

August 31, 2022

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ANCHORAGE

AUGUST 2022 *The Voter*

Greetings LWV members:

Rain, Rain Go Away. Well, maybe a little bit. We have had some sunny days – or at least some partial sunny days!

This edition of THE VOTER is full of interesting information on elections-voter registration-get out the vote, Assembly actions and other timely issues. Enjoy!

ELECTION RESULTS:

Another interesting month for elections. The Special General Election for our U.S. House of Representative seat is over. The Regular Primary election is also over. Both of these elections were conducted under the new Ranked Choice Voting system. Final results will be tallied on August 31st. For update totals, visit <https://www.elections.alaska.gov/>

STATEWIDE VOTER GUIDE:

The LWVAK was working with Alaskans for Better Elections to produce a printed statewide Voter Guide for the General Election and had multiple meetings planning the particulars and developed policy questions for candidates to answer but the project has been cancelled. One of the major candidates for governor indicated he would not participate in the questionnaire. The consensus was that other candidates would bow out as well which would defeat the purpose of the Voter Guide which was to provide not only an informative guide to voting but candidate information as well. The LWVAK subsequently decided to develop a Voter Guide for website use only. Additional details will be forthcoming in the next newsletter.

LWVAK “Voting Rights Alaska” WEBSITE

Please check out the new Voting Rights Alaska website – a One-Stop Shop for Voter Information. [VotingRightsAlaska – League of Women Voters of Juneau \(juneaulwv.org\)](http://VotingRightsAlaska – League of Women Voters of Juneau (juneaulwv.org))

CHANGING MUNICIPAL CLERK POSITION FROM AN APPOINTED POSITION TO AN ELECTED POSITION:

The Anchorage Assembly on August 23rd was scheduled to hold a public hearing on the Mayor's proposal to change the Municipal Clerk's position from an appointed position to an elected position; AO 2022-13. The Assembly Leadership issued a statement opposing the change. The Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks issued a statement in opposition to the change. Shirley Pittz, our President, testified at the beginning of the Assembly Meeting in opposition as well. In attendance were the following League members: Shirley Pittz, Barbara Derr, Barbara Norrell, Marilyn Russell and Heather Flynn. Assembly Member Forest Dunbar made a motion to postpone a hearing on the ordinance indefinitely and Assembly Member Meg Zaletel seconded. If the public hearing has been held, the ordinance would have required a two-thirds affirmative vote by the Assembly to move forward. Please visit our website for additional information: [Politicizing Officials - Change from Appointed to Elected? - League of Women Voters Anchorage \(lwvanchorage.org\)](https://www.lwvanchorage.org/politicizing-officials-change-from-appointed-to-elected/)

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AUGUST 26, 2022 AS WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY AND CELEBRATING THE RATIFICATION OF THE NINETEENTH AMENDMENT:

The Assembly unanimously approved AR No. 2022-248 at the August 23rd Assembly meeting. Visit: [August 26th, 2022: Women's Equality Day - League of Women Voters Anchorage \(lwvanchorage.org\)](https://www.lwvanchorage.org/august-26th-2022-womens-equality-day/). League members in attendance stood during the reading (see previous article for a list of names).

One section recognized the League of Women Voters

WHEREAS women have continued to organize to exercise their rights and from the National American Woman Suffrage Association came the League of Women Voters that is still impacting election turnout and facilitating voter education; and

AR No. 2022-248 closed with:

NOW, THEREFORE, THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY CELEBRATES WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY AND PAYS TRIBUTE TO WOMEN OF THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE WHO CONTINUE TO PROTEST, ADVOCATE, AND LEGISLATE FOR WOMEN'S EQUAL RIGHTS AND EQUAL TREATMENT.

Let's all give "Women" a big hand in achieving mega strides of equality. However, as the resolution states, the road to achieving full equality is still a battle that must be fought each and every day.

STATE LAWSUIT REGARDING VOTING RIGHTS

As was previously noticed to all LWV Anchorage members, a state lawsuit was filed in the Third Judicial District at Anchorage on August 23, 2022, addressing the State's failure to provide a ballot curing process for mail-in and absentee ballots. Case No. 3AN-22-07766CI. The entire

lawsuit can be read at: https://www.acluak.org/sites/default/files/field_documents/2022-08-23_conformed_copy_complaint.pdf

The LWVAK is a party along with the Arctic Village Council and two individual Alaskans whose ballots were rejected. One of the individual plaintiffs is Joyce Anderson of the LWV Anchorage. Updated information will be emailed when available. Legal counsel for the case are the ACLU of Alaska, Native American Rights Fund (NARF), and Perkins Coie. All have extensive experience in civil rights litigation. To learn more about the lawsuit, visit the ACLU web site at: <https://www.acluak.org/> KTUU Story [Lawsuit filed over lack of ballot-curing process in Alaska elections \(nbc15.com\)](https://www.ktuu.com/stories/lawsuit-filed-over-lack-of-ballot-curing-process-in-alaska-elections-nbc15-com)



OPPORTUNITY - VOLUNTEER

Please consider volunteering to staff a booth at one or both of the following election events. Our mission is to “encourage informed and active participation in government” and these events are paramount to achieving our mission statement.

Call 907-274-8477 if you are interested. We welcome and need volunteers. Thank you.

Tues, Sept 20 Register Voters in recognition of National Voter Registration Day (September 21)

Sponsored by: Anchorage Loussac Library
Co-Sponsored by: LWV Anchorage
Location: Anchorage Loussac Library
Time: All day

Sat, Oct 29 Get Out the Vote Day

Sponsored by: Alaska Black Caucus
Co-Sponsored by: LWV Anchorage
Location: TBD
Time: TBD

IN MEMORIUM

Claire Pease passed away on July 28, 2022, at the age of 91. Her volunteer activities included serving as President of the Anchorage League of Women Voters from 1968-1971. Claire was active in multiple community activities and the organizer of many projects which are still in play today. She was involved in promoting unification of Anchorage’s Borough and City governments into a single entity.

Joyce Anderson
LWV Anchorage, Editor