

From: Judy Andree
To: [Rep. Les Gara](#); [Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins](#)
Cc: [Tristan Walsh](#)
Subject: Support for HJR 26 from the League of Women Voters of Alaska
Date: Sunday, February 18, 2018 1:58:09 PM



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ALASKA

P. O. Box 22048, Juneau, Alaska 99802
February 18, 2018

Dear Representative Les Gara:

The League of Women Voters of Alaska (LWVAK) supports HJR 26, a bill to amend the Alaska Constitution to create fairness in redistricting. The LWVAK encourages all Legislators to support this Resolution.

Alaska's redistricting process has always been contentious. Beginning in 1970 and for the next two redistricting efforts, the resulting maps were found by the Alaska Supreme Court to be unconstitutional. Even when changes were made through the creation of a 5-member redistricting board in 1998, the maps from 2000 and 2010 were also challenged in court and found to be problematic.

The result of this redistricting history is that Alaskans continue to look for approaches that support fairness and the one person/one vote rule. In addition, Alaskans do not want legislators allowed to pick their own voters by gerrymandering districts. Alaska has yet to achieve this goal.

In HJR 26, Rep. Gara and his staff have taken an approach that will bring the State closer to nonpartisan redistricting by calling for a reformulation of the Redistricting Board. HJR 26 calls for the board to be composed of 2 members from the party with the largest number of registered voters, 2 from the party with the second largest number of registered voters, and one nonpartisan member. Further, the resolution allows the solicitation and hiring of technological expertise, much needed as mapping and evaluation techniques have become quite sophisticated.

LWVAK reiterates its support for HJR 26 and its support for fair redistricting.

Sincerely,

Judy Andree, President
League of Women Voters of Alaska

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