



Youth Vote 2024 Candidate Forum Information for Teachers

Dear ASD Teacher,

The Anchorage Youth Vote Planning Team is excited to announce the **2024 Candidate Forum Watch Party!** This event is scheduled to take place at **7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024, at the UAA Wendy Williamson Auditorium.** The tentative schedule is as follows:

- Doors open at 6:30 p.m.
- Seated by 7:05 p.m.
- Program starts no later than 7:10 p.m.

We would like to invite students, teachers, school administrators, and the like, to our first in-person Candidate Forum function since 2019. The Youth Vote Planning Team has invited current candidates for U.S. Congress – U.S. Representative for all Alaska, Mary Peltola, and Mr. Nicholas Begich – to participate in the Candidate Forum via video responses. We have also invited U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski and Anchorage Mayor Suzanne LaFrance to deliver opening remarks at our Watch Party event, and are inviting additional dignitaries to attend and participate in this event, as well.

The purpose of Youth Vote is to provide a non-partisan venue for empowering youth to get involved in the democratic process. The Youth Vote Candidate Forum is vital to this goal; by bringing Alaska's candidates directly to our city's youth, Youth Vote hopes to educate, engage, and inspire our future leaders to become civically engaged during high school and beyond.

Questions that will be asked of candidates at the 2024 Youth Vote Candidate Forum will be developed by the Youth Vote Planning Team with guidance from their peers throughout the Anchorage School District, and will lead the event themselves. Through simulation of a real-life candidate forum, Anchorage students get first-hand experience in participating in the democratic process by listening to candidates' responses to issues of concern to local youth, and thinking critically about their responses. The forum is also complemented by a mock election, held via digital survey after the candidate forum, further exposing students to our modern democratic election process by encouraging them to vote and voice their opinion. With the program being youth-initiated and youth-led, our goal is to further inspire, empower, and propel Anchorage students towards future civic and political participation in local and American public life.

Here is where the Youth Vote Planning Team would like to request your help in ensuring that the 2024 Youth Vote Candidate Forum meets our goal of engaging students throughout the Anchorage School District:



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- **In the near coming weeks, the 2024 Candidate Forum video will be made available for viewing in classrooms across the school district, containing video responses from the invited candidates to a series of questions developed by Youth Vote participants. Along with this video will come our Candidate Forum voting guide, and our digital Mock Election ballot.** We suggest showing this video to your classroom(s) as part of any related unit or curriculum on civics, American politics, U.S. government, or current affairs. We also suggest administering the Mock Election ballot alongside the video, to add a more immersive aspect to your students' educational experience by connecting them with first-hand experience on voting. We are graciously receiving promotional help from Anchorage School District Social Studies Coordinator, Anthony Sadler (sadler_anthony@asdk12.org), who will also be able to help answer any additional administrative questions that you may have.
- **Please help promote our Watch Party event!** This year, we are holding the event in the evening and opening up the event for the whole community to attend – including other youth-serving groups and organizations, other dignitaries, students' families, civic groups, voter registrars, teachers (YOU!), and more. However, we still want to emphasize the importance of the event remaining youth-centered. For that to happen, we need to ensure that as many students as possible (and their friends and families) know about this event in advance, so that they can accordingly make plans to attend. Please connect with our Youth Vote coordinator if you have additional questions about the program, and how extra credit assignments may be supported. Copies of our 8.5"x11" flyer and Instagram graphic can be found on our website.

We hope that you will accept this invitation to attend the Youth Vote 2024 Candidates Forum Watch Party, and we humbly ask for your help in promoting this event to your students and school communities, as well.

Please relay any questions to Youth Vote Coordinator, David Clark, by phone at (907) 301-8626, or by e-mail to anchorageyouthvote@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

The Youth Vote Planning Team



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