



Alaska Association of Student Governments

Resolution 4 (Passes)

**Lower Voting Age to 16 Years Old for School Board Elections in
the Anchorage School District**

Written by Kali Spencer, Ryan Adkins, Hannah Yaw, and Bella Johnson

March 8th, 2017

Presented by Kali Spencer

March 20th-22nd, 2017

Be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Government that the voting age for school board elections in the Anchorage School District is lowered to 16 years old,

1. **Whereas**, the current age to vote for school board members is 18 years old,
2. **Whereas**, students are the group most directly affected by the school board, but many students do not currently have a say in who is elected onto the board,
3. **Whereas**, allowing more voices to be heard could lead to more innovation in policy making and new outlooks and opinions from the up and coming generation,
4. **Whereas**, students would be allowed to select representatives on the school board who they think would best look out for their interests,
5. **Whereas**, allowing students to become involved in the voting process at an earlier age, such as 16 years old, would make them more likely to vote in general and local elections when they turn 18 years old,
6. **Whereas**, allowing students to vote for the school board's members would give them experience with the voting process and increase their involvement in politics,
7. **Whereas**, in Alaska at the age of 16 students are already legally allowed to apply for legal aid, have sexual intercourse, live independently outside of their family home, drive a vehicle, and get married (with parental consent),
8. **Whereas**, teachers would not be allowed to lobby to students as to avoid influencing their votes,
9. **Whereas**, student voter fraud would not take place if the following steps were implemented:
 - a. Each school would be given a specific polling location
 - b. Each school's designated polling place would be equipped with a list of all the students currently enrolled at their corresponding school

- c. Each student would be required to provide a current student ID that would then be checked against the student enrollment sheet,
- 10. **Whereas**, a separate ballot would be provided to students on the day of elections, due to the fact that they would only be voting only for school board members and not other representatives,
- 11. **Whereas**, there is enough time before and after school to vote so that student voting would not cause problems with school attendance,
- 12. **Whereas**, voting would be voluntary not mandatory.

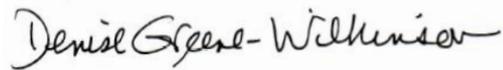
Therefore, be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments, that AS 15.05.010 is changed allowing persons 16 years of age or older to vote in school board elections.

Action Statement: This resolution, if passed by the General Assembly of Spring 2017 AASG will proceed to the Alaska State Legislature for further discussion and possible implementation.

Passed by the Alaska Association of Student Governments at the Spring 2017 Conference



Taylor Holman, Vice President



Denise Greene-Wilkinson, Executive Director