

Alaska Association of Student Governments Resolution # 2

For the State of Alaska to Lower the Minimum Voting Age to 16 in Municipal Elections Submitted by: Michael B. Moore

Submitted September 18, 2018

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

1. **Whereas**, Alaska Statute 15.05.010: Voter Qualifications states "A person may vote in any election who...(2) is 18 years of age or older...";¹³

2. Whereas, the earlier one votes, the easier it becomes a habit for life ¹

3. Whereas, Austria, Brazil, Argentina, Cuba, Ecuador, Bosnia, Nicaragua, Guernsey, Isle of Mann, Estonia, Scotland, Malta, and Jersey have a minimum voting age of 16 years of age;²

4. Whereas, Takoma Park, Maryland and Hyattsville, Maryland have changed their voting age to sixteen years of age or older;³

5. Whereas, civic participation is proven to have a "trickle-up" effect in communities;⁴

6. Whereas, extending voting rights to people after they turn 16 promotes higher turnout for first-time voters in all age groups;⁵

7. Whereas, 16 and 17 year olds can be tried and prosecuted as adults;¹⁴

Therefore, be it resolved that the General Assembly of the Alaska Association of Student Governments supports that the State of Alaska lowers the minimum voting age to 16 in municipal elections.

Sources:

¹ "Lower the Voting Age for Local Elections." Fairvote.org,

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3. Hernandez, A. "Hyattsville Becomes Second U.S. Municipality to Lower Voting Age to 16." Washington Post, 14 Jan. 2015. Web.

<<u>http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/md-politics/hyattsville-becomes-second-city-in-the-us-to-lower-voting-age-t</u> <u>o-16/2015/01/07/24a7c8be-95c7-11e4-aabd-d0b93ff613d5_story.html</u>>.

4. Kiousis, Spiro, and Michael McDevitt. "Experiments in Political Socialization: Kids Voting USA as a Model for Civic Education Reform," Gainesville: University of Florida, 2006. Web. 3 Apr. 2016. <<u>http://www.civicyouth.org/PopUps/WorkingPapers/WP49McDevitt.pdf</u>>

5. Wagner, Markus, David Johann, and Sylvia Kritzinger. "Voting at 16: Turnout and the Quality of Vote Choice." Australia Science Fund (FWF), 12 June 2012. Web. 03 Apr. 2016. <<u>http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0261379412000212</u>>

6. "Alaska," National Juvenile Defender Center. 17 Nov. 2017. Web. <<u>http://nidc.info/practice-policy-resources/state-profiles/alaska/</u>>

7. "Provisional Licenses." Division of Motor Vehicles. State of Alaska, 17 Nov. 2017. Web. <<u>http://doa.alaska.gov/dmv/akol/teenlaw.html</u>>.

9. Berry, Richard, and Sean Kippin. "Should the UK Lower the Voting Age to 16?" Political Studies Association 2014. accessed 10, Feb. 2016. Web. <<u>http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/59110/1/_lse.ac.uk_storage_LIBRARY_Secondary_libfile_shared_repository_Content_De</u> mocratic%20Audit%20blog_2014_July%202014_Votes-at-16.pdf>.

11."Do Juveniles Receive Stiffer Sentences When They Are Tried as Adults?"PBS. PBS, accessed 3 Apr. 2016. Web. <<u>http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/juvenile/stats/kidslikeadults.html</u>>

12. "Top Ten Reasons to Lower the Voting Age." National Youth Rights Association. accessed. 3 Apr. 2016. Web. <<u>http://www.youthrights.org/issues/voting-age/top-ten-reasons-to-lower-the-voting-age/</u>>

13 "2016 Alaska Statutes" Justia US Law. 17 Nov. 2017. Web. <<u>https://law.justia.com/codes/alaska/2016/title-15/chapter-15.05/section-15.05.010/</u>>

14 "Summary of Alaska Child Labor Law." Alaska.gov, State of Alaska, labor.alaska.gov/lss/childlaw.htm. Accessed 19 Sept. 2018.

<<u>http://labor.alaska.gov/lss/childlaw.htm</u>>

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

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Executive Director, Denise Greene-Wilkinson