



# The Anchorage VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ANCHORAGE  
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CAROL DICKASON, PRESIDENT

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We have been busy ever since the primary election fielding calls about voting issues. We're averaging 3-4 calls a day for voter information (many from outside the state), primarily for absentee voter applications. **Wilda Hudson** will staff the phone on Election Day to help people who have questions regarding their polling place or otherwise need assistance. We've registered voters and have had a presence at the KAKM "Running" and at a candi-

dates' forum at Begich Middle School. And, we're co-sponsoring with KTUU Channel 2 a televised debate to which the US Senate and US House of Representatives candidates have been invited; this will occur Sunday, Oct. 26 from 6-7 p.m.

We've been planning, along with Common Ground and AARP, an educational meeting on Nov. 19 at 7:00 pm at the BP Energy Center where Sen. Hollis French will

discuss his SB 160 from the last session, which deals with access to health care insurance. (This legislation will have to be reintroduced with a new number this coming session). We look forward to your joining us.

December will bring our annual holiday function (see below). January is program planning time which will be done by mail. Look for program planning materials to arrive in the mail. In March we will hold a consensus meeting on the National Popular Vote study item. And in April, we'll hold our Annual Meeting. Details on these will be sent to you closer to the time.

It's your League! I would encourage you to become as active as your time and interests permit.

## 2008 HOLIDAY FUNCTION

*December 9, 2008*

*6:00 - 8:00 pm*

*At the Home of Barbara Norrell  
5018 Knights Way  
Anchorage*

*This holiday season, we will once again gather items to support two local groups:*

*McCauley Manor and  
Charlie Elder House*

*Both provide safe housing for up to five teens in each home. These are young people for whom living at home is not an option.*

*We look forward to your joining the board as we learn more about these homes. Your invitation with all the details will be in the mail mid-November.*

### Voter Service

Thanks to **Mary Lou Lawhorn, Kay Lahdenpera, Pat Redmond** and **Diane Mathisen** for assisting at the KAKM "Running" series!

**Carol Dickason** helped attendees at the Anchorage School Board legislative race forum at Begich Middle School find their districts and polling places.

We also co-sponsored with KTUU – Channel 2 a televised debate featuring candidates for the US Senate and House of Representatives.

Our biggest project, **YOUTH VOTE 2008**, is coming to its conclusion under the direction of project director Tiffany Ryan. On Oct. 28, students from Anchorage high schools will attend a debate at the newly refurbished West High School auditorium to which all candidates for the US Senate and House are invited. Youth leaders wrote the questions and will moderate the debate as it is televised live on KTUU Channel 2. ASD students will then participate in the Youth Vote mock election on November 4. Please stop by the Youth Vote table at Election Central on Election Night to share your congratulations with this remarkable group of Anchorage youth leaders!

Thanks to all of you who so generously gave to this project. We have met our goal financially. Kaladi Brothers is sponsoring the debate and has organized other forums for interaction between the students and candidates, and generally promoted Youth Vote. We are very grateful to them as well as to all of our other sponsors – corporate and individual, LWV members past and present. Without your financial support none of this would have occurred.

## Join us in Thanking our Valued Supporters of Youth Vote 2008!

Kaladi Brothers Coffee Company  
LWV of Anchorage  
BP Alaska  
LWV of Alaska Education Fund  
Anchorage School District  
Mary Rosenzweig  
The Carr Foundation, Inc.  
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John Havelock  
Kay Lahdenpera  
Diane Mathisen  
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Heather Flynn  
Arliss Sturgulewski  
Jane Angvik  
Carol Comeau  
Donna Greinier  
Connie Ozer  
Trudy Keller  
Jo Antonson  
Barbara Gruenstein  
David Jensen Photography  
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**Youth Vote** leaders staffed a table at the Alaska State Fair this fall where youth were able to vote to identify the issues of most concern to them with the following results:

- Corruption (88 points)
- Civil Rights (87 points)
- Environment (79 points)
- Economy (75 points)
- Education (61 points)

### LWV Anchorage 2008-09 Board of Directors

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Contact us at 907-274-8477  
[www.lwvanchorage.org](http://www.lwvanchorage.org)

### LWVUS STUDY: NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE COMPACT

At the LWVUS Convention this past June, delegates adopted a fast-track study of the National Popular Vote (NPV) Compact among the states as a method for selecting the U.S. President. The current League position supports abolishment of the Electoral College and the direct popular vote method for electing the president, which would require a constitutional amendment that has proved difficult to achieve. (See Impact on Issues at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org).)

Under the NPV Compact (see [www.lwv.org/NPV](http://www.lwv.org/NPV)) all of the electoral votes of each member state would go to the presidential candidate receiving the most popular vote in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. This interstate compact would not go into effect until enough states have joined to guarantee the 270 electoral votes required to elect a president.

This plan was originally proposed following the controversial 200 presidential elections. To date, it has been adopted in four states: Maryland, New Jersey, Illinois and Hawaii. Legislation has passed one of more chambers in another 9 states.

As information from the study committee becomes available, we will pass it on to our members. A meeting is planned for March to discuss the issue and possibly reach a consensus among our members. The deadline for submitting consensus forms will be May 1, 2009.