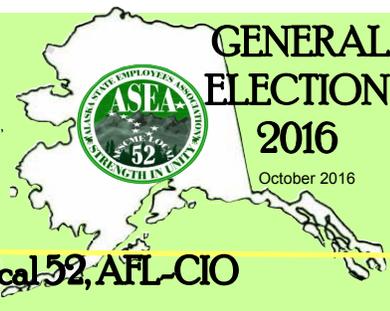


Solidarity Update

2016- GENERAL ELECTION EDITION

A publication of the Alaska State Employees Association AFSCME Local 52, AFL-CIO



ASEA PAC Supports PFD Voter Registration

Among the state races, federal offices, and presidential electoral votes to be decided in November's General Election, two ballot measures will also go before Alaska voters.

The first ballot measure links Permanent Fund Dividend applications to voter registrations and would automatically register a PFD applicant to vote, if eligible.

Proponents assert that PFD Voter Registration will benefit young and rural Alaskans, residents who relocate frequently, and military service members. By linking voter registration with PFD applications, all Alaskans can keep their voter registration current and accurate without additional paperwork and effort.

The petition drive to qualify PFD Voter Registration for the ballot resulted in more than 46,000 signatures from around the state.

The ASEA Political Action Committee voted unanimously to contribute a total of \$10,000 to the campaign, adding its support with that of other organizations including AFL-CIO Alaska, BP Alaska, NAACP, ACLU, NEA-Alaska, and numerous regional and native corporations.

A broad coalition of organizations has thrown support behind the PFD Voter Registration campaign to promote the concept and educate Alaskans. More information can be found at <http://pfdvoter.com>

No opposing viewpoints to the PFD Voter Registration ballot measure were published in the election pamphlet.

The second of the ballot measures would amend the Alaska Constitution to allow the issuance of general obligation bonds by the State for underwriting post-secondary student loans.

The question itself does not authorize indebtedness, only adds post-secondary student loans to the narrow list of subjects for which voters can be asked that the state incur debt.

According to a statement of support printed in the Official Election Pamphlet, "The debt will be issued through the Alaska Student Loan Corporation (ASLC), which makes loans available to students at the lowest interest rates it can based on the bond market."

In turn, borrowing students would pay back the loans and the program would operate at no cost.

No opposing viewpoints to the proposed constitutional amendment were received for the election pamphlet.

Nov. 8th. - Election Day!

What You'll Find in this Issue

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Solidarity Update

General Election - ASEA PAC Endorsed Candidates

The ASEA/AFSCME Local 52 PAC recommends the following list of candidates for the upcoming General Election to be held on Tuesday, November 8. Recommendations are based on questionnaires returned by the candidate and legislative voting records. PAC endorsements for public office are based on the candidate's support for public employee issues, not party affiliation.

The following recommendations reflect political positions that ASEA/AFSCME Local 52 PAC believes are in the best interest of public employees.

Scott Kawasaki, (Incumbent - D)
House District 1 - Downtown Fairbanks



- Has consistently voted to ratify negotiated contracts
- Supports a Defined Benefit Option for public employees

www.akdemocrats.org/rep_kawasaki

Steve Thompson, (Incumbent - R)
House District 2 - Fairbanks/ Ft. Wainwright



- Number one priority is affordable energy for residents of Interior Alaska
- "Time to look at responsible spending and balancing the budget."
- Key priority is improving education from the beginning grades through the university level

<http://elections.alaska.gov/election/2016/Primary/CandidateOEP/23240204.pdf>

Luke Hopkins, (D) Senate District B
North Pole/Badger & Western Fairbanks



- Supports a Defined Benefit retirement system for public employees
- As Mayor of the Fairbanks North Star Borough, he recognized the right of employees to form a union.

Was one of the first mayors to allow collective bargaining without an election

- Opposes moving state employees from unionized status to "At Will" employees without union protection

<http://hopkinsforsenate.com/>

Christina Sinclair, (D)
House District 3 - North Pole/Badger



- Supports a "Defined Benefit" system for Alaska's public employees
- Opposes contracting out of public services
- Opposes moving state employees from unionized to "At Will" status
- Would support appropriations to fund collective bargaining agreements & would oppose any legislation that hinders collective bargaining

<http://www.christinasinclairforalaska.com>

David Guttenburg, (Incumbent - D)
House District 4 - Western Fairbanks



- Believes that State workers are entitled to all the benefits of collective bargaining and the security of a negotiated agreement
- Has sponsored legislation to provide a Defined Benefit retirement option

<https://www.facebook.com/GuttenbergforStateHouse>

Adam Wool, (Incumbent - D)
House District 5 - Chena Ridge/Airport



- Supports providing a Define Benefit option for public employees
- Opposes privatization of government services
- Opposes moving employees from unionized to "At Will" status
- Would oppose any move to make Alaska a "Right To Work" state

<http://www.adamwool.com/>

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Famous Words of Solidarity

Time has arrived when working people should decide on the necessity of united action as citizens at the ballot box. - Resolution of the American Federation of Labor, 1886

The labor movement's political activity is aimed at encouraging the greatest possible participation in elections. Democracy cannot succeed if only the rich and powerful have and use the votes. -George Meany, 1978

If the political mainstream doesn't address the issue of economic insecurity, the political fringe surely will—by scapegoating immigrants, minorities, foreigners and by stoking people's fears. -Robert Kuttner

Solidarity Update

General Election - ASEA PAC Endorsed Candidates

Jason Land, (D)
House District 6 - Eielson/Denali/Upper
Yukon/Border Region



- Supports a cost neutral Tier V Defined Benefit for public employees
- Against outsourcing public services as the results are more about profits for the contractor not services for the public

- Supports collective bargaining for all employees
- Supports negotiated health insurance and sees no reason for it to be removed from collective bargaining

<http://www.jasonlandforstatehouse.com>

House District 7
NO ENDORSEMENT
Greater Wasilla

House District 8
NO ENDORSEMENT
Big Lake/Point Mackenzie

House District 9
NO ENDORSEMENT
Richardson/East Mat-Su

House District 10
NO ENDORSEMENT
Rural Mat-Su

Bert Verrall, (N/A)
House District 11 - Greater Palmer



- Supports a Defined Benefit as it removes the uncertainty of market fluctuation
- Opposes privatization plans – Has never seen one that delivers the promised savings
- Opposes “Right To Work” as it puts profit before people

<https://www.facebook.com/bertinthehouse/>

Gretchen Wehmhoff, (D)
House District 12 - Chugiak/Gateway



- Supports Defined Benefits and thinks we should move forward with this legislation especially if its cost neutral
- Thinks outsourcing has a negative impact on quality of work and morale of employees

- Opposes reclassifying union jobs to exempt or “At Will” status
- Opposes any legislation that threatens union health trusts in collective bargaining

www.gretchenforhouse.com

House District 13
NO ENDORSEMENT
Fort Richardson/North Eagle River

Joe Hackenmueller, (N/A)
House District 14 - Eagle River/Chugach



- Supports a Defined Benefit system option
- Opposed to privatization of government services as it does not save money. The results are lower quality of services

- Opposes efforts to reclassify union positions to “At Will” status

- “Health Benefits are an essential part of the compensation package and helps retain employees.”

www.hackenmuellerforhouse.com

Bill Wielechowski, (Incumbent - D)
Senate District H - Elmendorf/College Gate



- Supports the option of a Defined Benefit retirement system that provides greater retirement security which is as important to employee well-being as salaries and other benefits
- Works hard to put people before special interests

- Continues to fight for good jobs, safe streets, responsible development and protecting our Alaskan way of life

www.wielechowski.org

Gabrielle LeDoux, (Incumbent - R)
House District 15 - Elmendorf



- Supports collective bargaining
- “A contractual obligation is a promise to pay and the Legislature must fund the state’s contractual obligations to state employees.”

- Opposes “Right to Work” legislation

<http://www.facebook.com/VoteLeDoux>

Ivy Spohnholtz, - (Incumbent - D)
House District 16 - College Gate



- Supports Defined Benefits
- Opposes privatizing as a way to balance the budget on the backs of workers
- Opposes moving from unionized as this is a way

around union representation and protection

- Supports negotiating of health trust benefit - this arrangement has worked well and sees no reason to change it

www.ivyforalaska.com

Andrew Josephson, (Incumbent - D)
House District 17 - Anchorage University



- Supports the creation of a Tier V Defined Benefit system
- Believes in and supports the collective bargaining process

<https://www.facebook.com/AndyJosephsonForAlaskaStateHouse/>

Harriett Drummond, (Incumbent - D)
House District 18 - Spenard



- Supports a Defined Benefit (pension) system because all workers deserve fair retirement compensation, especially for public service
- Supports collective bargaining rights of workers

- Opposes “Right to Work” legislation

www.harriettdrummond.com

Solidarity Update

General Election - ASEA PAC Endorsed Candidates

Tom Begich, (D) Senate District J

Mountain View/Downtown Anchorage



- Supports a full return to a Defined Benefit system
- Opposes privatization; public services are central to the function of society and should remain within the purview of public agencies

- Opposes legislation that would take away the ability to bargaining health trust benefits for public employees

www.tombegichforalaska.com

Geran Tarr, (Incumbent - D)

House District 19 - Mountain View



- Supports the return of pensions for public employees (worked as legislative staff when Tier IV happened)
- Supports senior benefit programs

and other social safety net programs to assist seniors on a fixed income

<https://www.facebook.com/RepresentativeGeranTarr>

Les Gara, (Incumbent - D)

House District 20 - Downtown Anchorage



- Supports the right to collectively bargain employment contracts
- Believes we need to be smart with our budget so we can build Alaska's economy

<http://lesgara.org/>

Matt Claman, (Incumbent - D)

House District 21 - West Anchorage



- Alaskans want government that works with our families and businesses to make sure Alaska is a great State to live, work, and raise a family

www.mattclaman.com

House District 22

NO ENDORSEMENT - Sand Lake

Forrest McDonald, (D)

Senate District L - Taku/Oceanview



- Supports a Defined Benefit (Pension Retirement) System
- Opposes outsourcing government services

- Opposes the move away from unionized labor as the state should not play bureaucratic games to strip employees of their rights

- Union health trusts have been successful at providing health insurance to members at a lower cost. It makes no sense to undermine a successful model

www.restoringalaska.com

Chris Tuck, (Incumbent - D)

House District 23 - Taku



- Opposes "Right to Work" and will fight against so-called "Right-to-Work" (for Less) legislation

- Will honor any bargaining arrangements negotiated with government employees

http://www.elections.alaska.gov/doc/oeep/2014/cs/Chris_S_Tuck_HD23.pdf

Sue Levi, (D)

House District - 24 Oceanview



- Supports returning to a Defined Benefit System: the current contribution plan is a terrible return on investment for the state and its employees

- Opposes privatization of government services

- Strongly supports retaining classified status of union positions

- Supports the continuation of the union health trust as an important benefit to employees and their families in collective bargaining

<https://www.facebook.com/SueLeviAlaska/>

Pat Higgins, (D)

House District 25 - Abbott



- Supports re-establishing a Defined Benefit program: it is important for recruitment and retention of employees

- Opposes the outsourcing of government services

- Opposes moving classified positions from unionized status

- "Contracts negotiated in good faith should be fully funded by the Legislature."

- Supports healthcare benefits as a mandatory subject of collective bargaining and strongly opposes legislation that would undermine the right of the union to negotiate union health benefits

- Opposes "Right to Work" as it is "Right to Work for Less"

<http://www.pathigginsforstatehouse.com/>

House District 26

NO ENDORSEMENT - Huffman

Let Your Voice

Be Heard!

VOTE!

Solidarity Update

General Election - ASEA PAC Endorsed Candidates

Vince Beltrami, (D) Senate District N - Anchorage



- Supports collective bargaining
- Opposes "Right-to-Work" (for less)
- Supports a sustainable budget, real jobs with living wages
- Wants to ensure Alaska gets its fair share of compensation for natural resources
- Open to new revenue and sensible cuts

<http://www.beltramiforalaska.com/>

Harry T. Crawford, (D) House District 27 - Anchorage



- Opposes outsourcing: it has been done in the past and was unsuccessful
- Supports and believes in collective bargaining rights
- Opposed the change to Tier IV in 2005 and supports a return to a Defined Benefits System
- Opposes the reclassification of unionized members to "At Will" status
- Opposes legislation that would take away the health benefit trust as this should always be in the hands of the members

www.crawfordforalaska.com

Shirley Cote, (D) House District 28 - South Anchorage



- Supports a return to Defined Benefits System
- Outsourcing SHOULD NOT REPLACE the use of in-house expertise and skill. Outsourcing means profit for private owner but lower wages for employees and less safety
- Opposes reclassification of positions from unionized status to an "At Will" status
- Opposes legislation that would hinder the ability to negotiate health trust benefits - these are crucial to state employees

www.shirleycoteforstatehouse.com

House District 29 NO ENDORSEMENT - North Kenai

Shauna Thornton, (D) House District 30 - Kenai/Soldotna



- Priority to protect the PFD
- Opposes "regressive taxes"
- Wants to make local voices a part of state decisions

www.elections.alaska.gov/doc/oep/2014/cs/Shauga-Thornton-for-web.pdf

Gary Stevens, (Incumbent - R) Senate District P - Homer/South Kenai



- Believes funding and approval of collective bargaining agreements that have been negotiated should be honored
- Priorities include excellence in education, finding solutions to the high dropout rate in our schools and low graduation rate in higher education

<http://ballotpedia.org/GaryStevens>

Paul Seaton, (Incumbent - R) House District 31 - Homer/South Kenai



- Supports in general that retaining state control of required functions is more beneficial
- Opposes "Right to Work" in Alaska

<http://www.votepaulseaton.com/index.php>

Alaska's GENERAL

Election is Nov. 8

Louise B. Stutes, (Incumbent - R) House District 32 - Kodiak/Cordova/Seldovia



- Supports collective bargaining as employees need certain protections which are provided by the process
- Imperative to support K-12 education as the highest priority

http://www.elections.alaska.gov/doc/oep/2014/cs/Louise_Stutes_HD32.pdf

Sam Kito III, (Incumbent - D) House District 33 - Downtown Juneau/ Douglas/Haines/Skagway



- Prime sponsor of legislation to provide a Defined Benefit Retirement option for public employees
- Supports collective bargaining especially the right to bargain for union health insurance trust

<https://www.facebook.com/kitoforhouse/>

House District 34 NO ENDORSEMENT Mendenhall Valley

Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins, (Incumbent - D) House District 35 - Sitka/Petersburg



- Supports and believes that we need to adequately fund public education. Personally benefited from a strong public education
- Supports collective bargaining and opposes "Right to Work" (for Less)

http://www.elections.alaska.gov/doc/oep/2014/cs/Jonathan_Kreiss_TomkinsHD35.pdf

Solidarity Update

General Election ~ ASEA PAC

Endorsed Candidates

Dan Ortiz, (Incumbent - I)

**House District 36 - Ketchikan/ Wrangell/
Metlakatalla/Hydaburg**



- Ready to uphold collective bargaining in Alaska, enjoyed long career as teacher in Alaska
- Supports collectively bargained health care benefits

•Opposed to privatization: "Where I have witnessed it occurring, it has resulted in a lower quality of services provided."

<http://danortizalaska.com/>

Bryce Edgmon, (Incumbent - D)

**House District 37 - Bristol Bay/Aleutians/
Upper Kuskokwim**



•"We need to do more to attract and retain our state employees, particularly in the Bush."

•Co-Sponsor of legislation to provided a Defined Benefit retirement option for public employees

<http://www.elections.alaska.gov/doc/oepr/2012/cs/HD36-Bryce-Edgmon.pdf>

Zach Fansler, (D)

House District 38 - Lower Kuskokwim



•Supports a Defined Benefit option for public employees: "It is important that employees have options that are independent of volatile market defined contribution accounts."

•"Opposes "Right to Work" legislation. I think that this ultimately is an attempt to destroy unions and also diminish the ability of everyday workers to get paid a fair wage."

<http://www.electzachfansler.com/about/>

House District 38

NO ENDORSEMENT - Lower Kuskokwim

The Executive Board President's Corner

Elections are upon us and we all have a choice of who we will supporting in the upcoming elections. Members please keep in mind many individuals in the past have fought for your right to vote. Exercise that right!

So members go forth and make your voices heard so that we can positively impact change for our State and our Nation.

Dawn F Bundick

GET OUT THE VOTE ON NOV. 8

Did You Know?

Did You Know That:

The United States Electoral College is the process the founding fathers established in the Constitution as a compromise between election of the President by a vote in Congress and election of the President by a popular vote of qualified citizens.

The Electoral College process consists of 538 electors. A majority of 270 votes is required to elect the President.



Did You Know That:

Each state is entitled to an allotment of electors that equals the number of members in its Congressional delegation: one for each member in the House of Representatives plus two for your Senators.

Each candidate running for President has his or her own group of electors. They are generally chosen by the candidate's political party.

The meeting of electors takes place on the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December after the presidential election.

Each state's electoral votes are counted in a joint session of Congress on the 6th of January in the year following the elections.

Solidarity Update

General Election - ASEA PAC Endorsed Candidates

Donny Olson, (Incumbent - D)
Senate District T - Bering Straits/Yukon Delta/ Arctic



- Supports funding and approval of collective bargaining agreements once they have been negotiated

<http://www.elections.alaska.gov/doc/oeep/2012/cs/Sen-T-Donald-Olson.pdf>

Neal Foster, (Incumbent - D)
House District 39 - Bering Straits/ Yukon Delta/



- Believes that a good retirement system is important in recruitment and retention of quality public employees.

http://www.elections.alaska.gov/doc/oeep/2014/cs/Neal_W_Foster_HD39.pdf

Dean Westlake, (D)

House District 40 - Arctic



- Supports a defined benefit retirement for public employees
- Defends public services over privatization
- Opposed to transferring positions out of classified service to "At Will" status: "Collective bargaining is a major part of what built American families."

<http://www.electwestlake.com/>

Don't Forget to Vote - Nov. 8



Lisa Murkowski, (Incumbent - R)

for U.S. Senate



- Alaska's U.S. Senator since 2002
- Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
- Appropriations Committee, Chairman for the Interior and Environment Subcommittee
- Committed to fighting for the issues that matter the most to all Alaskans

• As Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to all Alaskans and to fight for access to our natural resources

• Continues to strengthen and preserve Alaska's strategic military importance

• Continues to implement reforms at the Veterans Administration so that the men and women, who dedicated their lives to us, receive the quality care they earned

<https://www.lisamurkowski.com/>

Steve Lindbeck, (D)

for U.S. House of Representative



- Believes that Alaska needs a Congressman who understands the challenges we face and will provide the leadership needed to build a new future for Alaska

- Believes we need a new way of doing things as the old ways aren't working anymore

• As a journalist has dedicated his life to working with people across Alaska and has worked with local leaders on cultural and educational projects in villages and Native communities

• Understands that we need new energy to diversity our economy and build a vibrant future for Alaska

• Will support small businesses, investment in infrastructure, make college affordable, and fight for early childhood education and affordable childcare

<https://lindbeckforalaska.com/>

Solidarity Update

ASEA Health Benefit Trust - Trustee Run-off Election Underway!



ASEA HEALTH
TRUST NEWS

Because no candidate received at least 40% of the valid ballots cast in the fall Trustee election, a run-off election is being held between the two candidates with the most number of votes:

YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

- Voting began Friday, October 7, 2016 and ends Saturday, November 5, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. AKDT.
- You must be a member in good standing with ASEA/AFSCME Local 52 to vote.
- Results will be available on the Health Trust website at aseahealth.org on Monday, November 7, 2016

Learn about the candidates and vote on-line at aseahealth.org today!

November 8th

is



Election Day!