



Alaska Association of Student Governments

Resolution # 3

**Lowering the Voting Age to 16 Years Old for School Board Elections in
the State of Alaska**

Submitted by: ERHS

Submitted: September 19, 2018

Be it Resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that:

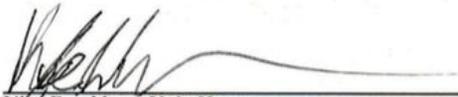
- 1. Whereas,** the current age to vote for school board members is 18 years old;
- 2. Whereas,** students are the group most directly affected by the school board, but many students do not currently have a say in who is elected onto the board;
- 3. Whereas,** allowing more voices to be heard could lead 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 do 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 local government;
- 7. Whereas,** in Alaska at the age of 16 students are already legally allowed to apply for legal aid, pay taxes, live independently outside of their family home, and drive a vehicle;
- 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 form of state or government issued identification and 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 and at lunch to vote so that student voting would not cause problems with school attendance;
- 12. Whereas,** voting would be voluntary not mandatory;
- 13. Whereas,** School board elections are known for a low voter turnout, five to ten percent usually so including the age of 16 and 17 would therefore increase the number of participants in the voting process;

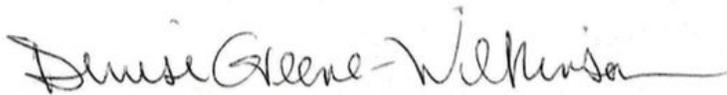
Therefore, be it resolved that the Alaska Association of Student Governments supports that the voting age for school board elections in the State of Alaska is lowered to 16 years old.

Action Statement: This resolution, if passed by the General Assembly of Fall 2018 AASG will proceed to the Anchorage School Board for further discussion and possible implementation.

Passed by the fall 2018 General Assembly at Skagway of the Alaska Association of Student Governments.



Vice President, Kyle Hasse



Executive Director, Denise Greene-Wilkinson