



Voter Guide 
2016

Alaska Federation of Natives

VOTE

MAKE A DIFFERENCE ON NOVEMBER 8TH

It has often been said that only through strength in unity can people make changes for the better – for our community, for our family, for our children.

Let's do this together. Let's get out and vote! With our voice, our vote, we can make sure the next generation has the opportunity to be the best they can be, and the resources to pursue their dreams.

DEAR AFN DELEGATE,

On behalf of the AFN Board of Directors and the members of the Media & Elections Committee, we are proud to present to you the 2016 AFN Voting Guide.

Our goal in issuing this guide is to ensure that Alaska Native voters are well-informed on Election Day, November 8th. We trust that an informed voter will make the right decisions in the voting booth for her/his family, community and state. In the following pages you will read U.S. Senate and Alaska Governor candidates' answers to a comprehensive questionnaire that is focused on Native and rural issues.

We gratefully acknowledge the work of the AFN Media & Elections Committee and AFN staff for their work on querying the candidates and publishing this voting guide.

We urge you to get out and vote and help others get to the voting booth.

Remember: Your Voice Is Your Vote!

Sincerely,

Ana Hoffman & Jerry Isaac
AFN Co-Chairs

ABOUT AFN

The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska. Its membership includes 185 federally-recognized tribes, 153 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs. AFN is governed by a 38-member board, which is elected by its membership at the annual convention held each October.

OUR MISSION

Alaska Native people began as members of full sovereign nations and continue to enjoy a unique political relationship with the federal government. We will survive and prosper as distinct ethnic and cultural groups and will participate fully as members of the overall society. The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community.

AFN'S MAJOR GOALS

- Advocate for Alaska Native people, their governments and organizations, with respect to federal, state and local laws;
- Foster and encourage preservation of Alaska Native cultures;
- Promote understanding of the economic needs of Alaska Natives and encourage development consistent with those needs;
- Protect, retain and enhance all lands owned by Alaska Natives and their organizations;
- Promote and advocate for programs and systems which instill pride and confidence in individual Alaska Natives.

AFN CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

U.S. SENATE



Ray Metcalf



Senator Murkowski



Joe Miller



Margaret Stock

Joe Miller was unable to complete the AFN Candidate Questionnaire. He will have materials available at the 50th annual AFN Convention during the Candidates Forum on Friday, October 21 at 4:00 pm.

What are your top three priorities? What is your top priority in your first 100 days?

METCALF: Congress has become a government for the rich. I am Alaska's anticorruption candidate. My number one issue will be to expose and eliminate corrupt practices wherever possible and usher in an open, honest, ethical government where all Americans are assured a place at America's table of plenty.

My top priorities for legislation effecting residents of Alaska's rural Villages are:

- a. Provide for greater local control for the Villages through Tribal sovereignty.
- b. Make Corporations more transparent and accountable to shareholders.
- c. Amend the Claims Settlement (to require shares be provided to Native Alaskans born after the passage of ANCSA.

MURKOWSKI: A new administration will take office in January 2017. My first order of business will be to educate the new administration on our uniquely Alaska issues: the third world sanitation conditions that still persist; our public safety challenges; food, energy and cultural security issues; and insufficient tribal funding. Most senior administration positions require Senate confirmation. I will meet with the nominees, discuss Alaska's concerns and invite them to visit Alaska as soon as possible. Nominees who are unwilling to understand and respond to Alaska's needs will not get my confirmation vote.

STOCK: My top three priorities in the United States Senate are (1) to represent Alaskans honestly and wisely, rather than caving in to national political party bosses and big corporate donors; (2) to fill the vacancies in the Federal courts and federal agencies that have gone unfilled due to partisan warfare; and (3) to introduce and co-sponsor legislation to meet the needs of Alaskans for a safe and secure environment, affordable healthcare, jobs, land, Alaska Native sovereignty, climate change mitigation, and Arctic security. My top priority in the first 100 days is to get the new President's vacancies filled in the various Federal agencies and courts, which will end the dysfunction that is currently paralyzing our national government.

NOTE: Candidates were instructed to limit their answers to 125 words. If the answer exceeds 125 words, you will see a suspension point (...). Candidate's answers have not been edited or proofed by AFN staff. Candidate's full answers can be found online at www.nativefederation.org.

SUBSISTENCE

The Alaska Native community desires a greater decision-making role in the management of fish and game for our food security and to create career opportunities for Alaska Natives. Do you support the expansion of tribal co-management to include traditional knowledge in the current management systems? What will you do to increase support of this in Congress in your first 100 days?

METCALF: I will support Tribal recognition and press the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to give Alaska Native individual and Tribal land owners the option of asking the federal government to place their lands into federal “trust” status.

MURKOWSKI: ANILCA requires that the federal government administer the rural subsistence preference but fails to tell them how it must be done. The Office of Subsistence Management and the Federal Subsistence Board structures are creations of the federal agencies and can be reformed by the federal agencies. I do support tribal co-management and the incorporation of traditional knowledge in the current management system and will press the new administration to hold early consultations with Alaska’s tribes on needed reforms.

STOCK: I support expansion of tribal co-management to ensure proper management of fish and game, share traditional knowledge of the resource; grow community support for difficult management decisions, and create greater self-determination over resources by those holding priorities created by law, including ANILCA and the MMPA, to those resources. The longstanding co-management through the umbrella organization of the Indigenous Peoples’ Council on Marine Mammals (IPCOMM) and the co-management and cooperative agreements in existence with Alaska Native Organizations, and a successful track record by the recently established Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, will help create momentum for further tribal co-management and can further Congressional support for such measures. Secure funding is essential for the stability and success of these programs.

There remains a conflict between ANILCA and the State which prevents the state from fully complying with Title 8 of ANILCA. This has resulted in dual management that has been ineffective and costly. What are you going to do to guarantee subsistence priority for Alaska Natives?

METCALF: I have watched competing interests arm-wrestle over subsistence for over thirty years. I believe that support for a subsistence first priority can be accomplished by forming a coalition with

MURKOWSKI: We can improve the dual management process and I am working with Ahtna and others on pilot projects toward this end. However, I would prefer that the State of Alaska enact a constitutional

STOCK: I support safeguarding and strengthening the protections of Title 8 of ANILCA, including an increase in Federal Subsistence Board members to include subsistence users. Rules recently adopted

the many Alaskans, Native and Nonnative, who do not live in subsistence areas, but supplement their urban lifestyle with personal use of Alaska's fish and game. I believe that insuring the urban resident users are not left out but rather are next in line after rural subsistence will win broad voter support for a tiered allocation system providing a Rural Alaska subsistence priority. The remaining Commercial Catch should be managed to put the most money possible into the pockets of the largest number of Alaskans possible with a preference for those living nearest the resource.

amendment which would overturn the Alaska Supreme Court's McDowell decision and reinstate Alaska's ability to maintain a rural subsistence priority. That would get the federal government out of managing Alaska's fish and game.

by the Obama administration have protected the "rural" designation for many predominately Native Alaskan communities, such as Saxman, Bethel, and the Prudhoe Bay area. An important area for improvement is better enforcement of federal and state trespassing and hunting laws, including concerning non-local sport hunters who often have the economic resources necessary to overcome the costly transportation challenges facing local residents.

Do you support including subsistence as a purpose and priority within the Magnuson Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act and implementing regulations? How will you build support to accomplish this? Will you commit to holding a hearing to introduce legislation in the first 100 days?

METCALF: I will reach out to NOAA, the Sec. of Interior, to build support, and I will propose amendments to include subsistence as a purpose and priority within the Magnuson Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act.

MURKOWSKI: Subsistence is under-addressed in the current framework of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. I support the inclusion of subsistence as a purpose and priority within the act, first by adding a comprehensive definition of "subsistence fishing" and consideration of subsistence experience as appropriate for Regional Fishery Management Council nominations. Subsistence deserves to be elevated alongside commercial and recreational fishing as a priority interest. Additionally, I believe that we must strengthen the community protections in the act to allow maximum benefit to small, remote, and subsistence communities. I will support the Commerce Committee holding a hearing on these issues. I will use my extensive relationships and network to raise the issue in Congress.

STOCK: I support providing for voting tribal representation on the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council and including subsistence users amongst the user groups that the Secretary of Commerce must maintain a balanced apportionment of fishery resources for. Support for such proposals will come from the demonstrated success of other programs involving tribal co-management of fish and game resources, education, and Congressional hearings. And yes, I support holding a hearing in the first 100 days.

HEALTH, SAFETY, & WELLNESS

Rural Alaska has the highest rate of domestic and sexual violence in the nation, and there seems to be a serious increase in violence and gun-related deaths in both Fairbanks, Anchorage and rural Alaska. What will you do as a leader of the State to ensure safety in our communities?

METCALF: I believe good Public Safety is best served when communities get active in addressing their public safety issues. Public education on the requirements and services made available through the Violence Against Women Act would help. I will recognize and support efforts of the Tribes to participate in community education, local law enforcement, and do my best to provide state and federal support.

MURKOWSKI: The serious increase in violence, particularly homicides, in recent years is deeply concerning. The influx of heroin, synthetic marijuana and meth into our communities is alarming. Through the Tribal Law and Order Act, I have brought hundreds of thousands of dollars to rural Alaska in support of our VPSOs. I am the lead cosponsor on Community Oriented Policing reauthorization which provides our tribes the funding to hire tribal police. I believe empowerment of tribal courts, behavioral health interventions and restorative justice are key to improving public safety and am committed to work with law enforcement at all levels. I support the Second Amendment and do not favor gun control that would make it more expensive or time consuming for subsistence hunters to acquire firearms.

STOCK: I will work to increase federal funding to address issues of domestic abuse and sexual violence. Most domestic and sexual violence is related to drug and alcohol abuse. We must fund increased drug and alcohol awareness and treatment programs in rural Alaska. I support the increased use of tribal courts to help address these problems, including full implementation of Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) programs. I will support funding for such programs. I will work to repeal the prohibition on the Center for Disease Control studying gun violence and gun-related deaths. There is no reason why we should remain willfully ignorant regarding the causes of gun violence and the best means to reduce gun injuries and deaths.

Would you support legislation and increased resources that provide for tribal jurisdiction and effective programs for substance abuse and domestic violence related crimes within tribal communities?

METCALF: Yes, I will support legislation and increased resources that provides for Tribal jurisdiction and enable the application of traditional remedies.

MURKOWSKI: I do believe that Alaska's tribes need to be vested with the jurisdiction to effectively address substance abuse and domestic violence in their communities and am working on legislation to specifically address jurisdictional gaps created by the US Supreme Court's Venetie decision. I was a lead cosponsor of the 2013 VAWA reauthorization and use my seat on Senate Appropriations Committee to improve funding for domestic violence programs, rape kit processing, and substance abuse programs.

STOCK: In addition to the steps outlined above, I support amendments to the Indian Health Care Improvement Act that would support the creation and funding of critically needed regional drug and alcohol abuse and detox facilities in Alaska.

As the need for housing in rural Alaska remains a critical issue, do you support the reauthorization of NAHASDA? What will you do to build support in Congress for the reauthorization of NAHASDA and to get it passed in 2017?

METCALF: NAHASDA (The Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act): Legislation Proposing the reauthorization was referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs eighteen months ago. The committee is chaired by a Republican, Lisa is a Republican, and Lisa is on that Committee. Why the bill has not moved is a good question for Lisa. I was born and raised on the Crow Reservation. I know Native American issues, I know Native Alaskan issues, I have 40 years experience in the housing and housing finance industry. I am uniquely qualified to address this issue and may therefore be able to build a coalition of Native American interests where Lisa has not.

MURKOWSKI: During my term as Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs I helped lead the last reauthorization of NAHASDA. I am hopeful that we can complete work on NAHASDA reauthorization this year. However if this is not the case, I will work with my colleagues on the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs in the next Congress to quickly get an acceptable reauthorization to the President's desk.

STOCK: The Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) was signed into law by President Bill Clinton in 1996. NAHASDA provides block grant funding allowing tribal authorities discretion on spending and implementation. NAHASDA is struggling to pass through Washington's obstructionist Congress which refuses to approve a federal budget. The proposed budget includes \$700 million for NAHASDA, increased from \$660 million due to our growing Native populations. The Republican-controlled Congress has generally cared more about obstructing President Obama than providing for our communities. I will build support for NAHASDA by showing how our Native communities are impacted when Congress fails to act, and by working to reestablish the sense of shared civic duty that our current legislators have lost.

The Village Built Clinic (VBC) lease program is a big part of rural health care. They are leased by the Indian Health Service, a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. These clinics are part of the Community Health Aide Program, which depends on these clinics being built and maintained to stay active. Current funding levels for the VBC lease program provide only a fraction of the operations costs, resulting in deteriorating clinic buildings, reduced operations, deferred building maintenance, accreditation compliance problems and ultimately a threat to the provision of safe patient care in the villages. Tribes are requesting that Congress provide appropriations to fully fund the VBC lease program. How would you help fully fund the VBC lease program?

METCALF: By building a coalition of Native American communities with similar needs.

MURKOWSKI: I support the VBC program and share your concern that there are still clinics that lack running water and are in disrepair because the Indian Health Service (IHS) does not budget

STOCK: The federal government has a well-established trust responsibility to provide for the health of Alaska Natives. The vast geography and unique logistical challenges of Alaska create the

for improvements. For years I raised the VBC issue in Indian Affairs and Appropriations Committee hearings but received few answers or proposed solutions. In my first year as Chairman of the Interior Appropriations subcommittee, I included \$2 million in the 2016 Interior bill to begin to address the deteriorating conditions at clinics. After years of battling the Administration, and securing these funds in the 2016 budget, IHS recognized my commitment to the issue and the importance to Alaska. IHS requested \$11 million in the 2017 budget and my Interior bill fully funds the request.

need for programs like the VBC lease program. Programs like this cannot work if they are continually underfunded. Consistent underfunding has led to a chronic lack of maintenance at many facilities, which directly impacts the health and well-being of Alaska Natives in rural communities. It is unacceptable that the majority of the lease rates for clinics in the VBC lease program have not been re-evaluated since 1989. I support appropriations to fully fund the VBC lease program and I would advocate that these appropriations be paid for by closing tax loop-holes currently written into federal tax law.

Will you support advance appropriations of Indian Health Service Funding? How will you build support to accomplish this?

METCALF: Yes, I will support advance appropriations of Indian Health Service Funding.

I was born and raised on the Crow Reservation. I know Native American issues, I know Native Alaskan issues, and I know Reservation issues. I may be able to build an effective coalition of Native American interests.

MURKOWSKI: The VA receives advance appropriations for health care. After that legislation passed I asked the question why not the Indian Health Service? Congress' persistent failure to pass full year appropriations bills before the federal fiscal year begins on October 1 is financially damaging to our tribal health providers. I will continue to work with colleagues throughout Indian Country to obtain advance appropriations for our tribal health providers.

STOCK: We must effectively address the issue of healthcare in this country. Presently, we are underfunding direct service programs while also making health insurance too expensive for the general public. Regarding Indian Health Service funding, I would work with others in Congress who have shown support for healthcare reform or single-payer healthcare to pass a bill allowing advance appropriations for IHS just as advance appropriations for the VA were approved through the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-81).

What does Tribal self-determination mean to you? Are you in support of advancing Tribal self-determination for Alaska's Tribes?

METCALF: I will support increased local control of Village life through Tribal sovereignty. Villages need improved ability to provide local services that should be supplied by government but all too often are not. I will also support the option of placing Native owned lands into federal "trust" status.

MURKOWSKI: I am a strong supporter of tribal self-determination. Self-determination means that the federal government ceases to make decisions for Native people; that Native people make those decisions for themselves. Alaska is a national model for tribal self-determination and self-governance. Only one hospital in Alaska holds the prestigious MAGNET designation for nursing quality: Alaska Native Medical Center. I am working to strengthen self-determination by expanding self-governance compacting to a wider range of federal Indian programs, strengthening the consultation process, and ensuring that the government to government relationship is respected in the federal government's actions not just its words.

STOCK: Tribal self-determination means that a federally-recognized tribe has the right to be treated as a sovereign entity and has the right to form its own government, including tribal courts, in order to enforce its own laws and those laws within the scope of jurisdiction under federal law. I support advancing tribal self-determination for Alaska's tribes.

High speed internet for our village offices and residents will provide economic and educational opportunities for rural Alaska. What will you do to support greater flexibility for tribes to utilize Universal Service Funds and to increase broadband expansion in rural Alaska?

METCALF: If elected, I will work to bring low cost clean energy and super high speed internet to every school, every business, and every home in every community. I will support the appropriations necessary to modernize and insulate our electrical systems from power outages and cyber-attacks, and expand and modernize all of Alaska's transportation systems.

MURKOWSKI: I continue to support the Universal Service Funds, particularly those devoted to rural health and education, and think we should look to those mechanisms to support the development of rural broadband. I also believe we must look to innovative programs that support public/private partnerships like the New Market Tax Credit (NMTC) program that can be combined with USF funds to build out infrastructure. Whether it is a tribal set aside in the NMTC or greater flexibility for tribes in the rural health and education programs at USF, I continue to support creative solutions to the

STOCK: High speed internet access is crucial to expanding educational and economic opportunity throughout Alaska. As with other federal funding programs, Universal Service Funds provide critical support for rural communications, including education and health facilities. Unfortunately, these funds are often prioritized or conditioned in ways that prevent their use in a manner that would maximize the benefit for the community. In order for the Federal government to stop micromanaging its federal spending, we must increase tribal decision making authority and create flexibility with regard

broadband challenge in rural Alaska. In addition, we must also support technology and innovation to overcome the limits of existing infrastructure to deliver broadband to the most remote communities.

to use of Universal Service Funds. We must also enact policies that prohibit the bypassing of smaller communities when high speed cable or wireless broadband is made available to more populated communities in that area.

ECONOMIC, ENERGY, & NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Alaska has historically been an oil and gas state. With the current price of oil and an uncertain future, what are your priorities to shore up our economies in our cities and rural communities?

METCALF: The most important resource development issue is making sure Alaska is paid full value for its resources. I am the former Legislator who helped federal prosecutors convict VECO owner Bill Allen for bribing your legislators. Six legislators were convicted of accepting bribes for their vote to tax Alaska's oil at far less than its real tax value. Had Alaska been paid what Prudhoe Bay was worth, and had legislators deposited the additional payments in the Permanent Fund, the Fund, and your Dividend, would be about five times what it is today. The Legislature would now be in position to pay big fat Dividends and fund government from the earnings far into the future. Develop responsibly get paid.

MURKOWSKI: Alaska is a great place for innovation and can be a testing ground for new technologies that lower costs and improve reliability. I am doing everything I can to promote our state as a real world laboratory for the development of microgrids and alternative energy technologies to help diversify our economy. Alaska has long relied on its vast natural resources as its economic base. That's why we were promised access to those resources at statehood and why it's imperative we continue to fight for that access today. We have a wide array of energy, mineral, and timber resources that can be responsibly developed to drive economic growth and promote long-term prosperity – but we must work together to develop them for the benefit of all.

STOCK: We can no longer rely on oil and gas alone, but must diversify to rely more on alternative energy, renewable resources, and high technology. We must also protect traditional industries, including fishing and tourism. This includes providing the resources needed to vigorously implement new laws regarding illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and labeling GMO fish. Alaska hosts millions of visitors each year and tourism creates thousands of jobs in Alaska. We must improve transportation infrastructure, expand Brand USA which markets the United States as an international travel destination, and improve our antiquated visitor visa system. I support increased funding for the National Park Service in Alaska so that both Alaskans and our visitors can fully enjoy these national treasures.

What policies do you plan to propose to support natural resource development efforts in Alaska? Outside of natural resource development, what ideas do you have for economic development in Alaska? Will you work to expand 8(a) government contracting opportunities in the federal marketplace? Will you work to maximize the 8(a) contracting opportunities in the military buildup in Alaska?

METCALF: It is time to rethink how we should go about monetizing North Slope gas, and I believe a port in Nome is overdue for consideration. At best, a pipeline completion is ten years away and by the time it's complete, not only could it be a financial disaster, it could also be obsolete as a form of transporting gas.

MURKOWSKI: Our natural resources continue to be the prime economic drivers and job creators in Alaska. That's why I've worked to protect our fisheries, while promoting responsible development of our oil, gas, minerals, and timber. I am dedicated to making sure we have access to our public lands and that our resources under federal management can be developed for the benefit of all Alaskans.

STOCK: I support resource development by ensuring that federal licensing review is prompt and thorough and properly protects environmental concerns including subsistence interests. Other economic development possibilities include creating Community Development Quota (CDQ)-like programs for coastal communities from Southeast Alaska to the Aleutian Islands; developing greenhouse food

Ships are now under construction that, when finished, will be capable of receiving North Slope gas in its raw bulk form and processing it on board for delivery to market.

If elected, I will seek funding for Rural Village energy. Wind, solar, water, and funding for exploration for gas deposits near Villages. I will protect Alaska's 8(a) advantage.

I've worked to strengthen tourism and increase investment in our military bases to help diversify our economy. The ANCSA corporations are major contributors to Alaska's economy. I have defended the 8(a) program when it was targeted in the past and I fully support the Native corporations' use of the program to increase their participation in federal contracting.

security programs for local communities; and sale of land development rights into Section 404 Clean Water Act mitigation banks. I support the expansion of 8(a) government contracting opportunities in connection with the military buildup and elsewhere. I will seek to prohibit the use of informal agency "guidance" memos not having the force of law to chill and restrict the use of 8(a) contracts.

Do you support or oppose oil and gas exploration and development in ANWR?

METCALF: I support development in ANWR if Alaska, and ASRC, are both properly compensated for the oil they own and, if proper environmental safeguards are firmly in place. By firmly in place, I mean federal regulations. Alaska's elected officials and regulators have demonstrated over and over that they can be bought. After twelve years of smooth pipeline and tanker operations, environmental safeguards had been eroded to save money. Both industry and government were ill prepared for the Exxon Valdez disaster. Safeguards put in place since have been eroded away as well.

MURKOWSKI: I have consistently introduced legislation to allow the responsible development of a small section of the ANWR coastal plain, including Native-owned lands within the refuge. After roughly four decades of activity at Prudhoe Bay, industry has demonstrated that oil can be produced in an environmentally sensitive way that both protects traditional subsistence activities and allows all of us to realize the economic benefits of our resources. New oil from ANWR – the coastal plain is believed to hold North America's best prospect for a major oil discovery – would significantly strengthen Alaska's economic outlook and extend the life of TAPS. It would also provide a direct source of revenue and jobs to the Alaska Native community, while generating additional funds for public services.

STOCK: I support oil and gas exploration and development in ANWR if it can be done responsibly, economically, and in a manner that does not harm the coastal plain, the Refuge, the environment, or Alaska's renewable resources, and such development has the support of local stakeholders (including the nearby Alaska Native communities).

Do you support or oppose outer continental shelf and offshore oil and gas exploration and development?

METCALF: Shell was exploring in federal waters. Alaska cannot tax the oil from federal waters and would not receive a portion of the federal royalties. Other states do get a portion of federal royalties from oil outside their state waters, and until such

MURKOWSKI: Alaska's offshore resources are important to our economic future. The Chukchi and Beaufort Seas hold enormous untapped resource potential that would provide thousands of well-paid jobs and revenues for our communities, state,

STOCK: I support outer continental shelf and offshore oil and gas exploration and development provided it is accomplished with stringent environmental safeguards and adequate revenue sharing.

time as Alaska also has something to gain, I see no point in exposing the fishing, hunting, and whaling communities to the environmental risks.

I will support exploration and production in Alaska waters if Alaska is properly paid for the value of its resources, and proper environmental safeguards are firmly in place.

METCALF: Yes. -- Develop responsibly and get paid. That's my motto. If they don't want to give us a share, leave it in the ground until the y change their minds.

and nation. They are also home to the animals that have sustained generations of Alaska Natives and therefore we must take great care not to upset the ecological balance of the region. Industry has gone to great lengths to demonstrate that development and environmental stewardship can go hand-in-hand in the Arctic. They have worked closely with subsistence users to avoid and mitigate any impacts on marine mammals, including stopping operations offshore when the bowhead migration is underway.

Do you support revenue sharing, both offshore and onshore, on federal public lands and waters?

MURKOWSKI: Yes, revenue sharing is essential to meet the increased demands on our infrastructure and public services from offshore development. The federal government has not invested in the infrastructure necessary to support a changing Arctic. The best way to pay for the infrastructure that will be needed to accommodate both offshore development and increased shipping traffic in the region is to expand the existing revenue sharing program to include Alaska. I have drafted legislation creating a strong tribal resilience program, in addition to direct sharing with communities within 200 miles of the lease activity. Alaska is already entitled to government revenue from onshore oil and gas produced on federal lands. The problem is that we've not been allowed to develop the resources on our federal lands.

STOCK: Alaska receives 27% revenue sharing, but only from three to six miles offshore. Alaska receives no revenue sharing beyond the six-mile limit. Beginning in 2017, Gulf states Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama will receive 37.5% revenue sharing from production throughout the OCS. Alaska should receive equal treatment. Senator Murkowski has proposed a bill that provides 22.5% revenue sharing to Alaska (S. 1278). The bill provides for a further division of that 22.5% between various Alaska interests which do not include any Alaska Native entities. I support legislation similar to that proposed by former Senator Mark Begich (S. 199, 113th Congress) which provides 37.5% revenue sharing to Alaska and directs 25% of those funds to Alaska Native village and regional corporations and...

Infrastructure development such as roads, docks, bridges, and community infrastructure remains a top priority for the Alaska Native community. Do you support a major national infrastructure program in the upcoming Congress? How will you accomplish this in your first year?

METCALF: I believe the infrastructure of the entire nation, including Alaska, is long overdue for a

MURKOWSKI: The Arctic is undergoing rapid change, but our investment in the infrastructure necessary

STOCK: Due to the "austerity first" philosophy of the Republican-controlled Congress, public construction

top to bottom modernization and refurbishment. While the rest of the nation's systems are in decay, federal law recognizes that much of Alaska's needed infrastructure has never been built. Federal statute provides Alaska with a disproportionately large share of federal funding for transportation infrastructure. Infrastructure is the backbone of any modern economy. Alaska's long term economy will flourish if America's infrastructure funding is tripled until the entire nation once again has the most modern infrastructure in the world.

to meet the new demands being asked of the region has not kept pace. That is why I have championed expanding the federal offshore revenue sharing program to ensure that oil and gas activity off Alaska's coasts helps pay a portion of the costs to cover new infrastructure. Even without new offshore oil and gas development, increased maritime shipping in the region is putting added strain on our existing resources. We need the additional infrastructure, including heavy icebreakers, to respond to these challenges.

as a percentage of GDP is at record lows. Lack of infrastructure spending has delayed our recovery from the 2008 "Great Recession" and will lower productivity gains in the coming decade. This "austerity first" philosophy is doubly ill-considered as borrowing costs have never been lower. The first step in combatting this situation is to send Independents and Democrats to Congress. As Alaska's Independent Senator, I will work tirelessly to fund and improve Alaska infrastructure. I will also fight to protect essential air service and by-pass mail as basic governmental services and protect and expand funding for the Tribal Transportation Program.

Will you work to ensure that the Native community is involved in the decision making for infrastructure spending and ensure greater contracting opportunities for Alaska Native organizations?

METCALF: Yes. I believe in local hire. I will do everything in my power to make it expensive to import labor, and economically advantageous to train and hire locally.

MURKOWSKI: Our Native corporations have a major role in the Alaskan economy. I will continue supporting contracting opportunities. We also cannot forget that many Native-owned small businesses are maximizing federal programs geared toward minority preferences. These programs exist for a reason, and our small businesses are just as important as the bigger corporations when it comes to local economies. I have worked extensively to ensure that Lower 48 interests do not hijack Alaska's equitable share of tribal transportation funding. I have fought back efforts by the administration and some Lower 48 legislators to eliminate the Denali Commission. The money we invest in rural Alaska must not only create infrastructure but also local jobs.

STOCK: I support extending the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) to all Department of Transportation (DOT) programs that provide funding to tribes, which practice will reduce costs by eliminating bureaucracy and expediting project delivery. In other situations where federal programs are available for infrastructure spending, I similarly support application of ISDEAA principles.

To expand public-private partnerships there needs to be a more favorable investment culture in rural Alaska. What tax incentives would you support to expand private sector opportunities?

METCALF: I started the referendum to repeal Senate Bill 21. Anyone wondering why need look no further than their dividend that just got cut in half. The savings that Alaska is surviving on today was saved following the jailing of six Alaska legislators for trading bribes for low oil taxes; Saved during the six years the oil companies lost control of our Legislature. Today we once again have the lowest oil tax of any major producer in the world. While advertising that they were not making enough in Alaska, BP signed a contract to produce Iraq's oil for a net profit of \$2 per barrel. They were netting \$32 per barrel on Alaska's oil at the time.

MURKOWSKI: Alaska is not receiving its equitable share of New Market Tax Credits; I am working to resolve this problem. Several years ago I cosponsored legislation to create a Social Investment Fund to stimulate innovative business ventures that not only make a profit but serve a social good. I am disappointed that rural Alaska is not benefiting significantly from this fund. AFN's Alaska Marketplace program demonstrated that great business ideas can spring from our Native communities. We need to get the federal government to recognize them and support them.

STOCK: Tax incentives should be considered as one of many tools to support economic growth in economically distressed rural Alaska communities. I support expansion of the New Markets Tax Credit Program for such areas. The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program helps finance affordable housing in both urban and rural areas. It has a proven, successful track record and should likewise be expanded.

The cost of energy in rural Alaska hinders economic development and is an immense burden for individuals. What measure will you take to lower the cost of energy in rural Alaska? Where does this fit in your priorities for the first 100 days?

METCALF: Many years ago I proposed that Alaska invest in the seismic exploration and drilling equipment necessary to explore for gas near every village. Oil exploration companies aren't interested in the development of small finds but Alaska should pursue the development of any gas prospects near a village that could use it. I would also take advantage of every opportunity to appropriate funding for wind power, solar power, and water power. We need to put the diesel generator in the history books.

MURKOWSKI: High energy costs are the greatest threat facing our rural communities. The price of electricity and home heating can easily consume half the monthly income of rural households. It's a burden that is stifling investment and entrepreneurship, and driving many young people to Alaska's urban centers, where more affordable energy equals opportunities for greater prosperity. As chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I have encouraged the diversification of our energy resources and championed development of Alaska's vast renewable resources, including small hydropower, wind, biomass, and geothermal, and the innovation needed to integrate their use in some of our most isolated communities. I have worked to make sure that Alaska is eligible for federal programs aimed at tackling high rural energy costs.

STOCK: Alaska has a natural bounty of hydroelectric, geothermal, solar, wind, and tidal energy sources. The high cost of transporting petroleum products to remote locations should have resulted in major alternative energy investments in rural Alaska over a decade ago. The failure to make such investment reflects a failure of leadership at both the State and federal levels. We must make the investments that will save us money in the long term and generate local employment. We must support innovative programs such as the Alaska Energy and Power Program at UAF. We need to elect legislators who will effectively oppose the Republican Party's view that cutting taxes is always the answer and that tax credits and other incentives for renewable energy should be minimized or eliminated.

EDUCATION

In 2012-13, the 7th-12th grade dropout rate of Alaskan high school students was one of the highest in the nation. Rural Alaska Native students make up a larger population of that statistic than their urban counterparts. What will you do to enhance opportunities for Native students to be successful?

METCALF: Whoever wrote this questionnaire must have thought I was omnipotent. Not having answers for everything, I asked a close friend who works with troubled Native students who have been determined to be at risk of becoming a dropout. She says she has found success by relating science, technology, engineering and math to traditional knowledge, subsistence, and Village life. I'm inclined to accept her advice.

MURKOWSKI: Children learn best when their culture and language guide their education. My amendment to the Every Student Succeeds Act requires schools to meaningfully involve you in school improvement plans. I worked with Native language preservationists to create an immersion grant to ensure you are in charge. At my insistence, DOE came to AFN to help more tribes compete for ANEP funds. I led passage of our Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children bill to evaluate the successes, barriers and impacts of the many programs dedicated to helping Native youth. Working to improve Head Start. I've submitted amendments to increase tribes' role in the Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. I'm working with Kotzebue to bring a Job Corp Center there.

STOCK: Waiting until high school is too late to address our dropout challenge. Studies confirm that effective childhood education during the critical pre-kindergarten years leads to significantly higher high school graduation rates, higher earnings, and fewer arrests. I support expanding federal programs such as the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act, Title I assistance for schools with predominately low-income families, and Head Start Programs. I further support increased funding for the Alaska Native Educational Act Program. With the decline in state spending and threatened closure of small rural schools, we must consider whether the federal government is obligated to also provide substantial financial assistance under its trust duties and the Snyder Act of 1921 and the Indian Self-Determination and Educational Assistance Act of 1975.

The United States government has a trust responsibility to provide AI/AN students with quality education. Will you remove barriers and create opportunities for greater educational resources for Native students? Will you support greater STEM and technology programs for Alaska Natives? Where does this fit in your priorities for the first 100 days?

METCALF: STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math): Education will always be among my highest priorities. In answer to question #11 I said I will work to bring super high speed internet to every school, every business, and every home in every

MURKOWSKI: Yes, I am working with Alaska Native leaders and my colleagues in Congress on many fronts to remove barriers and create greater opportunities for Alaska Native students of all ages. I am a huge supporter of the Alaska Native Science

STOCK: Adequate funding of Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act Programs and the Johnson-O'Malley Education Program is essential. The Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program is one of the most successful

community. Part of that objective is to enable village teachers, students, and classrooms to engage in two-way high resolution video conferencing with experts in every field; to enable young adults to interact with college classrooms from their home. I also will support Bernie Sanders in his effort to make college tuition free at all public universities.

and Engineering Program, which has had amazing success preparing Alaska Native youth to succeed in science, engineering, technology and math. During the first 100 days of the next Congress I will redouble my efforts to support and expand the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP). I will work with Alaska Native education leaders and the state to improve STEM teaching in our schools. And I will advocate for additional funding from the National Science Foundation to support STEM and technology programs in Alaska.

and cost effective STEM education programs in the country. As a former an Adjunct Professor at the University of Alaska at Anchorage, I am aware of the excellent national reputation of this program. Its creative public-private partnership funding model must be supported in these challenging economic times. Ultimately, on a federal level, we need to raise the revenue necessary to invest in our young people and rebuild our infrastructure. That will not be possible with one of our major parties committed at all cost to tax loopholes for investment bankers and billionaire real estate developers.

STATE RELATIONS & OTHER

How will you approach the beginning of the next administration? Will you work to advance individuals nominated by AFN to high level positions in the White House, Department of the Interior, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Energy and other federal agencies?

METCALF: Approach to Clinton is one thing, approach to Trump quite another. Of course I would do everything I could to involve Alaska Natives into a new administration. I will also find opportunities for young Natives to see and experience the legislative process and include Native Elders in my own circle of advisors.

MURKOWSKI: Regardless of who wins the presidency I will begin working on educating the transition team about Alaska's needs and encourage members of the transition staff to meet with Alaskans immediately. I will work to advance the selection of qualified Alaskans to administration positions at all levels. Raina Thiele was an outstanding and highly influential White House tribal liaison. We need to identify Alaskans like Raina to serve in the next administration.

STOCK: I will vigorously advocate for qualified Native Americans and Alaska Natives for high level federal agency positions. Recent examples -- on which we need to build -- include Hilary Tompkins, Chief General Counsel for the Department of the Interior; Robert Anderson, BIA Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs; and Alaskan Raina Thiele as White House Associate Director for Intergovernmental Affairs. I note with pride that Ms. Thiele is a graduate of my alma mater, the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government. Their success can and should be expanded.

Do you support the proposed Native Veteran Allotment Act? How soon can you get this passed in Congress?

METCALF: I will reintroduce the proposed Native Veteran Allotment Act in the next Congress and take advantage of every opportunity to move it forward.

MURKOWSKI: I support and have worked to advance the Native Veteran Allotment Act for years. It has long been opposed by the Interior Department and national environmental groups. The fight to create a level playing field for our Native veterans who were denied the opportunity to obtain Native allotments continues.

STOCK: I support the proposed Native Veteran Allotment Act, although it leaves unaltered the qualification requirements of the Alaska Native Allotment Act of 1906 (use or occupancy substantially exclusive of others for a period of five non-continuous years). These qualification requirements were often impossible to meet for those sent away to high school boarding schools and who then served in the Armed Forces. I believe these qualifications should be relaxed for those who did not have a practical ability to meet these requirements. Given that the effect of this legislation is limited to Alaska, it should not be opposed other delegations and should be passed if supported by direct and sustained attention, which I will give it.

Will you advocate for the passage of the Voting Rights Advancement Act and provisions that specifically protect Alaska Native and other minority voters?

METCALF: I consider the right to vote to be an inalienable right that should never be denied to any U.S. Citizen for any reason. The European Court of Human Rights has ruled that banning prisoners from voting violates Human Rights. Many of our prison issues would be solved if every prisoner wanting a ballot received a ballot. It's unconscionable to bar millions of Americans from voting because of their criminal records. And on the practical side, if everyone in Alaska who smoked pot had been caught, who would be left to exercise the will of the majority who legalized it. Criminalizing the acts of those we simply disagree with and using their preferences as an excuse to take away their rights is wrong.

MURKOWSKI: I am the lead cosponsor of the Voting Rights Advancement Act in the Senate and am working with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to get it passed. Earlier this year the National Urban League, one of America's most preeminent civil rights organizations, honored me with a Congressional Leadership Award for my efforts. I am also working with the US Census Bureau to ensure that rural Alaskans are accurately counted in the 2020 census.

STOCK: I support and will advocate for passage of the Voting Rights Advancement Act, including the provisions that specifically protect Alaska Native and other minority voters. I further support and will advocate for legislation drafted by the Department of Justice, the Tribal Equal Access to Voting Act, which will allow tribes to designate at least one polling place selected by the tribe to be equipped with the voting materials and equipment generally available at polling locations in the state.

Do you agree that climate change exists and is a problem Americans and Alaskans need to address? What solutions, resourcefour and programs do you propose the federal government should be providing to protect Alaska from the effects of climate change and to adapt for the future? Where does this fit in your priorities for the first 100 days?

METCALF: Every Alaskan has witnessed climate change over the past fifty years. Our winters are warmer, our summers are longer, and our Arctic Village shores, once protected by sea ice are eroding. Bold clean energy action is needed to stave off a climate hostile to human life. Unfortunately, Congress is protecting the profits of those opposed to protecting the planet. I will seek appropriations to replace Alaska's Diesel powered electrical generators with wind, water, and solar. I will promote the

MURKOWSKI: Yes, our climate is changing and as good stewards of the land we should take steps to reduce emissions that contribute to climate change and invest in adaptation and resilient communities. It's important that our policies are balanced, though. I do not support policies that simply increase the already high cost of energy in Alaska. We should invest in research, innovation, and renewable energy through policies like those I have advanced in my bipartisan energy bill. We must also prioritize

STOCK: I agree with the overwhelming scientific consensus that climate change exists and is primarily caused by human activity. The rapid warming experienced across Alaska is altering ecosystems, producing ocean acidification, increasing infrastructure damage, and threatening the traditional livelihoods of Native and rural Alaskans. I will vigorously advocate for federal mitigation funds, including waiver of federal matching fund requirements for projects necessitated by climate

exploration for, and development of gas deposits near Villages. I will ask those who profited from filling our air with greenhouse gasses to pay the costs of moving coastal Villages to higher ground.

adaptation to support strong, resilient communities throughout Alaska. And we must help communities address the consequences of climate-related disruption.

change. However, the federal government will simply not have enough money to fully mitigate the huge costs of climate change in Alaska and elsewhere, particularly if the pace of change is not substantially reduced. I accordingly oppose Republican Party platform provisions calling for abolishing the Environmental Protection Agency and ending subsidies for clean energy development.

As you know, we are in a state fiscal crisis. The legislature did nothing this past legislative session to address the critical issues, such as the oil tax structure, the PFD, income tax, etc. We were warned that inaction would mean there will be no PFD in four years. What advice would you give to the State legislators?

METCALF: Those warning us are the shysters who've been trying to take your Dividend and tap our Fund for decades. Contrary to oil propaganda, Prudhoe has very low production costs.

Those lower 48 fracking operations BP said were more profitable; all shutting down at today's prices. It took the oil companies six years to regain control of our legislature after six legislators were jailed for taking bribes. Now a new batch of corrupt legislators are giving our oil away again.

Raise oil taxes, and pass a billion dollar tax on gas reserves. If the oil companies don't like it, they can relinquish their gas rights. A gas line would be more profitable if we owned 100%.

MURKOWSKI: I make it a practice not to offer advice to Alaska legislators. However, Ted Stevens' often repeated quote, "To hell with politics, just do what's right for Alaska" is an appropriate guidepost.

STOCK: I would tell them to "lead, follow, or get out of the way," advice that I often heard in my 28-year career in the Army and Army Reserve. Legislators who are not willing to work together for a comprehensive solution for our state's fiscal problems should resign ("get out of the way"). Let others who are willing to make the difficult choices necessary to address our pressing financial problems step up and do so.

We have all been watching what is happening at Standing Rock. If this happened in Alaska, what would you do? What are your thoughts on the issues at Standing Rock, and what will you do, if anything?

METCALF: The BLM's big mistake was in their failure to seek out and consider traditional knowledge in their planning process. It is unfortunate that it took so much for the Hunkpapa Lakota and Yanktonai Dakota who live there, to get BLM's attention. I think they have their attention now.

Here in Alaska I am well known for taking the lead in speaking truth to power. The best example; when I went after Bill Allen for bribing your legislators, I initiated a confrontation with the Governor, Alaska's Attorney General, the President of the Alaska State Senate, the Speaker of the House and several of Alaska's most powerful business interests. I won, they lost.

MURKOWSKI: On the 50th anniversary of AFN it is appropriate to reflect on the parallels between what is occurring at Standing Rock and Alaska's history. AFN stood strong to freeze the transfer of land to the state efforts were made to construct the Trans-Alaska Pipeline without first settling land claims. AFN ensures that Alaska Natives have a seat at the table in every significant development decision. Today we are working to ensure that the federal government listens to us on Transboundary Mining and the King Cove Road. I am pleased that the Corps of Engineers is undertaking an internal review regarding how tribal consultation was conducted at Standing Rock. The federal government has a trust obligation to the tribes; and its consultation must be meaningful.

STOCK: Standing Rock has reminded all Americans that corporate interests and federal and state officials have often in the past failed to bring Native Americans into the decision making process when an economic project affects their lands and interests. If federal and state officials and corporate interests attempted to build a pipeline in Alaska and did not take into account the interests of Native Alaskans, I would be against the project. I would absolutely take a stand early on to ensure that tribal sovereignty is respected and that Native Alaskans are front and center at the negotiation table when decisions are being made that affect their lands.

PERSONAL

Who are the individuals who have the most influence on your current views on public service?

METCALF: If elected I will stand with Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren on most issues.

If elected my number one priority will be helping Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren address corruption, health care for all, education for all and many other issues they have raised that will never be addressed unless we first deal with the influences of dirty money on Congress.

MURKOWSKI: When I joined the Senate in 2002 I was honored and blessed to serve alongside Senator Ted Stevens for my first 6 years in the Senate. Uncle Ted had an unwavering commitment to Alaska's first peoples and never stopped fighting for improved standards of living and greater opportunities for all Alaskans. Serving with Ted, I took to heart and witnessed first-hand the mantra that came to define his public service: "to Hell with politics, just do what's right for Alaska." Ted fought to pass ANCSA, ANILCA, and support the 8(a) contracts program, and now I am fighting to carry on his legacy.

STOCK: Harry Truman, Colin Powell, Jay Hammond, Willie Hensley, and Elizabeth Warren.

If you could share one piece of advice to the next generation, what would it be?

METCALF: The next time someone says to you "give me access to your resources and I will give you jobs," you tell them:

- "I have examined the world market to find what other resource owners get for similar resources. If you pay me what my resource is worth, I won't need a job."
- If they complain, tell them: "If you are unwilling to pay me what my resource is worth, I am sure I can find someone who will."
- To clarify my position on oil, I love oil companies for the same reason my Grandfather loved his cow. My Grandfather loved his cow because his cow gave him milk every day. When my grandfather's cow quit giving him milk, he ate it.

MURKOWSKI: Everyone has something important to contribute. Even on your darkest day believe in yourself and take pride in your Native heritage. Live a healthy lifestyle; say no to drugs. And to women who are pregnant, please remember that no amount of alcohol, none at all, is safe for your baby. We can eliminate Fetal Alcohol Syndrome forever if we follow this simple prescription.

STOCK: Education – cultural, academic, and in practical trades -- is the foundation of success in life.

AFN CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

U.S. HOUSE



Congressman Young



Steven Lindbeck

What are your top three priorities? What is your top priority in your first 100 days?

YOUNG: My top three legislative priorities have remained much the same during my tenure. First, ensuring access to our federal lands and resources; second, building Alaska’s infrastructure; and third, promoting a strong national defense and providing for our veterans. All three components are crucial to Alaska’s success, and I’ll continue fighting back against the many federal rules and regulations that hinder our state’s progress. Upon returning to Congress, much of my focus will be on fulfilling commitments made to Alaskans. Although much depends on the outcome of the 114th Congress, there are numerous bills I’ve introduced – including the Alaska Native Veterans Land Allotment Equity Act and efforts to resolve issues facing “landless” Alaska Natives – that deserve my utmost attention should they not be enacted...

LINDBECK: My first priority in Congress will be leading the way to rebuild Alaska’s economy. I’ll focus on putting Alaska at the center of the new Arctic economy, working to build deep-water ports, new navigation systems, and expanded shipping and tourism lanes. I’ll work to build a 21st century infrastructure so that Alaskans can compete, start new businesses, and enter new industries. Third, I will focus on investing in broadband connectivity so that people across the state – particularly in rural areas – can access high-speed internet.

SUBSISTENCE

The Alaska Native community desires a greater decision-making role in the management of fish and game for our food security and to create career opportunities for Alaska Natives. Do you support the expansion of tribal co-management to include traditional knowledge in the current management systems? What will you do to increase support of this in Congress in your first 100 days?

YOUNG: Throughout the 114th Congress, I worked with Ahtna, Inc. on their ideas and proposals for tribal-state co-management structures. Ultimately, wildlife management must evolve into a collaborative process that works for everyone. With the state's population growing, we must adopt innovative practices to ensure an abundance of wild game populations – which the federal government is failing to do. I have heard from user groups, the State, and individual Alaskans as they have offered input and constructive criticism on wildlife management in Alaska. During my first 100 days, I plan to engage with Ahtna, AFN, and these stakeholders on a legislative approach that supports co-management, with a particular focus on increasing funding.

There remains a conflict between ANILCA and the State which prevents the state from fully complying with Title 8 of ANILCA. This has resulted in dual management that has been ineffective and costly. What are you going to do to guarantee subsistence priority for Alaska Natives?

YOUNG: Dual management is costly and inefficient both for the State of Alaska and for everyday Alaskans. Differences in seasons and regulations often cause confusion and frustration for individuals, and duplicative management wastes money and resources. With the mix of federal, State, and Native land boundaries in hunting areas, users often have difficulty navigating the systems properly. On the federal side, I constantly fight for Native communities' access to subsistence. For example, I introduced a bill and held a hearing this Congress that helped successfully pressure the Federal Subsistence Board to restore Saxman's subsistence status. Resolving the legal and political conflicts that underpin dual management will take the State stepping up and working in partnership with the Native community. I am committed...

LINDBECK: Yes, Alaska Natives should absolutely have a stronger decision-making role in fish and game management. In Congress, I will support the incorporation of traditional knowledge in expanded federal/tribal co-management. Co-management already works well, as we know from the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission and the Yukon-Kuskokwim Goose Management Plan. I support the proposals for tribal co-management through the Kuskokwim and Yukon Inter-Tribal Fish Commissions. Tribes should also enjoy more opportunities for employment in fish and game management.

LINDBECK: Through my work with the Alaska Humanities Forum in communities and Native villages across the state, I have seen first-hand the importance of subsistence priority. Subsistence priority for Alaska Natives and rural residents is non-negotiable. Many recent changes have been positive – the Federal Subsistence Board has implemented several recommendations, including two new seats for subsistence users. In Congress, I will work with the state and the other members of the delegation to create new, more workable forms of co-management, particularly in areas such as the Ahtna region.

Do you support including subsistence as a purpose and priority within the Magnuson Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act and implementing regulations? How will you build support to accomplish this? Will you commit to holding a hearing to introduce legislation in the first 100 days?

YOUNG: The MSA continues to be of great importance to Alaska, not only for the positive impact it has had on our economy but for the resources it protects. This Congress, I successfully led efforts in the House to reauthorize and improve the MSA, which included reforms to balance the needs of our fisherman and coastal communities with the needs of our fisheries. As this process moves forward, I will continue to support increasing MSA's focus on subsistence, including the addition of a subsistence representative on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. Given the Council's important decision making, I believe a subsistence representative will ensure a much needed perspective is heard. Next Congress, I will hold a hearing focused on incorporating subsistence changes to...

LINDBECK: I agree subsistence needs to be written broadly throughout the Magnuson Stevens Act (MSA). I support language that recognizes subsistence along with commercial and recreational uses, including for council appointments. The MSA is national legislation and Congress deals with any changes as part of a broader reauthorization. That brings in complicated issues in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico that have stymied progress the last two Congresses. In my first 100 days, I will immediately work on MSA legislation incorporating subsistence language, and work with the leadership and other members to schedule appropriate committee hearings and include such language in a comprehensive reauthorization bill.

HEALTH, SAFETY, & WELLNESS

Rural Alaska has the highest rate of domestic and sexual violence in the nation, and there seems to be a serious increase in violence and gun-related deaths in both Fairbanks, Anchorage and rural Alaska. What will you do as a leader of the State to ensure safety in our communities?

YOUNG: I am both angered and saddened by the epidemic of abuse and violence that plagues our families and communities. Rural Alaska, in particular, struggles with violence directed at women. In my role, I seek to empower our communities so that they have access to effective anti-violence initiatives and victim's services to address the unique challenges in Alaska. For example, I worked with Senator Sullivan to introduce the POWER Act, which will require that U.S. Attorneys provide pro bono legal services to victims of abuse. The bill specifically directs the assistance to include a focus on Native communities. I also support legislation that provides robust funding and resources for anti-violence and anti-drug programs. Recently, I supported a significant increase in funding...

Would you support legislation and increased resources that provide for tribal jurisdiction and effective programs for substance abuse and domestic violence related crimes within tribal communities?

YOUNG: I continue to support legislation that provides for a substantive tribal role in handling instances of substance abuse and domestic violence. I have always said that our villages are best positioned to handle these types of offenses given the local understanding of the dynamics and people involved. Also, it's clear that community-oriented and culturally-based trials and sentencing are more effective at putting offenders on the right track. For these reasons, I worked with the Delegation to pass a bill that removed the Alaska Exemption in the Violence Against Women Act, allowing Native communities a greater role in handling domestic violence cases. I am also pleased with recent collaborative efforts on joint State-Tribal courts and worked with the Delegation to secure new funding for...

LINDBECK: Due to the high correlation between substance abuse and violence, I would tackle alcohol and drug abuse as an important part of addressing domestic and sexual violence. I will support amendments to the Indian Health Care Amendment Act that would open and fund regional drug and alcohol treatment and detox centers in our state. I would also support amending the IHCA so that comprehensive regional alcohol and drug treatment centers can be funded and designed by tribal contractors. I will also partner with regional leaders to identify additional steps needed to stem the flow of illegal substances and alcohol into rural Alaska.

LINDBECK: Yes. Tribes and tribal organizations have a sound track record of successfully administering federal and state-funded programs. For nearly 30 years, self-governing tribes have restructured and redesigned programs to meet local needs, and in many instances, have developed world-renowned service. Tribes and tribal organizations are resourceful, able to leverage funding, and innovative in overcoming obstacles to deliver services, and I support increasing their role in providing programs for substance abuse and domestic violence within tribal communities.

As the need for housing in rural Alaska remains a critical issue, do you support the reauthorization of NAHASDA? What will you do to build support in congress for the reauthorization of NAHASDA and to get it passed in 2017?

YOUNG: NAHASDA is critically important as it constitutes the federal government's primary effort to uphold its trust responsibility to Native communities with regard to housing. NAHASDA has empowered Native communities to develop and implement innovative strategies to address their unique housing needs. During this Congress and last, I have been a lead sponsor of the House bill to reauthorize and improve NAHASDA. In both instances, I secured passage of my bill in the House. Unfortunately, one Senator has held up final passage of the legislation because of his objections to the Native Hawaiian housing program. I am currently working with the other cosponsors to include NAHASDA in a "must pass" vehicle, such as the upcoming Omnibus appropriations bill, which would effectively bypass the...

The Village Built Clinic (VBC) lease program is a big part of rural health care. They are leased by the Indian Health Service, a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. These clinics are part of the Community Health Aide Program, which depends on these clinics being built and maintained to stay active. Current funding levels for the VBC lease program provide only a fraction of the operations costs, resulting in deteriorating clinic buildings, reduced operations, deferred building maintenance, accreditation compliance problems and ultimately a threat to the provision of safe patient care in the villages. Tribes are requesting that Congress provide appropriations to fully fund the VBC lease program. How would you help fully fund the VBC lease program?

YOUNG: The VBC Program is incredibly important to sustaining health care delivery in the most rural and remote parts of our state. Unfortunately, the Indian Health Service's approach to handling VBC leases has resulted in substantial funding shortfalls that have undermined clinics' efforts. Now many clinics face serious maintenance backlogs, staffing difficulties, and safety issues. I am encouraged by recent court decisions in a case that Maniilaq has been pursuing. The Maniilaq case will hopefully set the stage for clinics to receive their lease amounts under existing provisions that require IHS to provide full funding. Given the complicated, gradual nature of such a transition, I plan to work with the Appropriations Committee to support the effort while preventing IHS from attempting to undermine...

LINDBECK: I support reauthorization of NAHASDA and will work to persuade my Congressional colleagues about the need to adjust funding levels to match inflation. We must end the funding stagnation and allow NAHASDA to keep pace with other comparable federal programs that have enjoyed budget increases. The state of housing in rural Alaska is best understood by seeing it first-hand – and I will invite my colleagues in Congress to visit Alaska so they can truly understand the challenges and needs in our rural communities.

LINDBECK: I support full funding of the VBC lease program. The current situation is not acceptable, and this funding request must be a high priority for Alaska's Congressional delegation. Funding decisions must take into account cost increases and the rising costs of energy.

Will you support advance appropriations of Indian Health Service Funding? How will you build support to accomplish this?

YOUNG: I am at the forefront of efforts to enable IHS advance appropriations. Knowing funding levels one fiscal year early would allow IHS and tribal health providers to more effectively and efficiently manage budgets, coordinate care, and improve health quality outcomes. This would be particularly helpful given the difficulty of forward planning when faced with the possibility of funding interruptions, such as government shutdowns. Securing advance appropriations requires a push on multiple fronts. This Congress and last, I sponsored a bill that would authorize Congress to allocate advance appropriations for IHS funds and have raised the issue in hearings of my Subcommittee. As the Budget controls which programs are allowed advance appropriations, I will also continue working with the Budget Committee to...

LINDBECK: Yes, I strongly support advance appropriations of Indian Health Service Funding. It is very important that health providers are able to continue treating patients without worrying about future funding or Congressional budget politics. In Congress, I will work to build bipartisan support for this initiative.

What does tribal self-determination mean to you? Are you in support of advancing tribal self-determination for Alaska's tribes?

YOUNG: Self-determination means not only respecting tribes' right to make fundamental decisions regarding their land and the well-being of their people, but also empowering tribes so they are able to do so effectively. I support advancing self-determination for Alaska's tribes as well as advancing the capacity of Alaska Native Corporations to support the health and well-being of Native communities.

LINDBECK: To me, tribal self-determination is the critical right for tribes to exercise self-governance, control their own affairs, and make decisions on matters that affect their own people. I believe tribal self-determination is a fundamental part of Alaska, and I have been and will always be a strong advocate in favor of tribal self-determination for Alaska's tribes.

High speed internet for our village offices and residents will provide economic and educational opportunities for rural Alaska. What will you do to support greater flexibility for tribes to utilize Universal Service Funds and to increase broadband expansion in rural Alaska?

YOUNG: Increasing access to broadband in rural Alaska is absolutely critical for supporting economic development and businesses opportunities, tele-healthcare, and distance education. I have been fighting for rural broadband on a number of fronts. In my Subcommittee, I have made it a priority to take the FCC to task when it issues rules and regulations that would hamper or disadvantage access to telecom services in rural Alaska. This Congressional oversight is necessary for ensuring that the FCC takes into account Alaska's unique circumstances when its actions would impact the state. Tribes must also be able to leverage programs such as E-Rate and USDA loans and grants for telecom. I have supported legislation focused on helping tribes overcome historic difficulties securing and utilizing these...

LINDBECK: Improvements to broadband infrastructure and communication technology offer a critical pathway to improving economic opportunity in rural areas. As the Arctic's place in the world becomes increasingly important as development continues, steps to improve broadband and communications infrastructure will be crucial in allowing Alaska communities to share in the future Arctic economy. Universal Service Fund policies currently limit rural Alaska's ability to take advantage of the existing bandwidth, FCC programs and systems. In Congress, I will partner with rural communities to work to changing these policies to improve utilization of telecommunication infrastructure and bandwidth.

ECONOMIC, ENERGY, & NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Alaska has historically been an oil and gas state. With the current price of oil and an uncertain future, what are your priorities to shore up our economies in our cities and rural communities?

YOUNG: I consistently hear from Alaskan families and small businesses about the inability to grow our economy. Their focus remains on jobs, the economy, and the massive growth of government overreach and onerous regulations. Unequivocally, the economy and the prospect for new opportunities have suffered under this administration. Moving forward, we must repeal the many harmful federal policies that eliminate innovation, shut down job creation and new wealth, and stifle all sorts of economic opportunity. Alaska needs a partner in the federal government, not a roadblock to our success.

LINDBECK: Alaska's new economy will be my top priority. In Congress, I'll work to seize emerging opportunities in the Arctic, support our small businesses, invest in broadband infrastructure, and continue to support natural resource development and exploration across the state. I will form partnerships to improve investment in research, education, technology, natural resources, business, and tourism. I support affordable education and loan programs so that Alaskans can afford college, and back equal pay for equal work legislation so that women are paid the same as men. We must promote federal investment in Arctic research, put Alaska at the center of the new Arctic economy, strengthen our tourism networks and double down on renewable energy.

What policies do you plan to propose to support natural resource development efforts in Alaska? Outside of natural resource development, what ideas do you have for economic development in Alaska? Will you work to expand 8(a) government contracting opportunities in the federal marketplace? Will you work to maximize the 8(a) contracting opportunities in the military buildup in Alaska?

YOUNG: For years, this Administration has sent crippling blows to the Alaskan people by forging ahead with policies and programs that make it nearly impossible to pursue any new forms of responsible resource development. Considering this, I continue to work through the legislative process to ensure our regulatory environment gives exploration and development a chance to succeed. The 8(a) program has been extremely successful in creating an efficient and cost effective contracting option for the government while supporting economic opportunity for some of the most disadvantaged and underemployed populations in the nation. As a tireless advocate of this program, I continue to pursue legislative efforts to correct the harms caused by Section 811 of the FY2010 National Defense Authorization Act, that since enacted, have adversely...

LINDBECK: I support additional leasing and production in NPR-A; careful, well-planned OCS exploration in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas; and streamlined permitting in federal oil and gas leasing to remove unnecessary regulatory red tape. I support expanding the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline Act of 2004 to provide expedited permitting, limited judicial review, and a coordinated federal response to assist with development of the Alaska LNG project. I will support and defend 8(a) contracting, and work to expand opportunities. Sole source awards to eligible 8(a) companies remain a viable, efficient and quick option for federal contracting officers to meet the diverse and complex procurement needs of their agencies.

Do you support or oppose oil and gas exploration and development in ANWR?

YOUNG: Responsible development of ANWR is an absolute must for Alaska, which is why I've passed legislation in the House 12 separate times to unlock the vast resources in this area. Unfortunately, this legislation has only passed the Senate once and was vetoed by President Clinton in 1996. Beyond jumpstarting our economy through job creation, developing ANWR would replace foreign energy sources, refill the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, and provide untold revenue and opportunities to fund important infrastructure projects and education programs. Along with the congressional delegation, I'm fighting to overturn recent decisions to unilaterally manage ANWR's Coastal Plain as wilderness. I've successfully passed amendments in the House to defund this harmful action and continue to pursue efforts to open portions of ANWR to environmentally sound natural resource...

LINDBECK: I support oil and gas exploration and development in the ANWR coastal plain. I will advocate for environmentally-responsible development in ANWR through use of cutting-edge technology pioneered in Alaska so that oil can be explored using extended reach drilling from small gravel pads and seasonal restrictions to minimize impacts.

Do you support or oppose outer continental shelf and off-shore oil and gas exploration and development?

YOUNG: Energy is the lifeblood of the economy – it's what fuels growth, powers commerce, and improves the quality of life for many Alaskans. In this time of social and economic uncertainty, we must promote responsible development of Alaska's on and off-shore energy resources so we can empower our people, develop new infrastructure and bridge the gap until widespread renewable energy becomes economical. The Alaska OCS contains an estimated resource potential of 27 billion barrels of oil and 132 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, and developing these resources is crucial to Alaska's economic growth and the nation's energy supply. With strong consultation among stakeholders and a stable and predictable regulatory regime, I believe these resources can be produced in a safe and responsible manner.

LINDBECK: I support oil and gas exploration and development off-shore and in the outer continental shelf so long as they include the appropriate safeguards to protect subsistence resources.

Do you support revenue sharing, both offshore and onshore, on federal public lands and waters?

YOUNG: Revenue sharing is an important aspect of resource development in the United States and I have long supported efforts to expand the existing program to ensure Alaska receives equitable treatment. In many cases, revenue sharing is used to support wildlife conservation and coastal resiliency programs, empower

LINDBECK: Yes. I will push for federal lease revenue sharing for impacted Alaska communities by winning for Alaska the same benefits enjoyed by other coastal oil and gas states.

states and localities where development occurs, and allow for renewable energy projects. Many groups and organizations applaud the conservation efforts made available from revenue sharing, yet vocally oppose oil and gas development. It's important to note, there would be no revenue for conservation or restoration projects without these resource development projects. I have introduced and supported numerous bills that would provide offshore revenue sharing for Alaska, which could mean billions of dollars for our state.

Infrastructure development such as roads, docks, bridges, and community infrastructure remains a top priority for the Alaska Native community. Do you support a major national infrastructure program in the upcoming Congress? How will you accomplish this in your first year?

YOUNG: As a senior member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Chairman of the Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs Subcommittee, I am uniquely positioned to steer the many conversations needed to empower local communities and expand our transportation systems and infrastructure. Recently, Alaska saw many successes through a 5-year highway transportation bill, which increased funding for the Tribal Transportation Program, established the Tribal-Self Governance Program within the USDOT, and reduced administrative fees by the BIA and Federal Highway Administration to ensure our limited transportation dollars to go further and make larger impacts. Further, I will continue to fight for vital port and harbor development projects, and efforts to ensure ANCs play a vital role in developing water infrastructure as non-federal sponsors of...

Will you work to ensure that the Native community is involved in the decision making for infrastructure spending and ensure greater contracting opportunities for Alaska Native organizations?

YOUNG: I continue to push for increasing the autonomy that tribes and ANCs have in the administration of infrastructure funds. This is reflected in my Tribal Transportation Self-Governance Act, which I passed as part of the 5-year highway transportation bill. This Act created a contracting process that allows tribes to take on federal responsibilities for managing their funding from DOT programs. In addition, I will work to change programs that currently only allow state "pass through" sub-grants to Native communities by legislating changes that allow tribes and ANCs to apply for funding directly. This cuts down on overhead costs and respects the government-to-government relationship with tribes. Finally, I will continue to press agencies to meaningfully consult with tribes and ANCs, particularly when determining...

LINDBECK: I will be an immediate proponent for a major national infrastructure bill in the upcoming Congress. Improving Alaska's infrastructure - from our roads, ports, airports, bridges, and more - will be one of my highest priorities.

LINDBECK: Yes. Community input and engagement is a critical component for successful infrastructure projects.

To expand public-private partnerships there needs to be a more favorable investment culture in rural Alaska. What tax incentives would you support to expand private sector opportunities?

YOUNG: Historically, Native communities have had difficulty accessing many competitive tax credits, such as the New Markets Tax Credit. I plan to work with AFN and NCAI on legislative changes to help Native applicants. Increasing access to capital for projects in Native communities is also critical. This Congress, I secured appropriations language that waives match requirements for Native applicants to participate in the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund. Native CDFIs support businesses, create jobs, finance affordable housing, and generate economic activity in areas which are often overlooked by conventional financial institutions. I also plan to develop legislation that would create economic “empowerment zones,” granting tax exemptions for companies to partner with tribes and ANCs and bringing collaborative business ventures to Native communities.

LINDBECK: I support modifications to the New Markets Tax Credit Program (NMTC), a key public-private partnership program, to increase the benefit in Alaska. I support tax incentives including allocating at least \$50 million to Alaska each year through NMTC, listing of Alaska as an under-served state, exempting Alaska from 24-month look-back period, designating rural hub communities as eligible under the census tract qualification, and amending the eligibility criteria to exclude transient residency from skewing the income data.

The cost of energy in rural Alaska hinders economic development and is an immense burden for individuals. What measure will you take to lower the cost of energy in rural Alaska? Where does this fit in your priorities for the first 100 days?

YOUNG: Unfortunately, most areas in rural Alaska are still powered primarily by diesel, and this must change. I have and continue to advocate for a diversified energy portfolio in Alaska, which can be seen in the form of wind and geothermal in places like Bristol Bay and the Aleutians, tremendous hydropower in Southeast, and natural gas in South Central. This Congress, I was selected to serve on the House and Senate Energy Conference in order to produce the first comprehensive energy package in nearly a decade. In addition to including my Native American Energy Act, which works resolve longstanding resource and economic development issues for tribes, the bill contains important language to support micro-grid technologies for rural communities and recognition of hydro power as renewable resource.

LINDBECK: I support increased federal funding for renewable and alternative energy programs to enable rural communities to design and implement energy efficient solutions. I support establishing an alternative energy clearinghouse in the state of Alaska to share information on systems, effectiveness and other factors that are key to establishing alternative energy solutions in Alaska villages. I would also explore the feasibility of using federal lands to develop interties and renewable energy resources.

EDUCATION

In 2012-13, the 7th-12th grade dropout rate of Alaskan high school students was one of the highest in the nation. Rural Alaska Native students make up a larger population of that statistic than their urban counterparts. What will you do to enhance opportunities for Native students to be successful?

YOUNG: Alaska Native students face unique and burdensome socioeconomic and historic barriers to their educational success. Significant disparities exist between the academic achievement of Natives and their non-Native peers. For these reasons, I champion federal programs that support and fund culturally-based learning for Native students. These programs raise academic achievement across the board for Native students and promote the preservation of Native language and heritage. During the recent reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, I offered a successful amendment that protected and improved the Alaska Native education equity program (ANEP), which would have otherwise been cut entirely. In addition, based on input from AFN and Native leaders, I worked with the Delegation to ensure that Native entities are the sole lead grantees for...

The United States government has a trust responsibility to provide AI/AN students with quality education. Will you remove barriers and create opportunities for greater educational resources for Native students? Will you support greater STEM and technology programs for Alaska Natives? Where does this fit in your priorities for the first 100 days?

YOUNG: The federal government must do a better job of fulfilling its trust responsibility to provide quality education for Native students. Increasing Native students' access to excellent education professionals is key. This Congress, I introduced legislation to prevent harmful changes to university accreditation standards that can prevent Native students from becoming teachers. I also plan to introduce legislation during my first 100 days that helps Native teachers overcome student loan debt. Enhancing Native students' access to educational resources, particularly with regard to STEM, is also critical for increasing academic achievement. This Congress, I advanced legislation to improve Native workforce development and training programs. Next year as Congress takes up major reauthorizations, including the Higher Education Act, I will fight to expand...

LINDBECK: While education is primarily a state responsibility, the federal government can provide support, especially for Alaska Native students. There have been several federally-funded efforts to improve educational outcomes for Alaska Natives, especially through the Alaska Native Education Program. We must look at what's been learned from these efforts and determine whether there are promising approaches that necessitate greater investment. We also should consider different approaches from other local Indigenous initiatives. For example, ICC Alaska's implementation of the Alaskan Inuit Education Improvement Strategy shows promise. Finally, we should look to tribal schools in the lower 48 or the Hawaiian immersion schools to understand and incorporate strategies that may be effective in Alaska.

LINDBECK: I will absolutely hold the federal government to its obligations to Indigenous students and work to reduce barriers and create opportunities for Native Students. This includes re-examining the federal prohibition on Bureau of Indian Education funds coming to Alaska. I also know how important STEM education is to creating opportunities for Native students, and will strongly support Alaska Native educational priorities in Congress.

STATE RELATIONS & OTHER

How will you approach the beginning of the next administration? Will you work to advance individuals nominated by AFN to high level positions in the White House, Department of the Interior, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Energy and other federal agencies?

YOUNG: Regardless the outcome of the upcoming Presidential election, a new administration always presents opportunities to make progress. Outreach and education with the incoming administration can result in support for Alaska Native legislation that has previously lacked such support. The same can be said for issues that couldn't be resolved through Administrative action. I plan to work with the new administration aggressively on both fronts, as doing so can pave the path for successes down the road. As always, I will work with AFN, and groups such as NCAI, when identifying qualified individuals who make Alaska Natives and American Indians a priority. I will also fight to increase the standing within the administration of Native-focused positions, such as Assistant Secretary of Indian...

LINDBECK: A bipartisan delegation can be critically important to Alaska's influence in Washington, and I will work with a Republican or Democratic administration to advance Native priorities. I will actively support the appointment of individuals nominated by AFN to high-level positions in the White House and federal agencies.

Do you support the proposed Native Veteran Allotment Act? How soon can you get this passed in Congress?

YOUNG: As the original sponsor of the Alaska Native Veterans Land Allotment Equity Act, I have consistently fought to provide equitable treatment to Alaska Native Vietnam veterans who did not receive a satisfactory allotment of land as promised. The passage of ANCSA formally ended the process of land allotments to individual Alaska Natives, however many Alaska Natives were unable to apply for land allotments before the process ended because of their service to this nation. It's absolutely wrong to punish these Alaska Native veterans by denying them their allotment. Congress must once and for all rectify this inequity and fulfill its promises. This is not the first time I've introduced this legislation, but I certainly hope it will be the last.

LINDBECK: I support the Native Veteran Allotment Equity Act, and will be a strong advocate for the bill in Congress.

Will you advocate for the passage of the Voting Rights Advancement Act and provisions that specifically protect Alaska Native and other minority voters?

YOUNG: Yes, absolutely. I am committed to provisions and protections that allow all eligible Alaskans to vote. I support equal access to polling places, early voting everywhere, absentee voting and the right of Alaska Natives to vote or receive assistance in their own languages. I oppose voter ID laws and will fight for language in the new Voting Rights Act to name Alaska Natives as one of the groups that merit protection. Legislation proposed in the U.S. Senate (S. 1659) would require at least one in-person polling place in Indian communities/reservations. House Judiciary Committee Chair refuses to give the companion bill a hearing and Congressman Young has refused to even request a hearing.

LINDBECK: Congress must fight to protect the voting rights of all Americans. In the wake of the Supreme Court case *Shelby County, Alabama vs. Holder*, the House and Senate began considering a variety of proposals to improve the Voting Rights Act. As efforts continue on these proposals, I will work with my colleagues to support reforms that are effective at reducing voter discrimination and can also pass Constitutional muster with the courts. Such reforms must consider Alaska's unique circumstances and the barriers faced by our Native communities. In particular, Alaska Natives must have access to ballots in their language and reasonable access to polling places. Alaska Natives have a long, powerful history of fighting for voting rights, and these rights must not be undermined.

Do you agree that climate change exists and is a problem Americans and Alaskans need to address? What solutions, resources and programs do you propose the federal government should be providing to protect Alaska from the effects of climate change and to adapt for the future? Where does this fit in your priorities for the first 100 days?

YOUNG: I understand that Alaska is a focal point in the climate change discussion. Although I do not challenge that climate change is occurring, I believe we are still awaiting an answer as to what extent man-made emissions are responsible for the change. Further, I reject the idea that economy-killing regulations, which harm 21st century innovations necessary to adapt, will make meaningful impacts to the climate and global temperatures. I believe the U.S. should continue working to reduce emissions, but it must be done in a way that supports the opportunity for incremental improvements and technological innovations over time. America is what it is today because of such innovations, many of which were supported by federal R&D; not created by forced regulation.

LINDBECK: Climate change is real and Alaskans see its effects everywhere – coastal erosion that forces villages to move inland, melting permafrost that damages infrastructure, acidification that affects our fisheries, and on rivers where early melting of ice prevents safe travel between villages. Alaska's delegation must do far more to mitigate climate change effects, and include Alaska Natives in the planning of economic development, disaster preparedness, and renewable energy infrastructure projects. We must ensure that research includes traditional knowledge, and that tribes and tribal organizations are included in both climate change decisions and opportunities to participate in economic opportunities associated with climate change.

As you know, we are in a state fiscal crisis. The legislature did nothing this past legislative session to address the critical issues, such as the oil tax structure, the PFD, income tax, etc. We were warned that inaction would mean there will be no PFD in four years. What advice would you give to the State legislators?

YOUNG: There's no easy answer to our state's budget concerns. For years, I've said that Alaska must diversify its economy and search for new, alternative ways to support our people and communities for the long term. The choices being made today won't necessarily affect me, but will have huge impacts for

LINDBECK: State officials have the responsibility for solving this critical challenge. Alaskans are right to be frustrated by the lack of leadership from our state legislature, and is it important that we find a balanced solution that creates a stable economic future for our state.

future generations. Ultimately, the Governor and the State Legislature have a responsibility to find a path forward. In the meantime, I will continue to work on policies that empower the state and our people to decide their own future.

We have all been watching what is happening at Standing Rock. If this happened in Alaska, what would you do? What are your thoughts on the issues at Standing Rock, and what will you do, if anything?

YOUNG: I am angered and saddened by the violence directed at Natives who are at Standing Rock. The use of attack dogs and brutal tactics is unconscionable. I am dismayed at reports that sacred sites were targeted and destroyed after their locations were disclosed in court. These actions are profoundly disrespectful to Native peoples. With the ongoing debate and legal action regarding DAPL, an appropriate role for Congress is not yet clear. I do not believe a similar situation would arise in Alaska, particularly in terms of violence. I have faith that the people of Alaska would consider the costs and benefits of such a project and make decisions in a non-violent and respectful way, with Alaska Native stakeholders at the...

LINDBECK: Projects on tribal land should involve consultation with tribal leaders. From what I understand about Standing Rock, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers failed to adequately consult with tribal leaders. As Congressman, I will support a temporary halt to construction until these concerns are properly resolved.

PERSONAL

Who are the individuals who have the most influence on your current views on public service?

YOUNG: As your Representative, I have always prided myself in working on behalf of individuals, communities, municipalities and boroughs. I'm the first to acknowledge that without the thoughtful and compassionate leaders of our state – civic, tribal, and everyday citizens – many of Alaska's successes would not be reality today. One thing holds true, these individuals have a tireless passion, spirit and determination for doing what's best for Alaska. Although there are many individuals I work with and respect, particularly among the Alaska Native community, Nelson Angapak is a stunning example of public service and working on behalf of Alaskans. I am forever thankful for his service as a veteran, as an Alaska Native leader, and in our fight to rectify the inequity facing Alaska Native...

LINDBECK: Chief Peter John, Governor Jay Hammond, Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer, Vic Fischer, Arliss Sturgulewski, and Nelson Mandela.

If you could share one piece of advice to the next generation, what would it be?

YOUNG: As a former school teacher, I always cherished the opportunity to meet the next generation of Alaskan leaders. One piece of advice I often share with them is the importance of working hard and earning their success. In addition, I've always believed no matter your pursuit in life – be it a doctor, a lawyer, or school teacher – you should never overlook the great value of learning a trade, a craft or skill. As I say, 'If you learn to do something with your hands, you will always be successful.'

LINDBECK: Alaska has always been a place of tremendous opportunity for me. That started with my education. Working hard, studying, and listening to the wisdom of our community leaders and elders has always been a true source of inspiration for my generation – and for generations to come.

Alaska Federation of Natives
THANK YOU

Thank you to the AFN Media and Elections Committee for all of their hard work.

Richard Peterson, Chair

Grace Singh

Nancy Barnes

Marna Sanford

Sarah Obed

April Ferguson

Matthew Rexford

Cindy Allred

Elizabeth Medicine Crow



Alaska Federation of Natives

3000 A Street, Suite 210

Anchorage, AK 99503

www.nativefederation.org