

Focus on the budget...and State Convention this weekend!

The Legislature has a law that says they need to end after 90 days (AS 24.05.150), however, every year they ignore it and aim for the Constitutional limit of 120 days, ending May 17th. So, there is just about one month until the end of session. Things will start moving quickly now—we'll try to keep up. Watch your email for updates, if needed. ***And don't miss the Convention, awesome speakers and information!***

What to know: mid-April Update

Another ***Awesome*** “Lunch With the League”: (April 14th)

If you haven't attended one of the new ***Lunch with the League*** Zooms yet, you are missing out! The latest Zoom had former Representative Chris Tuck discussing the current Elections bills and processes.

He outlined his efforts to pass election reforms over the last few legislative sessions. He spoke about trying to get some level of election reform passed this year. He also raised some concerns about the state's use of ERIC, a rather surprising opinion, but based in his concern over a centralized database of all people in the country and how to keep that safe.

He believes that there is going to be an effort in the Senate to take the existing election bills and create a new elections bill with more bi-partisan support. We'll be watching to see if that happens in time. He didn't believe anything would pass regarding the Houses' effort to eliminate the Dominion voting machines due to pending litigation and cost, but pieces of the other House legislation would likely be found in other pending legislation.

When he was asked what the League should be doing he said, “Educate, advocate and organize.” Educate so you communicate with everyone, find common ground and then build relationships. As you reach people, you can then advocate for change. And, finally, organize members to increase our efforts and our voice.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: A big focus this year is on the Alaska State Budget. The debate so far has been centered around education funding vs. the PFD. As with all budgets, the question is how to balance the competing needs and wants. So there will be multiple sessions for public testimony - make your voices heard (next page for details...)

Alaska Legislative Meetings Scheduled for week of April 17th

Public testimony on HB39 (Operating Budget), and HB41 (Mental Health Budget-both pending referral from the House) and SB41 (Capital Supplemental) In **Senate FINANCE** - Room 532 (or 844-586-9085)

THURSDAY April 20th at 9:00 am -For Juneau, Southeast, Prince William Sound, & Kodiak -Sign Up By 10:15 am **AND at 1:30 pm**-For Fairbanks, Interior, & Copper River Valley -Sign Up by 2:45 pm.

FRIDAY April 21st at 9:00 am-For Nome, Bethel, Kotzebue, Utqiagvik, Unalaska, Dillingham & Offnets -Sign up by 10:15 am **AND at 1:00 pm**-For Anchorage, Matanuska Valley, Kenai Peninsula -Sign Up by 2:45 pm.

Other meetings this week:

The bill **SB 61: US President Elect. Popular Vote Compact** has been scheduled for a meeting
Senate Judiciary ~ Apr 17 2023 1:30pm
To see the bill go to [SB 61](#)

The bill **SB 29: Civics Education; Est Ak Cvcs Ed Comm** has been scheduled for a meeting
Senate Finance ~ Apr 18 2023 9:00am
To see the bill go to [SB 29](#)

The bill **HB 61: Limitations On Firearms Restrictions** has been scheduled for a meeting
House State Affairs ~ Apr 18 2023 3:00pm
To see the bill go to [HB 61](#)

Annual LWVAK State Convention – next weekend April 22 – JOIN US!

Don't miss this! Please register (it's free!) so we can make sure you get the Zoom information for online or we can get an accurate count for lunch for in-person attendance!

REGISTER NOW - No Registration Fee - Follow link for more information!

WHEN? Saturday, April 22 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM - Speakers and Discussion
Sunday, April 23 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM - Business Meeting

WHERE? On **Saturday, April 22 - In-Person or Virtual**
Anchorage - Challenge Alaska, 3350 Commercial Drive, Suite 208
Fairbanks – IBEW Meeting Room, 2000 Airport Way
Juneau – Alaska Brewery Tasting Room, 5364 Commercial Blvd.
Kenai – Soldotna Public Library, 235 N. Binkley Street
Check with your local chapter about lunch arrangements.

OR

Via Zoom - Saturday Invitation will be mailed Thursday, April 20 along with final agenda
Plan to have a brown-bag lunch with discussion and chat with other virtual attendees.

INVITED SPEAKERS: Dr. Deborah Turner, President, LWVUS, Leah Edwards, Regional Liaison, LWVUS, Senator Lisa Murkowski, Representative Mary Peltola and a **Panel on Overcoming Barriers to Voting in Alaska:** Ruth Botstein (ACLU), Senator Scott Kawasaki, Representative Calvin Schrage, Michelle Sparck (Get Out the Native Vote)

Legislative Calendar and Events

Calendar:

- April 16th - 90th day of the session (By law (AS 24.05.150))
- April 22nd - LWV Alaska Annual State Convention
- 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.

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 lwwak@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 lwwak@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 lwwak@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).

BILL	SHORT TITLE	SPONSOR(s)	COMMITTEE REFERRAL(S)
SB 1	ELECTIONS: BALLOT, VOTING, SECURITY	SEN. SHOWER	State Affairs, Judiciary, Finance
SB 2	REPEAL BALLOT MEASURE 2 VOTING CHGS	SEN. SHOWER	State Affairs, Judiciary, Finance
SB 5	VOTER REGISTRATION	SEN. SHOWER	State Affairs, Judiciary
SB 6	VOTING MACHINES AND VOTE TALLY SYSTEMS	SEN. SHOWER	State Affairs, Judiciary
SB 7	ELECTION INTERFERENCE, FRAUD, MISCONDUCT	SEN. SHOWER	State Affairs, Judiciary

BILL	SHORT TITLE	SPONSOR(s)	COMMITTEE REFERRAL(S)
SB 17	CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS	SEN. KAWASAKI	State Affairs, Judiciary
SB 19	ELECTIONS; BALLOTS	SEN. KAWASAKI	State Affairs, Finance
SB 29	CIVICS EDUCATION; EST AK CIVICS ED COMM	SEN. STEVENS	Education, Finance
SB 31	SELECTION AND REVIEW OF JUDGES	SEN. SHOWER	State Affairs, Judiciary
SB 52	INCREASE BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION	SENATE EDUCATION	Education, Finance
SB 61	US PRESIDENT ELECT. POPULAR VOTE COMPACT	SENs. WIELECHOWSKI & GRAY-JACKSON	Judiciary, State Affairs

BILL	SHORT TITLE	SPONSOR(s)	COMMITTEE REFERRAL(S)
HB 1	REPEAL BALLOT MEASURE 2 VOTING CHGS	REP RAUSCHER	State Affairs, Judiciary
HB 4	ELECTIONS: REPEAL BALLOT MEASURE 2	REP VANCE	State Affairs, Judiciary
HB 24	GOV APPOINT BRD OF GOV. OF AK BAR	REP RAUSCHER	State Affairs, Judiciary
HB 34	CONFIRMATION/QUALIFICATIONS OF JUDGES	REP RAUSCHER	State Affairs, Judiciary
HB 36	APOC; REFERENDA/RECALL; CONTRIBUTIONS	REP SCHRAGE	State Affairs, Judiciary
HB 37	ELECTIONS, VOTING, BALLOTS	REP SCHRAGE	State Affairs, Judiciary
HB 65	INCREASE BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION	REP ORTIZ	Education,
HB 82	SELECTION AND REVIEW OF JUDGES	REP RAUSCHER	Judiciary, Finance
HB 106	TEACHER RECRUITMENT-LUMP SUM	At the request of the GOVERNOR	Education, Judiciary, Finance
HB 105	SEX/REPRODUCTION EDUCATION; SCHOOLS	At the request of the GOVERNOR	Education, Judiciary, Finance