



EXECUTIVE REPORT

It is with great pleasure that I have this opportunity to report on Youth Vote 2004. Through the support of our many planning partners, volunteers and sponsors, I am able to report that all of the intended objectives of Youth Vote 2004 were met, and the activities conducted through this project will lead towards accomplishment of our mission, to provide a non-partisan venue for empowering youth to vote and be involved in the democratic process.

Planning for Youth Vote 2004 began in January 2004 when the League of Women Voters of Anchorage officially accepted responsibility for the project, formerly organized by Spirit of Youth.

Youth Vote 2004 Activities

Educator's Resource Guide

An Elementary, Middle or High School Edition of the Youth Vote 2004 Educator's Resource Guide was distributed to curriculum chairs and designated Youth Vote coordinators in all Anchorage School District schools and 6 private schools in the Anchorage area. The Resource Guides contain lesson plans developed for the National Student/Parent Mock Election tied to Core requirements to help teachers meet the requirements of "No Child Left Behind." In addition to the lesson plans, the Guide contains information about voting in Alaska, a listing of voting related web resources and information about other Youth Vote 2004 activities including the U.S Senate Candidate Debate and Mock Election. In addition to the bound version distributed to each school, an electronic version of the Resource Guide was made available on the ASD website.

U.S. Senate Candidate Debate

On October 21, 2004 KTUU Channel 2 broadcast the 2004 Youth Senatorial Debate. All candidates for U.S. Senate appearing on the general election ballot were invited to participate in the one-hour debate at the West High Auditorium in Anchorage. Candidates Tony Knowles (Democrat), Jim Sykes (Green), Ted Gianoutsos (nonpartisan), Marc Millican (nonpartisan) and Scott Kohlhaas (Alaska Libertarian) participated.

The 2004 Youth Senatorial Debate was conducted by youth and featured youth generated questions. Nina Johnson, a Chugiak High School Senior, moderated the debate. Students from each of Anchorage's High Schools posed questions selected from a representative sample of the nearly 200 that were submitted by youth for consideration. Approximately 1,050 students from the Anchorage School District attended.

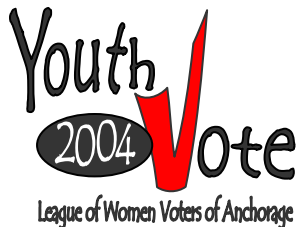
Mock Election

On November 2, to coincide with the General Election, Youth Vote 2004 coordinated a Mock Election for students in grades 5-12. Students in participating schools had an opportunity to cast their vote for President, U.S. Senate, U.S. Representative and a Student Advisory Vote question. Voting within the ASD was Internet based, and was accessed behind the ASD firewall through use

of a student ID number. Private schools and some ASD students participated with a traditional paper ballot prepared by the Anchorage Municipal Clerk's office to look like an Accuvote ballot.

A total of 14,470 students from 67 schools cast ballots in the mock election. President Bush received 56% of the vote with John Kerry receiving 36%. Tony Knowles won the Alaskan senatorial race with 54% of the vote. Lisa Murkowski came in second with 35%. In the U.S. house race Don Young won with 64% of the vote. On the Student Advisory Vote question, having to do with the No Child Left Behind Act, voting students responded with an overwhelming no, stating that they do not feel that Title 1 funds should be diverted from schools if they fail to make Adequate Yearly Progress.

After tallying all electronic and paper ballot results, youth volunteers for Youth Vote 2004 brought election results and accompanying press releases to Election Central at the Egan Center in Anchorage. The students received live press coverage of the Youth Vote results from KTUU Channel 2, KIMO Channel 13 and APRN. The Youth Vote Mock Election Results also appeared in the Anchorage Daily News on the next day.



The League of Women Voters thanks all of the Planning Partners, Sponsors and Contributors of Youth Vote 2004. We couldn't have done it without your support!

Planning Partners

Anchorage School District • ASD Student Advisory Board • Anchorage Municipal Clerk's Office • KTUU Channel 2 • Office of Lieutenant Governor Loren Leman • Youth volunteers from the Spirit of Youth & Alaska Association of Student Governments

Sponsors & Contributors

LWVAK Education Fund • LWV Anchorage
Alyeska Pipeline Service Company
Rasmuson Foundation

Alaska Bar Association • Conoco Phillips • Kaladi Brothers Coffee Co.
Northrim Bank

Katherine Adams
Joyce Anderson
Mark Begich
Carol Comeau
Carol Dickason
Heather Flynn
Charlotte Fox
John Havelock
Margaret Holland

Judy Hopkins
Wilda Hudson
Mary Jane Cox
Charity Kadow
Barbara Karl
Kay Lahdenpera
Marie Lavigne
Moose Lodge 1534
Gloria McCutcheon

Reba Mezzano
NCP Architects
Barbara Norrell
Jeanne Oldre
Anne Oliphant
Princess Tours
Carolyn Rader
Bernadine Raiskums
Harriet Shaftel

Robert Sharrer
Jean & Fred Stassel
Stellar Designs
Arliss Sturgulewski
Syntax Productions
Midtown Wal-Mart
Esther Wunnick