



The League of Women Voters

A Voice For Citizens, A Force For Change

League of Women Voter of Alaska - Election Processes and Procedures Position

The League of Women Voters of Alaska (LWVAK) believes voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed. LWVAK works to protect that right and to increase voter participation by all citizens. The LWVAK believes the state has an obligation to provide voters with accurate information so that voters can make reasoned choices. The LWVAK supports elections that are free, fair and accessible to all eligible voters and voting systems that are secure, accurate, recountable, accessible and transparent.

1. REDISTRICTING

In order to lessen lawsuits against redistricting maps, create more competition for legislative seats and create more citizen confidence in voting fairness, the LWVAK supports a constitutional change to the Redistricting Board's composition: one member appointed by the Speaker of the House, one by the Senate President, one by the minority leader of the House, one by the minority leader of the Senate and one selected by a unanimous vote of all the board members, the "tie breaker".

2. METHODS OF VOTING

The LWVAK supports a variety of voting methods, in addition to voting at the polls, which provide cost effective opportunities to maintain and expand access to the voting process for all eligible voters.

3. FELON RIGHTS

The LWVAK supports providing the right to vote to felons who have completed their incarceration time rather than having this right restored after their probation and/or parole. Further, the LWVAK supports the provision of appropriate information and assistance to felons who have completed their incarceration in order to facilitate their voter registration or re-registration.

4. VOTER ID REQUIREMENTS AT THE POLLS

Identification required of registered voters at the polls should be readily available to all citizens at no cost, including the indirect costs of obtaining proof of identity such as birth certificates. Voters should be able to use one of several forms of identification.

5. VOTER INFORMATION

The LWVAK supports the publication and distribution of a State of Alaska Voters' Pamphlet prior to each statewide primary and general election.

In addition to the pamphlet contents itemized in AS 15.58.020, LWVAK believes:

- All ballot measures must include official explanatory statements on effects of a "yes" vote and a "no" vote, fiscal impact, and summaries of the main arguments for and against the

measures.

- The number of arguments for and against the measures should be limited.
- Ballot titles and measures need to be stated in clear, concise language and should avoid confusing negatives.
- The pamphlet shall not contain political advertisement by political parties, other organizations or individuals, including candidates.

6. VOTING SECURITY

The LWVAK concurs with the LWV of the United States' position on voting systems that are designed, developed, and implemented so that:

- They employ a voter-verifiable paper ballot or other paper record, said paper being the official record of the voter's intent;
- The voter can verify, either by eye or with the aid of suitable devices for those who have impaired vision, that the paper ballot/record accurately reflects his or her intent;
- Such verification takes place while the voter is still in the process of voting;
- The paper ballot/record is used for audits and recounts;
- The vote totals can be verified by an independent hand count of the paper ballot/record; and
- Routine audits of the paper ballot/record in randomly selected precincts can be conducted in every election, and the results published by the jurisdiction.