

Alaska Association of Student Governments Executive Board Resolution AASG's Stance on Alaska's House Bill 21 Submitted by: AASG Executive Board March 25, 2025

Be it Resolved that the Alaska Association of Student Governments supports House Bill 21:

- 1. Whereas, House Bill 21 is "An Act relating to voter preregistration for minors at least 16 years of age; and relating to confidentiality of voter registration and preregistration records of minors at least 16 years of age"; ¹
- 2. Whereas, part of AASG's mission statement is to "provide leadership training, communication, and a student voice of issues at the local, state, and national levels;"
- 3. Whereas, AASG's goal is to make youth voices heard and increase civic engagement. Increasing young voter turnout aligns with that goal;
- 4. Whereas, In 2020, the 18 to 24 age group had the lowest voting age category at 51.4% voter turnout. In comparison, turnout was highest among those ages 65 to 74 at 76.0%; ²
- 5. Whereas, Alaska's voter turnout in the 2024 primary election was on pace to be the third lowest in the past 50 years, with only 17.5% of voters participating, showing a concerning trend of declining civic engagement among eligible voters;³
- 6. Whereas, House Bill 21 attempts to increase young adult voter turnout by making pre-registration available at 16 instead of our current policy of permitting those under 18 to register anytime within 90 days before they turn 18;
- 7. Whereas, being able to pre-register at a younger age would eliminate the time constraints of an 18-year-old with currently only 90 days of pre-registration time;
- 8. Whereas, House Bill 21 will allow students to be more involved and better represent the 18-24 age category;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alaska Association of Student Governments supports Alaska's House Bill 21.

Action Statement: if passed by the Alaska Association of Student Governments, this resolution will be brought to the Alaska Legislature as well as Representative Andi Story's office for their consideration.

Sources:

- 1. Alaska Legislature. "HOUSE BILL NO. 21." *Akleg.gov*, 22 Jan. 2025, www.akleg.gov/PDF/34/Bills/HB0021A.PDF. Accessed 24 Mar. 2025.
- Brooks, James. "Alaska's Primary Election Turnout Is on Pace to Be Third-Lowest in 50 Years." *Alaska Public Media*, AKPM, 29 Aug. 2024, alaskapublic.org/news/2024-08-29/alaskas-primary-election-turnout-is-on-pace-to-be-thir d-lowest-in-50-years. Accessed 24 Mar. 2025.
- United States Census Bureau. "2020 Presidential Election Voting & Registration Tables Now Available." *The United States Census Bureau*, 29 Apr. 2021, www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2021/2020-presidential-election-voting-and-re gistration-tables-now-available.html. Accessed 24 Mar. 2025.
- 4. Resolution #9 from Fall 2023 West-Valley Conference

Resolution passes with unanimous consent

Passed by the Spring 2025 General Assembly of AASG hosted by Sitka High School and Mt Edgecumbe High School

Francis Myers

AASG Vice President, Francis Myers

Kathleen Marasse