

JO'M formula eight

(Editor's Note: The following statement from Ted Stevens is shared with the Tundra Times concerning tribal elections on Johnson-O'-Malley fund distributions.)

Following statement from Senator Stevens on voting taking place for a distribution formula for Johnson-O'-Malley funds...“The Bureau of Indian Affairs has mailed ballots to all Indian tribes and Alaskan Native villages in order to select a new formula for the distribution of Johnson-O'-Malley funds. The final formula selected must be approved by 51% of the tribes. Of a total of 490 votes, Alaska has 204 or 41% of the total.

It is obviously to Alaska's advantage to try to agree on the one formula which best suits our needs.

Several options, namely 1 through 4 , are either based on national average education costs or place a ceiling on states with high costs. These formulas would benefit only those tribes in states which spend less than the national average on education. As Alaska has the highest per capita education in the nation, none of these formulas are to our advantage.

Option 8 would provide the largest amount of money to the state according to the Bureau of Indian Affairs JOM office in Albuquerque. This formula is based on the higher of the state or national average per-pupil operating cost and has an additional adjustment for schools with less than 100 native students. Alaska and Oklahoma have a greater percentage of schools with less than 100 native or Indian students than any of the other states.

I urge all tribes to make sure their ballots are postmarked by the June 27 deadline.