



TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE
Executive Board of Directors
Resolution No. 2026- 07

Urging Alaskans to Vote NO on Ballot Measure 2 to Protect Alaska's Open Primary, Ranked Choice Voting, and Campaign Finance Disclosure Laws

- WHEREAS, Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is an Alaska Native regional non-profit corporation, also organized as Dena' Nena' Henash, "Our Land Speaks," providing a unified voice for the 42 member Tribes and approximately 20,000 tribal members of Interior Alaska; and
- WHEREAS, decisions made by state elected officials, on subsistence, public safety, health care, education, energy costs, and transportation, carry direct and lasting consequences for the villages and people of the TCC region; and
- WHEREAS, in October 2024 the TCC Executive Board adopted a resolution urging Alaskans to vote NO on the repeal of Alaska's open primary and ranked choice voting system, and the voters of Alaska rejected that repeal; and
- WHEREAS, Ballot Measure 2 on November 3, 2026, general election ballot would again repeal Alaska's open primary and ranked choice voting system, and would additionally repeal the campaign finance disclosure laws requiring outside groups that spend in Alaska elections to report the true source of their funding; and
- WHEREAS, the repeal measure contains explicit language permitting political parties to exclude nonpartisan and undeclared voters from their primary elections, and Alaska has the highest rate of nonpartisan and undeclared voter registration in the nation; and
- WHEREAS, many Tribal members throughout the TCC region are registered nonpartisan or undeclared and would risk being shut out of the first and often decisive round of state elections; and
- WHEREAS, primary election turnout in predominantly Alaska Native communities increased from 2020 to 2022 following the transition to the open primary, and analysis by Get Out the Native Vote found that voters in predominantly Alaska Native communities were far more likely to support a combination of candidates that would not have been possible under the previous partisan system; and
- WHEREAS, Interior Alaskans routinely participate in Tribal, municipal, borough, regional, and corporate elections, and ranking candidates has proven straightforward for our voters; and

WHEREAS, the current system has broadened the opportunity for Alaska Native people to run for and be elected to public office, and has rewarded candidates who work across party lines on the issues that matter most to rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS, disclosure of the true source of election spending protects Tribes and rural communities from undisclosed outside money seeking to shape state decisions about our lands, waters, and way of life; and

WHEREAS, the current system gives Alaska voters more freedom, more choice, and a stronger voice in their government, and TCC has no interest in returning to a system in which a small, closed electorate selects the leaders who govern all Alaskans;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tanana Chiefs Conference Executive Board opposes Ballot Measure 2 and urges all Alaskans to vote NO on Ballot Measure 2 in the November 3, 2026, general election; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that TCC encourages Tribal members throughout the region to register to vote, confirm their registration status, and participate fully in the 2026 elections; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that TCC authorizes its Chief/Chairman and staff to communicate this position to member Tribes, Tribal members, partner organizations, and the public, and to lend TCC's name to efforts to defeat Ballot Measure 2.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Executive Board of Directors on August 19, 2026, at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.



Charlie Wright, Secretary/Treasurer