

# Your vote determines candidates, appointees

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for the Tundra Times

**METLAKATLA** — It has been noted that Alaska Natives need active political involvement and participation in this upcoming election.

This year's special special of the Legislature was damaging for the Alaska Native community.

As each statewide official is elected and a new governor's administration is established we either reap blessings or we suffer the consequences.

Where is our involvement in the area of political appointees? These political appointees are recommended by the governor. These appointees end up working with state agencies.

We will be voting for the elected officials, and once they are in office it is their responsibility to approve or reject these political appointees. What type of state government are we seeking? These political appointees can create barriers to the Alaska Native agenda, they are responsible for implementing new policies and procedures; they create new rules and regulations and establish their agenda.

How many of the political appointees will be Alaska Natives?

Alaska Natives are at a critical point in history. Right before our eyes you have witnessed how the subsistence issue was handled by your state representatives.

Since we are directly affected by the political decisions of the lawmakers your political participation becomes more important.

Under this new state government after the election, will the new elected officials respond to the Alaska Native issues?

Why is it that we have continuous, ongoing political confrontations with the elected officials and with the political appointees who are selected by these elected officials?

What must be done to bring about some stability and begin to make some major accomplishments for our Alaska Native communities?

How do we gain and acquire the ability to have direct input to the legislation and the political decisions that are made in our behalf?

We register to vote and turn out to vote in record number in this election year. Make your statement that you do want a responsive government that listens and acts favorably to the issue confronting Alaska Natives.

After the election, when it comes time to make political appointees, remind the elected official of your voting

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in a letter; let him/her know of your approval or disapproval of the political appointee(s).

There should be an all-out effort to take active steps to politically work toward involving ourselves in the elections.

By signing up to vote you are making a commitment to help influence the proper formation of state and federal government policies on major issues and concerns that are currently confronting all Alaska Natives.

Your Alaska Native vote is needed this election year! The "Alaska Native presence" needs to be fully known by all the elected officials. We need to establish the "Alaska Native Vote," and we need to change the course of our Alaska Native history.

See you at the voting polls!