who will work to amplify youth voice across the country.

