

League of Women Voters of Alaska Supports Ballot Measure 2's Election Reform Policies

Statement from Judy Andree, President, League of Women Voters of Alaska:

The League of Women Voters of Alaska supports Ballot Measure 2 and we encourage Alaskans to vote Yes on 2 this November.

Election system reform in Alaska has the potential to create more authentic representation among our diverse communities and to break through the barriers holding back women, people of color, young people, and other historically marginalized groups from getting involved in politics. Our current election system limits competition, making it difficult for challengers to win. Better government and public policy depends upon elected officials who lead from values and truly understand the unique needs of the communities they represent.

Ballot Measure 2 will ensure that voters are empowered with more choices on Election Day - both by creating a single unified primary ballot open to all voters, regardless of party affiliation, and by instituting ranked choice voting in general elections. In addition, eliminating "Dark Money" will improve the transparency and integrity of our electoral process once the true identity of who is backing and influencing political candidates is revealed thanks to stricter reporting requirements for large campaign contributions.

Our review of these three election reforms offered by Ballot Measure 2 determined that the initiative advances the goals of the League of Women Voters and meets all eight criteria for assessing whether a proposed electoral reform should be endorsed by local chapters. Specifically, Ballot Measure 2 aligns well with the League's support for electoral methods that do the following:

Encourage voter participation and voter engagement

Encourage those with minority opinions to participate, including under-represented communities

Are verifiable and auditable

Promote access to voting

Maximize effective votes/minimize wasted votes

Promote sincere voting over strategic voting

Implement alternatives to plurality voting

*Are compatible with acceptable ballot-casting methods, including
vote-by-mail*