

LOCAL ELECTION PROCEDURES – 1982

The League of Women Voters of Juneau supports election procedures which balance the ease of voting with protections for the integrity of the election process. We believe that as much as possible procedures of local elections should be consistent with state procedures to eliminate confusion among voters and election officials.

AMPLIFICATIONS:

1. Ease of voting includes, but is not limited to, clarity of ballot wording, accessibility of the polls, and simply written forms and directions.
2. Integrity of the election process includes, but is not limited to, safeguards in counting or processing ballots to guarantee valid election returns.
3. Consistency of procedures between state and local elections includes, but is not limited to, the use of the same polling places as well as similar forms, procedures and voting requirements.
4. Punch card voting and machine counting is endorsed by the LWV to ease the burden of work on election officials and to make municipal procedures consistent with the State's.
5. Filing deadline: The LWV recommends the filing deadline for candidates be moved back 10 days (to 30 days before the election) to facilitate the use of punch card voting, to provide more time for the mailing of absentee ballots, and to make media deadlines easier to meet.
6. Absentee voting: For ease of voting, we recommend local absentee balloting procedures be made consistent with state procedures so that applications can be made up to six months before the election and so that two signatures by witnesses is sufficient for balloting.
7. "I Voted" tags should be available for voters to wear.
8. Staggered hours for poll workers should be permitted to ease the burden of long hours, especially if hand counting is done.
9. Poll hours: No consensus was reached on what hours the polls should be open. The convenience of voting provided by a 7:00 a.m. opening was balanced by consistency with state polling hours and the convenience of election workers.