

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #311 (2001-2002)

May 13, 2002

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MAY AS YOUTH VOTER  
REGISTRATION MONTH

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the attached resolution in support of May 2002 as Youth Voter Registration Month.

PERTINENT FACTS:

Voting is a responsibility and privilege of citizenship in a democracy and one important goal of public education in the United States is to prepare students to become involved citizens.

A survey conducted by the National Association of Secretaries of State in 1998 determined that only one in five Americans aged 18-24 chose to vote. Almost half of the young people surveyed said they never or almost never talked about politics, government, or current events with their parents. Thirty-eight percent of the young people who didn't register to vote said they didn't have time.

In response to the survey, Lieutenant Governor Fran Ulmer initiated a special project for the 2000 general election titled Let's Vote! Alaska: New Voters for a New Millennium. The project was successful in increasing the voter turnout of 18 to 24-year-olds in Alaska by 48 percent. In 2001, the Lieutenant Governor created the Alaska Democracy Project: New Citizens for a New Millennium, to continue the momentum and to focus attention on the importance of involved citizens.

May has been declared National High School Voter Registration Month in recognition of the need to register eligible young people to vote. In Alaska, 18- year-olds who have registered will have an opportunity to vote in the August primary election on August 27, 2002, in the general election on November 5, 2002, as well as in local elections. They will also have an opportunity to indicate their interest in being trained by the Division of Elections and working at the polls as members of state election boards.

The Student Advisory Board unanimously passed this resolution recognizing May 2002 as Youth Voter Registration Month on April 30, 2002.

Attachment

CC/mks