

Rushing to finish?

Session ends on May 17th this year, and things are moving quickly. Quite a bit of legislation is moving onto the floor to either pass or not. At least a dozen bills we are tracking are moving out of committees or holding hearings and none of our tracked bills have moved either out of the House or Senate. But we'll be watching. Bottom line - the big focus is on the budget and the PFD,.

What to know: Heading into May

The LWV Alaska State Convention was held April 22nd with an impressive set of speakers!

Both of our Senators were invited, as well as Rep. Peltola. Sen. Murkowski sent an impassioned recorded plea for us to help support the Equal Rights Amendment in the Senate. (Unfortunately, it didn't pass yet again). Rep. Peltola was in Juneau speaking at the totem raising and couldn't attend, but her chief of staff Anton McParland filled in for her. He was an amazing speaker. He talked about being impressed by a presentation from the League in his home state of Nevada, and he joined the League at the age of 19. So a great supporter to have in Rep. Peltola's office. He spoke about the political divides in Congress, and or Rep. Peltola's approach in trying to find common ground, and to maintain a level of civility in DC. We also heard from our Alaskan Sen. Kawasaki (Fairbanks) and Rep. Schrage (Anchorage) who introduced us to his new baby. They spoke on the election bills in the Alaskan legislature and the need for testimony and letters. Finally, we heard from Ruth Botstein, ACLU Alaska Legal Director and Kendra Kloster, Co-Director, Law and Policy, Alaska Native Women's Resource Center. Both spoke passionately about ensuring that everyone in Alaska has the right to vote, and how we can help. The hybrid 'zoom' allowed members from each city to meet in person, as well as join with others on Zoom.

Highlights from last week:

A couple of new bills were introduced: HB 165 CHARTER SCHOOLS; CORRESPONDENCE PROGRAMS sponsored by the House Ways & Means Committee led by Rep. Carpenter (R-Nikiski) and SB 138 ELECTIONS; VOTER REG.; CAMPAIGNS (**Public Testimony**) sponsored by the Senate State Affairs Committee led by Sen. Kawasaki (D-Fairbanks). Here is a link to read more about this: [**Sponsor Statement SB138**](#). SB 61 US PRESIDENT ELECT. POPULAR VOTE COMPACT has moved out of the Judiciary Committee and is now in Senate State Affairs.

Alaska Legislative Meetings Scheduled for week of April 17th

****PUBLIC TESTIMONY****

contact your local [Legislative Information Office](#)

Public testimony on **HB4 ELECTIONS:REPEAL RANK CHOICE/OPEN PRIMARY-May 2nd 3:00 pm**
In **House STATE AFFAIRS** - GRUENBERG 120

The bill [HB 4: Elections:repeal Rank Choice/open Primary](#) has been scheduled for a meeting
House State Affairs ~ May 2 2023 3:00pm
To see the bill go to [HB 4](#)

Public testimony on **SB 61 US PRESIDENT ELECT. POPULAR VOTE COMPACT - May 2nd 3:30 pm**
In **Senate STATE AFFAIRS** - BELTZ 105

The bill [SB 61: Us President Elect. Popular Vote Compact](#) has been scheduled for a meeting
Senate State Affairs ~ May 2 2023 3:30pm
To see the bill go to [SB 61](#)

Public testimony on **SB 138 ELECTIONS; VOTER REG.; CAMPAIGNS - May 2nd 3:30 pm**
(a revision of some of the other Senate Election related bills) will be ALSO be held

In **Senate STATE AFFAIRS** - BELTZ 105
Senate State Affairs ~ May 2 2023 3:30pm
To see the bill go to [SB 138](#)

Other meetings this week:

The bill **HB 129: Voter Registration** has been scheduled for a meeting
House Judiciary ~ May 1 2023 1:00pm
To see the bill go to [HB 129](#)

NOTE: Pending referrals - this bill may also be heard:
House Judiciary ~ May 5 2023 1:00pm
To see the bill go to [HB 129](#)

The bill [HB 165: Charter Schools; Correspondence Programs](#) has been scheduled for a meeting
House Education ~ May 5 2023 8:00am
To see the bill go to [HB 165](#)

Note: The status of Bill [HB 106: Teacher Recruitment; Lump Sum Payment](#) has now been referred to House Finance.
To see the bill go to [HB 106](#)

Bills in Rules Committee or Full Floor:

The status of Bill **HB 61: Limitations On Firearms Restrictions** has changed from (H) House Rules committee to status of on the House floor (CALENDAR) May 1st.
To see the bill go to [HB 61](#)

The status of Bill **SB 29: Civics Education; Est Ak Cvcs Ed Comm** has been referred to Senate Rules committee (then will go to the floor when approved).
To see the bill go to [SB 29](#)

Legislative Calendar and Events

Calendar:

- **May 17th - 121st day of the session (Per the Alaska Constitution)**

It is possible that the session *may* go into a special session, depending on budget negotiations. The Senate is expected to take up the Operating budget towards the end of the week of May 1st. When passed it will go back to the House (likely the week of May 8th) - where the House can accept it or they can go into a conference committee to resolve differences. Starting May 12th (until session end) they will go into a 24 hour rule where bills that have been heard may move very quickly.

Wrap Up

How are we doing?

We have received word that some League members across the state are not receiving this newsletter. If you hear from anyone who isn't seeing these, please have them send an email to our lwvak@lwvalaska.org email and we'll look into it. Remember, these are also posted on VotingRightsAlaska.org as well.

The League always needs volunteers! Writing letters, talking to your legislators, and helping out by giving us your feedback - it doesn't have to be a total commitment. We would LOVE to hear from you. Please encourage others to take action by sharing this Legislative Newsletter, Action Alerts, and Calendar Events. Contact us at lwvak@lwvalaska.org, and/or work to get the word out with your local leagues.

Expanding the League's impact helps us to **Empower Voters and Defend Democracy** as a community! We'll keep these links accessible here for you.

- Alaska State Legislature website, akleg.gov
- Alaska State's Gavel to Gavel public affairs TV network, www.ktoo.org/gavel/

League of Women Voters of Alaska

PO Box 101345
Anchorage, AK 99510-1345

Email us at lwvak@lwvalaska.org
www.lwvalaska.org

To see the bills we are tracking and where they are in the process, check the details on [the VotingRightsAlaska.org Legislation page](http://VotingRightsAlaska.org).