



VOTE FOR KIDS

2024 PARTNER TOOLKIT

www.alaskachildrenstrust.org/vote-for-kids



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OVERVIEW

What is Vote For Kids and Why is it Important?



Children and youth represent nearly 25% of Alaska’s population but have a limited voice in the policies that impact their lives. Who makes policy decisions has a long-lasting and critical impact on the education, health, and prosperity of our children and youth. But, since children and youth cannot vote, we must cast our ballots with their futures in mind!

During the 2024 election cycle, Vote for Kids strives to empower advocates for children, youth and families by encouraging them to use this nonpartisan election guide to help elevate key issues. Nonprofit organizations and community advocates play a key role in educating candidates and encouraging them to address issues impacting children, youth, and families during their campaigns and beyond.

The Vote for Kids resource guide includes ways you can get involved, both as an organization and as an individual advocate. This guide is specifically tailored to statewide elections, but can be adapted for local elections as well! Check our website for more regional-based information.



REGISTER TO VOTE & CHECK YOUR ADDRESS

You can register to vote or update your registration online - it’s quick and easy! You only need your current Alaska driver’s license or state ID.

- July 21st- Deadline to register to vote in the Regular Primary Election
- October 6th - Deadline to register to vote in the Regular General Election

Most Alaskans are already registered to vote if they applied for their Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) in the past year. However, it is always good to make sure your registration is updated and current. Updated voter registration helps keep elections secure.

[Click here for Language Assistance Resources](#)

[Click here to register to vote or update your voter registration](#)

[Click here for Voter Assistance and Accommodations](#)

VOTING IN ALASKA

how and when to vote



PRIMARY ELECTION

Voting for U.S. President, U.S. Representative, and state legislators, Voters regardless of party will have the same candidates on their ballot depending on district.

Voters will choose 1 candidate to go on to the General Election.

Anyone can request an absentee ballot to vote by mail in these elections, but there will also be both early in-person and election day voting options.

GENERAL ELECTION


Voting for U.S. President, U.S. Representative, and state legislators.

Voters can rank their top 4 choices for each office.

Anyone can request an absentee ballot to vote by mail in this election, but there will also be both early in-person and election day voting.

Check out these fun, printable sample ballots on our website!
akvote4kids.org

SAMPLE PICK ONE PRIMARY BALLOT



Vote for Kids is a nonpartisan campaign aimed at elevating issues that impact children, youth, and families and making them core to candidate's platforms.


PLEASE NOTE: A candidate's designated affiliation does not imply that the candidate is nominated or endorsed by the political party or group or that the party or group approves of or associates with that candidate, but only that the candidate is registered as affiliated with the party or group.

Primary Election - Voting Instructions

- To vote, completely fill in the oval to the right of your choice, like this:
- Vote for one candidate only.
- Use a blue or black ink pen to mark your ballot. NO RED INK.
- If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot.

ACT's Work (vote for one)	Favorite Alaskan Food (vote for one)	Favorite Dynamic Duo (vote for one)
Child Care <input type="radio"/>	Raspberries <input type="radio"/>	Batman and Robin <input type="radio"/>
After-school <input type="radio"/>	Blueberries <input type="radio"/>	
PayDay Lending Reform <input type="radio"/>	Crowberries <input type="radio"/>	Buzz and Woody <input type="radio"/>
Healing from ACEs <input type="radio"/>	Salmonberries <input type="radio"/>	
Promoting PCEs <input type="radio"/>	Low Bush Cranberries <input type="radio"/>	Spongebob and Patrick <input type="radio"/>
Parental Knowledge <input type="radio"/>	High Bush Cranberries <input type="radio"/>	
Early Education Support <input type="radio"/>	Agalik (Cloudberries) <input type="radio"/>	Shaggy and Scooby-Do <input type="radio"/>
Youth Mental Health <input type="radio"/>	Kinnikinnick <input type="radio"/>	
Bolstering Caring Adults <input type="radio"/>	Soap Berries <input type="radio"/>	Tom and Jerry <input type="radio"/>
Paid Family Leave Access <input type="radio"/>	Fresh Salmon <input type="radio"/>	
Child Tax Credit <input type="radio"/>	Smoked Salmon <input type="radio"/>	Ben and Jerry's <input type="radio"/>
Foster Care Support <input type="radio"/>	Halibut <input type="radio"/>	

SAMPLE GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT



Vote for Kids is a nonpartisan campaign aimed at elevating issues that impact children, youth, and families and making them core to candidate's platforms.

RANKED CHOICE VOTING

Instructions: Vote by ranking the options of your choice.

- Rank as many or as few candidates as you like
- Completely fill in no more than one oval for each candidate or column
- For your 1st choice, fill in the oval in the 1st choice column
- For your 2nd choice, fill in the oval in the 2nd choice column
- For your 3rd choice, fill in the oval in the 3rd choice column, and so on
- If you make a mistake you can ask for a new ballot

SUMMER ACTIVITIES TO DO AS A FAMILY					
	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice
Going for a walk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Playing a game	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reading together	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Swimming	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write-in:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



ALASKA'S VOTING SYSTEMS

Learn More

Approved by voters in 2020, Alaska uses a voting system that includes a Nonpartisan Top-Four Primary Election system and a Ranked Choice Voting General Election system. Learn more and make sure your vote counts!

STATE PRIMARY ELECTIONS

Primary elections are “open,” so all voters (no matter your political party) will receive the same ballot and vote on the same list of candidates.

This means while you still only vote for one candidate, the top four vote-getters (regardless of their political party) will move forward to the general election.



STATE GENERAL ELECTIONS

General elections are decided by a system called “Ranked Choice Voting.” This allows voters to rank candidates on their ballot in order of preference: first, second, third, and fourth. If one candidate receives a majority (more than 50%) of the first-choice votes, they win! If not, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, and those votes are then given to each voter’s 2nd choice candidate. This process repeats until one candidate has a majority.

Click [here](#) for helpful videos, sample ballots, and other information about Ranked Choice Voting so you can prepare to vote this election cycle.

VOTING REMINDERS

- For Early and In-Person absentee voting locations, [visit this page](#) to find options for the Primary and General elections.
- Anyone may request a ballot by mail. You do not need a reason! To Vote By Mail, [this page](#) has all the information you need about By-Mail Ballot Delivery, including how to apply for an Absentee (mail-in) ballot and key dates.
- If you are voting by mail, don't forget:
you need two stamps and a witness to sign your ballot!





GET INVOLVED as an Individual

As voters and constituents, individuals have a powerful voice and can interact directly with candidates in many ways. As a voter, you can do pretty much everything an organization can do to elevate Vote for Kids... and more!



Ask candidates important questions at events, when they call, or even at your door (for ideas on questions, [go to page ____](#))



Research candidate policy platforms through campaign websites, community forums, and media questionnaires.



VOTE and tell all your friends, family, and neighbors to vote!

45%

**ALASKA VOTER
TURNOUT IN
THE 2022 ELECTION**

Let's work to make sure every voter keeps children and youth in mind!

However, if you are an employee or a board member of a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, there are important considerations to keep in mind.

DO

Talk with candidates one-on-one as a constituent about your concerns and hopes for their work as a potential elected official

VOTE for Kids!



DON'T

Connect personal opinions to your place of work or nonprofit organization you are involved with

Be disrespectful to a candidate on social media or in person

Vote for whomever has the coolest name or party letter you identify with. Read their ideas!

GET INVOLVED

as an Organization

As an organization, you are uniquely positioned to connect with community members, interact with candidates, and promote children and youth's issues this campaign season. While 501(c)(3)s do have to be mindful, it doesn't mean you have to sit elections out!



Host a virtual or in-person candidate forum in your local House/Senate district so parents, neighbors, and advocates can learn where candidates stand.



Write an opinion piece about issues affecting children and youth.



Invite candidates to learn more about your organization and the importance of your work (Some ideas include: invite them for a site visit, host a meet and greet, send information/data to consider).



Spread the word! Check out and share the Vote for Kids website, candidate question/fact sheets, and other voter resources with your networks. [Follow](#) and share Vote for Kids social media posts too!



Use the [#AKVote4Kids](#) hashtag on social media when hosting candidate forums, attending Vote for Kids events, or discussing important children and youth issues online.



Help get out the vote! Encourage your members and followers to register to vote and promote key dates and deadlines.



When possible, attend Vote for Kids related events for a strong community presence. Check out ACT's Facebook for events in your area, or contact us to plan your own!



GET INVOLVED as an Organization

For more detail on what 501(c)(3) organizations MAY and MAY NOT do, click [here](#). For free technical assistance online or by phone, click [here](#).

DO

Invite ALL candidates to participate in events, forums, or questionnaires from your organization

Use a nonpartisan moderator at any candidate forums or events you host

Encourage ALL candidates to take a certain position on policy issues



DON'T

Endorse (or give the appearance of endorsing) any candidate

Offer any information or resources to one candidate that is not publicly available or made available to other candidates

Create new resources, talking points, or conduct new research at a candidate's request

Highlight how candidates respond on issues or compare their positions

Technical Assistance for Advocacy Questions

Have a complex advocacy-related question? Just ask Bolder Advocacy! One of their expert advocacy coaches will respond within two business days.

Submit a online question to Bolder Advocacy coaches using [this form](#) or email advocacy@afj.org.

Call for technical assistance during standard business hours, ET:
866-NP-LOBBY (866-675-6229)

Find helpful factsheets and other resources on their website:
<https://afj.org/bolder-advocacy/>

QUESTIONS FOR VOTERS TO ASK CANDIDATES



1. Alaska's public school system includes the options for neighborhood, correspondence, and charter schools. How would you improve stability and equity for all education options in Alaska's public school system?



2. Alaska's students are experiencing increasing levels of sadness and hopelessness, a trend seen across all regions of the state. What is the biggest challenge to youth being able to access mental health services and how would you approach addressing it?



3. Children have greater access to stable housing, healthy foods, health care, and educational opportunities when their families are financially secure. If elected, what would you do to ensure local families have equitable and timely access to resources and supports that allow them to achieve economic security for their family?

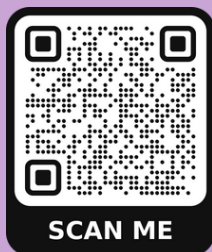


4. Afterschool and extra-curricular activities support kids and their families by providing safe spaces for learning and socializing outside of regular business hours. How will you work to increase access to high quality, culturally relevant out of school time and summer programs in Alaska?

5. Children cannot vote but are impacted by policy. How will you work to bring the needs of children and youth, Alaska's next generation of voters, to the forefront?

Interested in learning how Alaska kids are doing and creating your own questions?

Explore the data!



www.alaskachildrenstrust.org/kids-count





FORUM QUESTIONS

for when you attend or host a candidate forum



HEALTH QUESTIONS

- How can Alaska develop and maintain a robust behavioral health system so that our youth have access to the resources they need to improve their mental health, gain confidence, and grow into healthy adults?
- Access to consistent and timely health care is critical to keeping children healthy and engaged in learning. Health insurance is key to reaching that goal for Alaska's kids, including for those whose parents work in low-wage jobs that don't offer affordable insurance to families. Unfortunately, Alaska has some of the highest uninsured rates in the nation for children. How will you support efforts to expand health coverage to all children in Alaska and reduce the uninsured rate?
- According to the most recent data available, 21% of Alaskan teens have reported the use of alcohol in the past month, 22% reported use of marijuana and 26% reported vaping in the past month. How would you approach reducing youth use and access to addictive substances?



ECONOMIC WELL-BEING QUESTIONS

- Children have greater access to stable housing, nutritious food, high-quality health care, and educational opportunities when their families are financially secure. If elected, what would you do to ensure all Alaskan families have equitable access to opportunities that allow them to achieve economic security?
- There are many families in Alaska who work full-time but cannot make ends meet. The availability of jobs differs around the state and has been significantly impacted by Alaska's economic challenges. If elected, what steps will you take to address the needs of Alaska's children and working families struggling to make ends meet?
- The child poverty rate in Alaska is 13% according to the national Kids Count Data. Brain research demonstrates that growing up in poverty can create "toxic stress," negatively impacting educational and health outcomes long-term. However, the experiences of toxic stress can be buffered by positive relationships with parents and caregivers. What initiatives would you champion to support children and their families to mitigate the effects of toxic stress?



FORUM QUESTIONS

for when you attend or host a candidate forum



EDUCATION QUESTIONS

- Alaska's public school system includes the options for neighborhood, correspondence, and charter-style academic instruction. How would you improve stability and equity for Alaska's robust public school system?
- The link between student health and academic achievement is strong: when students are healthy, they are better learners. What challenges do you see with the children and youth's access to school-based health and mental health services and how would you approach addressing them?
- Research has shown that access to full-day high-quality pre-k ensures that more children start kindergarten with the academic, social, and emotional skills they need to succeed in school and become strong readers by third grade. The Alaska Reads Act opens opportunity for districts to implement pre-k programs. What will you do to build on access to pre-k for Alaska's children?



FAMILY & COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

- From 2013 to 2021, the population of working-age Alaskans (20-65) has declined 5%. Nationally, most states have seen a 2% growth in this category. Most Alaskans know someone directly in their community who has moved away recently or is considering doing so. Why do you think Alaska is experiencing outmigration, and what would you do as a policymaker to address it?
- Afterschool programs support children and families by providing safe spaces for learning and socializing after school hours. How will you work to engage your local school and community based partners to create more access to quality afterschool and summer programs in Alaska?
- In Alaska, the average cost of child care is over \$13,000 per year, or over \$1,000 a month. Over 21,000 children have been identified to need a spot at a child care facility in Alaska, with about 61% residing in a "child care desert." What measures would you recommend to increase access to affordable child care in Alaska?



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Find the latest information this election season on the official Vote for Kids website- it's your home for everything you need to make sure that children and youth are a core topic for candidates this election season.

The website includes:

voter education tools

up-to-date event information

candidate information

upcoming public forums

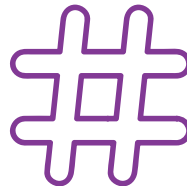
logos, graphics, and fact sheets

... and more!

www.alaskachildrenstrust.org/vote-for-kids



Follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/voteforkids) at www.facebook.com/voteforkids



Search and use the hashtag [#AKVote4Kids](https://www.instagram.com/akvote4kids) on Instagram, X, and Facebook to find and join the movement!



Use a Vote for Kids Zoom or Teams background so your colleagues, friends, and family know that you'll be keeping children and youth in mind this election season!

Download the background of your choice here



Our Vote For Kids logo is open for use on items like candidate forums, rallies for kids, and nonpartisan educational handouts. Access all logo options [here](#).





CONTACT US



Vote for Kids is all about community collaboration and we'd love to work with you to make it a success!

- *Have questions or need more information?*
- *Plan to host a forum or other candidate event in your community?*
- *Have an idea for additional Vote for Kids resources that would be helpful?*

Let us know! Together, we can ensure children, youth, and families are a top priority this election cycle.



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ALASKA · STATE · CAPITOL



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