



Representative Andi Story
House District 3
Alaska State Legislature

Sponsor Statement
House Bill 21 Version A
February 5th, 2025

“An Act relating to voter preregistration for minors at least 16 years of age.”

House Bill 21 aims to engage future generations of voters and help them become informed, confident, active and voting citizens. As civic engagement with our young people declines across the nation, the concern increases for the health of our democracy.

This bill allows youth, who are aged 16, to voluntarily preregister to vote. This puts them in line to automatically be registered to vote, after their residency has been confirmed, and they have turned 18. Currently, Alaskans who are 17 can register within 90 days of their 18th birthday. By lowering the minimum age for preregistration to 16, we give young Alaskans more time to understand the importance of the voting process and develop the habits of engaged voters.

Pre-registration is already in place in 23 states, and it has led to higher voter turnout among young people. In Alaska 82% of residents are registered voters, however only 55% of those registered voters cast ballots in the last general election. Studies show that pre-registration increases civic engagement while youth are waiting to vote, and increases voter turnout when they become eligible.

This bill also importantly corrects a flaw in current statute in order to ensure the privacy and safety of individuals under the age of 18. Specifically, it establishes that the address and telephone number of any person under the age of 18 who registers or preregisters to vote shall remain confidential and not be subject to public inspection.

I respectfully request your support in the passage of HB 21.

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