



PO Box 101345
Anchorage, AK 99510-1345

February 9, 2025

House State Affairs Committee
Representative Ashley Carrick, Chair
Via: house.state.affairs@akieg.gov

Dear Chair Carrick and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Alaska supports the passage of HB 21: Voter Preregistration for Minors. The League is nonpartisan and does not support or oppose candidates or political parties, but it does take positions on issues after reaching a consensus based on careful study.

Our position on Voter Registration states: "The League of Women Voters of Alaska (LWV-AK) believes that an equitable voter registration system should encourage maximum interest and participation in the electoral process, be simple and efficient to administer, and should aid in preventing fraudulent voting practices." In addition to other important criteria on voter registration, our position includes a statement that our statewide registration system should "Provide a system of pre-registration for 16-17 year olds."

We believe that the provisions of HB 21 will serve both to protect the rights of Alaska voters and to reduce barriers to participation in elections for qualified Alaska citizens. Preregistration for 16 and 17-year-olds eliminates complications when registering to vote using the PFD, where there is confusion among 17-year-olds.

The LWV of Alaska also supports the need for students to understand the role of government in society as well as civics education and engagement. One example of this you see every session is the LWV of Juneau's Capital Students Capitol Visits program where 8th graders in the Juneau area tour the Capitol and learn about their government.

Studies indicate that individuals who preregister are more likely to vote in future elections.* Helping students through the voter registration process prior to their 18th birthday eases the process to becoming an active, engaged voter.

Sincerely,

Marian Clough, LWV-Juneau

On behalf of the League of Women Voters of Alaska and Juneau Boards

* <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/ajps.12177>