



**Alaska Association of Student Government
Resolution #4
Alaska Youth Legislative Advisory Council
Submitted by: Sitka High School Student Council
April 18, 2024**

Be it Resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that: AASG approves an Alaska Youth Legislative Advisory Council that communes with the Alaska legislature to assist with student education and other issues concerning the well-being of students.

1. **Whereas**, a youth legislative advisory council (YLAC) is established to examine issues of importance to youth;
2. **Whereas**, issues the YLAC will address can include education, employment, strategies to increase youth participation in local and state government, safe environments for youth, substance abuse, emotional and physical health, foster care, poverty, homelessness, and youth access to state and local services;
3. **Whereas**, the council shall advise the legislature on these issues and shall submit an annual report with any recommendations for future legislation;
4. **Whereas**, twelve states currently have Youth Legislative Advisory Councils;¹
5. **Whereas**, Youth Legislative Advisory Councils are established through statute or executive order;
6. **Whereas**, the council shall consist of 12 members, 2 from each Alaskan region;
7. **Whereas**, one of the 12 members shall be the chair of the council;
8. **Whereas**, the chair of the council shall replace the treasurer position of the Alaska Association of Student Government E-Board;
9. **Whereas**, members will be elected to serve at the AASG Spring Conference;
10. **Whereas**, members will be between the ages of 14 and 19;
11. **Whereas**, civic educator Brian Rock states that Legislative Youth Advisory Councils (LYCAs) “engages youth directly in government. It ensures that youth voices are heard by legislators and policy makers. It trains the next generation of politicians.”;³

12. Whereas, Matthew D. Cebul, Ph.D. states, “Ultimately, both research and expert analysis agree that youth activism is a critical ingredient for successful nonviolent activism. Young people have been at the heart of many of the world’s most impactful nonviolent campaigns, and the trend shows no signs of stopping - and we’re all the better for it.”;²

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alaska Association of Student Governments supports the implementation of an Alaska Youth Legislative Advisory Council.

Action Statement: If passed by the AASG general assembly, this resolution will be brought to the Alaskan Legislature for consideration.

Sources:

1. Martin, S., Pittman, K., Ferber, T., McMahon, A. (2007, July). *Building Effective Youth Councils: A Practical Guide to Engaging Youth in Policy Making*. Washington, D.C.: The Forum for Youth Investment.
2. “Youth Activism: Balancing Risk and Reward.” *United States Institute of Peace*, <https://www.usip.org/publications/2023/01/youth-activism-balancing-risk-and-reward>. Accessed 16 Apr. 2024.
3. “What’s a YAC? And Does Your State Have One?” *The Civic Educator*, 21 Dec. 2017, <https://civiceducator.org/legislative-youth-advisory-councils/>.

The resolution passes with unanimous consent

Passed by the Spring 2024 General Assembly of AASG hosted by Barrow High School

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Danika Hamm", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

AASG Vice President, Danika Hamm

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kathleen Navarre", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

AASG Executive Director, Kathleen Navarre