



LWV ANCHORAGE
FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER
THE VOTER

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WELCOME TO 2024! This is a year with multiple elections. Stay tuned for continuing election information.

OUR MISSION: The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

REMEMBERANCE: It is with great sadness that we announce the LWVUS President Dr. Deborah Ann Turner passed away on Sunday morning. This unexpected news has struck all of us at the LWVUS Board and staff with profound grief, and I know you all are feeling it too. We are grieving together as a League community for our beloved leader and friend.

Dr. Turner devoted her life's work to impacting meaningful changes in the lives of voters across the nation. As the 20th president of our 103-year old organization. Dr. Turner played a pivotal role in fighting for a more fair and representative union while uplifting racial equity in the League's mission work. Dr. Turner first joined the LWV of Metro Des Moines in 2010 and later served as president until 2015. At the same time, she also served on the LWV Iowa board as the state vice president from 2011 to 2015, becoming co-president in 2015. In her dual roles with state and local Leagues, Deborah devoted her leadership to strengthening relationships between local leagues and the state board.

The LWV staff, Board, and Leagues from across the country mourn her loss, and our thoughts are with Dr. Turner's family during this difficult time. We are committed to honoring her legacy by continuing to uphold our value to empower voters and build stronger more inclusive democracy. As Dr. Turner always said, "We will keep on keeping on!" You may send condolences electronically to lwv@lwv.org and in writing to the national office at 1233 - 20th Street NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20036. All messages will be shared with Dr. Turner's family.

Virginia Kase Solomon, LWVUS CEO

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to election season in Anchorage! The upcoming election is right around the corner (April 2nd) and the League is busy planning activities to assist Anchorage voters in becoming well informed about the issues/candidates that will come before them. As usual, the League is preparing the Ballot Review for the Municipality, which will be mailed to all households in Anchorage. It will outline everything that will be on the ballot so voters can prepare for marking their ballots in advance of the election. We are also planning some election related special events so stay tuned for our upcoming activities.

Additionally, the League has been doing some longer range planning. We are especially focused on how we can collaborate with our Youth Vote partners to engage more young people and expand the reach to young voters. We have identified the need to provide more information and training on how local government works, voter rights, and how to run for public office. We will also be developing information on the history of the Anchorage League and looking for opportunities to share our accomplishments with others. You are always welcome to join us in our planning.

We wish you the best in this New Year and appreciate your support of the League!

Shirley Pittz, President

YOUTH VOTE is off to a great start for the new year!

On March 6th, Youth Vote will be presenting our original workshop “Building Resilience Together: Youth Adult Partnerships that Amplify Youth Voice” at Polaris K-12’s Academic Distinction Assembly. We are excited to be partnering with educators, co-conspirators, and youth to bring these tools to Polaris. This work is a part of a larger effort by Youth Vote members to do more in person projects in 2024, and to build relationships with youth and co-conspirators in Anchorage schools!

In January, Youth Vote learned that we received funding from the Youth Matter Grant for 2024. On January 17th we completed our orientation with Safe Alaskans and have started work on our newest project: *Next Gen Politics*! *Next Gen Politics* will be a podcast series designed to educate youth about local government and highlight youth doing meaningful work in the Anchorage and Mat-Su areas. Over the next few months Youth Vote will be writing scripts, interviewing youth and community representatives, recording, editing, and bringing our final product into 8th, 10th, and 12th grade classrooms in the local community. We hope this project will help Alaskan youth to know more about local government, how they can get involved, and some of the many ways that youth can make a difference in their community. We are looking forward to our site visit next Thursday on February 1st! If any League members want to get involved in our projects please reach out to Olivia Tafs and Lily Van Alstine!

With a lot of sadness, Olivia and I are both finishing up our work as co-coordinators this May to pursue graduate school out of state. We are beginning our search for a NEW Youth Vote coordinator located in Anchorage, preferably with connections to Youth Vote or the League of Women Voters and with a passion for youth engagement and civic education! We're asking for your help in finding candidates who might be a good fit. If you or anyone you know is interested in applying or learning more about the position, please contact us at anchorageyouthvote@gmail.com.

Thank you,
Lily Van Alstine & Olivia Tafs
Anchorageyouthvote@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF ELECTION DATES LEADING UP TO ELECTION DAY, TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2024

January 23, 2024 (Tuesday) January 23, 2024 (Tuesday) Last day for public hearing on ordinances containing ballot propositions (Regular Assembly Meeting)

January 26, 2024 (Friday) Filing for Office closes at 5:00 p.m.

January 29, 2024 (Monday) January 29, 2024 (Monday) Last day to submit Initiative or Referendum Petition Signatures to appear on Regular Election Ballot

January 30, 2024 (Tuesday) January 30, 2024 (Tuesday) Last day for candidates to withdraw and not be published on the ballot

February 2, 2024 (Friday) February 2, 2024 (Friday) Last day for veto overrides or reconsideration votes on ordinances containing ballot propositions

February 11, 2024 (Sunday) First Notice of Election published

March 3, 2024 (Sunday) Last day to register to vote for the Regular Election

March 12, 2024 (Tuesday) Ballot Packages mailed to qualified Anchorage voters

March 12, 2024 (Tuesday) Secure Drop Boxes are opened

March 25, 2024 (Monday) Anchorage Vote Centers are opened (Seward's Day)

March 31, 2024 (Sunday) Second Notice of Election published

April 2, 2024 (Tuesday) Regular Municipal Election Day: All Ballot Envelopes (including military and overseas envelopes) must be postmarked on or before Election Day, or returned to a Secure Drop Box or Anchorage Vote Center by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

BETTYE DAVIS AFRICAN AMERICAN SUMMIT – Saturday, February 10th

The LWV of Anchorage will again have a booth at the Bettye Davis African American Summit, held at Bettye Davis East Anchorage High School. The Summit is from 9 am-5 pm. The theme this year is "*Marching till Equity, Equality and Justice is Won!*"

The summit provides a forum for the Black community to educate policy makers and the public about the issues facing BIPOC (Black Indigenous People of Color) communities and the solutions we want to see. The Summit addresses critical issues of public policy in the areas of economics, justice, education, and health. It is the principal gathering place, idea generator, and voice for the Black community in Alaska. This year will incorporate "REP," Registration, Education and Participation" – ABC's voting platform to encourage voting in marginalized communities.

Visit the Alaska Black Caucus website for more information.

[Bettye Davis African American Summit - ALASKA BLACK CAUCUS \(thealaskablackcaucus.com\)](http://thealaskablackcaucus.com)

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE LWV ANCHORAGE BOARD

We need YOU! Consider adding your name of the slate of officers for FY 2024-2025. Your Input and expertise will add to the vitality of our League in addition to generating lively discussions at our board meetings. If you are interested in serving on the board and would like more information, please contact Shirley Pittz at shirley.pittz@gmail.com . Our annual meeting will be held in April, details are being finalized.

Serving on the LWV Board is a good opportunity to learn more about League and become more involved in your community!

Joyce Anderson
Editor, LWV Anchorage

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