

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2023 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 23-26

TITLE: ENDORSING PRESERVATION OF ALASKA’S OPEN PRIMARY AND RANKED CHOICE VOTING ELECTION SYSTEM

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 160 federally recognized tribes, 145 village corporations, 9 regional corporations, and 10 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

WHEREAS: The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and

WHEREAS: One in five Alaskans is of Native descent, and six in 10 Alaskans are nonpartisan; and

WHEREAS: Most Alaska Natives are frequently asked to vote—in local, regional, tribal, and corporate elections. Navigating ballots and proxies is a way of life; and

WHEREAS: The open primary and ranked choice voting system provides more opportunities for Alaska Natives to run for public office and get elected; and

WHEREAS: Current law allows for more freedom, more choice, more influence, and greater participation among Alaskans, decentralizing power and empowering voters; and

WHEREAS: The open primary election system had been in effect in Alaska for decades until the year 2000, when Alaska conducted a party-rule ballot primary; and

WHEREAS: Alaskans in 2020 voted to pass Ballot Measure 2, which created the open primary and ranked choice voting system and gave all Alaskans more choice in their representation and a greater voice in their government; and

WHEREAS: Given the polarization in the country, Alaskans cannot afford to merely preserve this current voting law but must lead the nationwide movement to restore commonsense governance, restore confidence in our electoral system, and create a lane that allows politicians to become public servants; and

WHEREAS: Alaskans should be able to choose a person, not a political party, and trust that the process will encourage good public policy, not extreme partisanship.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2023 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives hereby express our support of the preservation of Alaska’s open primary and ranked-choice voting system as current law.