

Editorial



Every single Native vote counts

by **Terrance H. Booth**

for the *Tundra Times*

Delegates at the Alaska Federation of Natives Convention had a real opportunity to hear the governor candidates. It was also televised for the viewers on the homefront to listen first-hand on how they responded to Alaska Native questions and concerns.

On Tuesday, the Alaska Native votes will be a key factor in who goes into office. There exist several governor candidates, and your one vote carries that much more weight and meaning.

The Alaska Native issues have been clearly stated. There is a real need to bring solutions to these important issues that are confronting our people. Your voting takes on extreme importance, and it will be noticed. Our future will be in the hands of those we elect.

You have read and heard already where each one of the candidates stands on the Alaska Native issues. Now it is in the hands of the people you think will bring solutions to the major problems confronting all Alaska Natives.

Which of the candidates have talked to you directly and in your setting? Who has taken the time to have a long conversation and meaningful discussion with you? Who reached out to you and took time to listen? Once they are elected, will they address your concerns? These are some questions you should ask yourself as you go to the voting polls Tuesday.

It was very pleasing to see the real interest in people becoming registered voters at the AFN Convention. It was democracy in action — people wanting to gain full control. We are an important link to bring this about.

Everyone has heard about, read comments by and listened to the candidates. Now we have the opportunity to address our major problems. You have the opportunity to get the elected officials to respond, and you do this by turning out to vote.

With several governor candidates, your vote has become very important. Use it wisely and seek out the candidate who will address our Alaska Native agenda.

See you in record numbers at the voting polls Tuesday. Your one vote does count, and with it is new history for us and Alaska!