



## Letter from Board Chair Joe Nelson

### Amplify Your Voice

The 2018 midterm elections are Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2018 and will feature hundreds of congressional, state and local races across the country.

Sealaska has actively engaged in the political process, advocating on behalf of our shareholders and Native communities for decades. It follows a practice begun in 1912 with the formation of the Alaska Native Brotherhood and Alaska Native Sisterhood.

Sealaska has 23,000 shareholders living across all 50 states, and we know they are going to have varying opinions on any given issue. With respect to advocacy and policy,

Alaska Natives from Southeast Alaska have always been collaborative and thoughtful, but willing to take a stand on what's in the best interest of their people. You see this in the long history of shareholders successfully running for office for decades from both parties.

Sealaska's board endorses candidates as a way to share its perspective on broad issues facing Alaska Natives and supports candidates that work to advance their goals. Sealaska advocacy efforts go beyond endorsements and include work such as subsistence or supporting the efforts of the Landless communities.



Sealaska respects all shareholder positions and political views and encourages them to add their voice by voting.

Sincerely,

Joe Nelson, Board Chair



Please visit the Alaska State Division of Elections voter information page for additional information.

## IMPORTANT GENERAL ELECTION DATES

### OCTOBER 22

Early and Absentee Voting Begins

### OCTOBER 27

Deadline to Request By-Mail or Electronic Ballot

### NOVEMBER 5

Electronic Ballots Due by 5pm AKDT

### NOVEMBER 6

Election Day

### NOVEMBER 16

Deadline to Receive Absentee Ballots Returned by Mail

### NOVEMBER 21

Deadline to Receive By-Mail Ballots from Voters Overseas

# GETTING INVOLVED

## Sealaska Advocates on Behalf of Alaska Natives and Southeast Alaska Communities

Sealaska gets involved in politics to share its perspective on broad issues facing Alaska Natives. The Sealaska board endorses candidates that work on behalf of Alaska Natives. Beyond endorsements, Sealaska advocates at the national and local level on many issues. From protecting subsistence rights to recognizing Landless communities, Sealaska continues to influence policy affecting Alaska Native people.



## Governor Walker Has a Long Track Record of Listening, Acting

In September, the board endorsed the incumbent governor of Alaska in a similar fashion to the endorsement made in 2014. The difference today is that Governor Bill Walker now has four years of leadership on the record. His leadership came during a historic time in Alaska with a significant fiscal crisis. Walker guided Alaska through those challenges and addressed healthcare through the

expansion of Medicaid. He established the Alaska Climate Change Strategy through an administrative order in 2017. The Climate Action for Alaska Leadership Team (CALT) will develop a recommended climate change policy for Alaska, as well as a recommended climate action plan. Governor Walker also recognized a state of emergency regarding the preservation of Alaska Native languages and made history

by recognizing tribal sovereignty in decisions affecting Alaska Natives.

*“When our 229 tribes are healthy, the State of Alaska will be healthy. No other gubernatorial candidate embraces that understanding like Governor Walker.”*

- Sealaska Chair Joe Nelson

## Be Informed: Learn More About Races and Measures in the General Election

Throughout this election season, Sealaska collaborated with the Get Out The Native Vote (GOTNV) Southeast Alaska Partners to enhance candidate engagement and voter education in Juneau.

Visit [Sealaska.com](http://Sealaska.com) for links to special Native issues forums that were livestreamed throughout October 2018. Watch special Native issues forums on city of Juneau municipal

and mayoral candidates, local house district candidates and gubernatorial candidates. Also, watch a forum about Ballot Measure 1.

The GOTNV Southeast Alaska partners include Tlingit & Haida, Sacred Grounds Café, Huna Totem Corporation, Goldbelt, Inc., Sealaska Heritage Institute, League of Women Voters of Juneau and Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall.



# WHEN IT COMES TO PROTECTING ALASKAN SALMON, ALASKANS DESERVE A VOICE

Sealaska has been actively engaged in supporting healthy salmon habitat in Alaska for decades by helping develop policies and recommending actions toward ensuring these salmon runs remain healthy and viable into the future.

Ballot Measure 1 in the upcoming general election seeks to eliminate Alaska's current science-based fish habitat protections and replace them with red tape and complex regulations, which threatens Alaska's economy without solving the problem. The writers and funders of Ballot Measure 1 did not consult a diverse representation of groups closest to this issue nor the Alaskan agencies that would enforce these untested regulations. Current regulations protecting Alaskan salmon runs are annually reviewed by experts at federal, state and local

agencies. On a daily basis, Sealaska collaborates with organizations like Huna Totem, the Nature Conservancy, the National Forest Service, the State of Alaska and others to ensure salmon runs are functioning and healthy on our land. For the policy to be effective, all affected interests should be at the table.

Sealaska supports current regulations and effective protection of freshwater ecosystems in effect today, but we also value and want to participate in any efforts to improve these regulations and protections. We encourage a continued culture of collaboration among entities that are on the ground doing the work to protect salmon, while also contributing to a viable economy.

When you vote "no" on November 6,



you are not voting against salmon. You are voting for a better, collaborative and sustainable approach to protecting our salmon and freshwater habitats.

Sealaska supports Stand for Alaska and voting "no" on Ballot Measure 1 on November 6, 2018. Learn more about Stand for Alaska and Ballot Measure 1 at [StandForAK.com](http://StandForAK.com).

## KNOW THE FACTS ABOUT **BALLOT MEASURE 1**

- 1 MYTH: Ballot Measure 1 will fix Alaska's declining salmon runs.**  
**FACT:** Biologists agree that salmon runs are declining due to changing ocean conditions. Alaska's freshwater systems are healthy under the science-based regulations already in place.
- 2 MYTH: Alaskans fund the ballot measure.**  
**FACT:** The majority of the ballot measure's funding comes from outside environmental groups, private foundations in California and Washington, D.C. and wealthy East Coast donors. A diverse representation of Alaskans and Alaska regulators were not consulted in the writing of this measure.
- 3 MYTH: There are no specific standards or definitions in our current laws.**  
**FACT:** Our current policies use scientific studies that are specific to each body of water to determine standards and definitions. Statewide definitions and regulations do not allow for the flexibility Alaska's vast geography demands.
- 4 MYTH: Existing operations would not have to comply with new regulations under the ballot measure.**  
**FACT:** Existing operations would only be exempt until their current permits expire. After that, they would be required to reapply for permits under the new regulations. Many operations or projects would not be able to comply.

# VOTE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2018

Inside this special election edition, Sealaska discusses the critical decisions shareholders and Alaskan's will make in the 2018 general election.

Sealaska and other Juneau native organizations partnered for Get Out The Native Vote Southeast, focusing on voter education and candidate engagement. A variety of candidate forums were held in Juneau and livestreamed.

Visit **Sealaska.com** to view video archives of candidate forums.



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## October 2018

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