

Croft claims gain in new election poll

A statewide poll conducted during the third week in September shows Democratic gubernatorial candidate Chancy Croft has picked up substantial support since the August primary and is now within eight percentage points of incumbent Republican Jay Hammond.

The poll of 570 registered voters in 15 communities was conducted for the Croft for Governor Committee by the national research firm Hamilton & Staff of Washington, D.C.

When asked "if the election for Governor were held today, who would you support?," respondents gave Hammond 40% of the vote, Croft 32% and independent Tom Kelly 15%. 13% of the voters polled were undecided.

Willima Hamilton, in Anchorage for a strategy session with the Croft-Hurley campaign, said, "Chancy picked up more of Walter Hickel's votes than any other candidate (38%). In addition, he picked up some Fink supporters and the largest share of those who supported Jay Kertulla and Ed Merdes."