



THE THIRTY-THIRD
ALASKA
STATE LEGISLATURE

Rep. DeLena Johnson

Rep.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov

House District 25

Butte - Greater Palmer – Lazy Mountain – Springer Loop – Walby

Sponsor Statement

House Bill 168: Civics Education

34-LS0438\A Status Date 4/2/25

“An Act relating to civics education, civic assessments, and secondary school graduation requirements; and providing for an effective date.”

“We pay a price when we deprive children of the exposure to the values, principles, and education they need to make them good citizens.” ~ Justice Sandra Day O’Connor.

A democratic society relies on its citizens to be informed and ready to act. What good is a government of the people, for the people, and by the people if the people themselves have no idea of what their role as citizens entails or to what civic rights as citizens they are entitled?

It is critical in preparing young Alaskans to become knowledgeable and proactive members of a democratic society that they receive proper instruction in civics. Civics education is an essential part of any school’s curriculum for several important reasons.

First, a proper civics education teaches young people the basics of how their government works. Students learn about the executive, judicial, and legislative branches and why they must work together to pass and enforce laws. They also learn about the duties of each branch and how all three make up a carefully constructed system of checks and balances.

Second, a civics education also teaches Alaskan students that upon becoming adults they must rightfully lay claim to the government as lawful citizens. They learn it is their voices as citizens that ultimately matters when it comes to shaping the government.

Third, Alaskan students who receive a civics education learn that voting is the paramount duty of every citizen. Civics education also gives these students the knowledge they need to make informed decisions and to separate fact from fiction, allowing them to become educated and proactive voters.

Finally, a proper civics education is essential to teaching young Alaskans that government has limitations and that every citizen has irrevocable constitutional rights.

Alaska relies on its people to fulfill their duties as citizens. A civics education assures that Alaskan students mature into active participants in our democratic process.

MEMBER, HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

STAFF CONTACT: ANDREW EVANS (907) 465-4958
ANDREW.EVANS@AKLEG.GOV

Interim
600 E Railroad Ave.
Wasilla, AK 99654
Phone: (907) 376-4958

Session
State Capitol Rm 432
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-4958