



January 30, 2024

Dear Senator Kawasaki,

The LWV of Alaska strongly supports SB 232, a bill that would allow preregistration for Alaskans who are at least 16 years of age.

Studies indicate that individuals who preregister are more likely to vote in future elections. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/ajps.12177> There have been numerous studies to indicate that preregistration is an effective tool to promote voter education and the importance of voting.

Preregistration for 16 and 17-year-olds eliminates complications when new voters come to the polls and are not certain they are registered. This would allow any young voter to not miss the cutoff date for registering to vote using a PFD application.

The changing job market provides another reason to allow preregistration for those aged 16 and up. With higher wages and a decreasing workforce, more states are seeing an increase in younger workers. Through these experiences, younger workers are starting to formulate ideas about how the government impacts their jobs.

Also, preregistering to vote when you turn 16 allows for these pre-registered voters to be more engaged in discussions surrounding voting. Knowing you will vote can allow for more real-world conversations regarding how voting can impact you.

By passing SB 232, young people will have more ownership in how our government operates. This bill supports voter engagement at an earlier age and provides for more opportunities to increase voter turnout.

Sincerely,

Alex Koplin
LWVAK President