

This resolution was endorsed by SAB prior to presentation at the 2022 AASG Fall Conference.



Alaska Association of Student Governments

Resolution # XX

Resolution to Prioritize Civic Education for High School Students

Submitted by: Family Partnership Charter School

Submitted: 10/11/2022

Be it Resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that:

- 1. Whereas,** the purpose of the Alaska Association of Student Government (AASG) is to provide leadership training, communication, and a student voice of issues at the local, state and national levels¹; and,
- 2. Whereas,** the Constitution of the United States of America serves to provide the People of the United States with a voice on issues at the national level through the formation of a more perfect Union; the establishment of Justice; providing for the common defense; and the promotion of the general Welfare²; and,
- 3. Whereas,** under Section 1 of the 26th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America, the right of the citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age²; and,
- 4. Whereas,** the average voter turnout in primary elections from 2010-2018 was 27.13%, 29.004% from 2000-2008, and 35.92% from 1990-1998³; and,
- 5. Whereas,** in the 2020 Presidential election, which had record high voter turnout, only 55.8% of people 18-24 years old reported being registered voters⁴; and,
- 6. Whereas,** only 48% of registered voters 18-24 years old reported voting in the 2020 Presidential election⁴; and,

7. **Whereas**, youth voter turnout is historically low, or even nonexistent; and,
8. **Whereas**, the majority of high school seniors in Alaska are 17 and 18 years old; and,
9. **Whereas**, the State of Alaska Division of Elections has published 23 YouTube videos in the last six months to educate Alaskan voters participating in Alaska's elections⁵; and,
10. **Whereas**, many Alaskan voters have expressed confusion over the voting system, ranked choice voting, and the general process of elections at the local, state, and national levels; and,
11. **Whereas**, the clarification of confusion on civic matters is vital to the success of Alaska as a state and the United States as a country; and,
12. **Whereas**, the participation of each citizen in voting is both a right and service to their community, state, and country; and,
13. **Whereas**, the AASG strives to promote student leadership and political action; and,
14. **Whereas**, the AASG strives to provide a collective voice for Alaskan students regarding educational, political and other pertinent issues¹; and,
15. **Whereas**, the AASG strives to provide forums for students to experience the benefits, issues, and pride involved with community service¹; and,
16. **Whereas**, the implementation of a civic education course in schools would increase youth voter turnout, civic activity, community involvement, political action, and student voices; and,
17. **Whereas**, the implementation of a civic education course in schools would decrease voter confusion, voter dissatisfaction, and voter errors in elections; and,
18. **Whereas**, the Anchorage School District requires high school seniors to complete government and economics classes and the implementation of this resolution would not add new courses to existing curricula.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alaska Association of Student Governments supports the prioritization of informing and equipping Alaska's high school seniors to be prepared for their upcoming local, state, and national elections.

Action Statement: if passed by the General Assembly of AASG, the Alaska Association of Student Governments will recommend that each high school's Student Government Association offer workshops, initiatives, and/or education in their respective schools that support their

students in voter responsibility, clarification of voter rules & regulations, etc., and prioritize informing their students.

The Alaska Association of Student Governments will also recommend that each high school's Student Government Association will decide the best approach for their school with a specific focus on high school juniors and seniors.

This resolution, if passed, will be sent to the following:

- Anchorage School District
- Galena School District
- Alaska State Board of Education
- Alaska Department of Education & Early Development
- Student Advisory Board
- Anchorage School Board

Sources:

- 1). Alaska Association of Student Government. "Who We Are." *Alaska Association of Student Government*, 2022, www.aasg.org/who-we-are/
- 2). Cato Institute. *The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States of America*. Cato Institute, 2019.
- 3). Alaska Division of Elections. "Voter Turnout Statistics - Primary Elections Since 1974." *Alaska Division of Elections - Voter Turnout Primary Elections*, 2022, www.elections.alaska.gov/statistics/PRIMvoterturnout.php
- 4). U.S. Census Bureau. "Voting and Registration in the Election of November 2020." *Census.gov*, 8 Oct. 2021, www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/voting-and-registration/p20-585.html
- 5). Alaska Division of Elections. "State of Alaska Division of Elections." *YouTube*, YouTube, 2018, www.youtube.com/channel/UCR62nC5PvJHH5A4pom7ekfw/videos