

Alaska Federation of Natives

Statewide Briefing



Week of October 4-8, 2021

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Get Involved

Ensuring *all Alaskans* have the opportunity to be educated and engaged in the redistricting process.

Alaska Redistricting Board's Public Hearings Continue Across the State — Your Input Is Welcome

The Alaska Redistricting Board has adopted six draft plans, all of which propose new boundaries for the state's 40 legislative districts, based on 2020 census data. You are now invited to weigh in.

Alaskans who participate in the meetings will have an opportunity to speak directly with Board members and staff to learn about how their House and Senate districts may change.

In-Person

You can testify in-person at the beginning or end of any Alaska Redistricting Board meeting. To receive meeting notices, please visit www.akredistrict.org and click on the 'GET INVOLVED' tab.

By Telephone

You can also provide testimony by telephone by calling any one of the numbers listed below and asking the operator to patch you into the Alaska Redistricting Board meeting.

Anchorage: (907) 563-9085

Juneau: (907) 586-9085

Elsewhere: (844) 586-9085

Via Email

You can further comment via email on any geographic and socio-economic considerations you think the Alaska Redistricting Board should be aware of at testimony@akredistrict.org.

Live/Stream

If you would like to watch Alaska Redistricting Board meetings live, please visit www.akl.tv.

To learn more about the Alaska Redistricting Board, as well as its public meeting schedule, please visit www.akredistrict.org.

Public hearings have been planned in communities throughout the state.

Public Hearing in Kodiak

- The Board will be hosting an Open House on Friday, October 15 from 12:00pm - 2:00pm at the Afognak Building, [300 Alimaq Drive in Kodiak](#). Pending Public Notice

Public Hearing in Delta Junction

1. The Board will be hosting an Open House on Monday, October 18 from 12:00pm - 2:00pm at the Delta Community Center, [2287 Deborah Street in Delta Junction](#). Pending Public Notice

Public Hearing in Fairbanks

- The Board will be hosting an Open House on Monday, October 18 from 5:30 - 7:30pm at the Carlson Center Pioneer room, [2010 2nd Ave, Fairbanks](#). Pending Public Notice

Public Hearing in Bethel

- The Board will be hosting an Open House on Tuesday, October 19 from 4:00 - 6:00pm at the Yupiit Piciryarait Cultural Center, [420 Chief Eddie Hoffman Highway in Bethel](#). Pending Public Notice

Public Hearing: Statewide Dial-in

- The Board will be hosting a statewide dial-in public hearing on Wednesday, October 20 from 10am - 4pm. Dial toll-free statewide: 844-586-9085, from Juneau: 586-9085, from Anchorage: 563-9085 Pending Public Notice

Public Hearing in Dillingham

- The Board will be hosting an Open House on Thursday, October 21 from 12:00pm - 2:00pm at the City Chambers, [141 Main Street, Dillingham](#). Pending Public Notice

Public Hearing in Dutch Harbor

- The Board will be hosting an Open House on Friday, October 22 from 4pm - 6pm at the Grand Aleutian Hotel, [498 Salmon Way, Dutch Harbor](#). Pending Public Notice

Public Hearing in Palmer

- The Board will be hosting an Open House on Monday, October 25 from 6pm - 8pm at the Matsu Borough Assembly Chambers, [350 E. Dahlia Avenue in Palmer](#). Pending Public Notice

Public Hearing in Wasilla

- The Board will be hosting an Open House on Tuesday, October 26 from 6pm - 8pm at the Menard Center, [1001 S. Clapp St in Wasilla](#). Pending Public Notice

Public Hearing in Anchorage

- The Board will be hosting an Open House on Wednesday, October 27 from 5pm - 7pm at the Lakefront Hotel, [4800 Spenard Road, Anchorage](#). Pending Public Notice

Public Hearing in Utqiagvik

- The Board will be hosting an Open House on Thursday, October 28 from 4:30 - 6:30pm at the North Slope Borough Building Assembly Chambers, [1274 Agvik Street, Barrow](#). Pending Public Notice

Public Hearing: Statewide Dial-in

- The Board will be hosting a statewide dial-in public hearing on Saturday, October 30 from 10am - 4pm. Dial toll-free statewide: 844-586-9085, from Juneau: 586-9085, from Anchorage: 563-9085 Pending Public Notice

Public Hearing in Cordova

- The Board will be hosting an Open House on Monday, November 1 from 4pm - 6pm at the Cordova Center, 601 1st Street, Cordova. Pending Public Notice

AFN to Host High-Level Forum on October 19

You are invited to join us for our next forum, **Challenges at Our Northernmost Border: Leadership In Uncertain Times**, on October 19, 2021, which aims to take stock of Alaska's current COVID-19 pandemic situation as well as the rapid and continuing situational change, and to address the critical decisions before us.

The forum will include an assessment of the impact of COVID-19 and future scenarios, updates on pandemic projections, economic growth, virus variants and potential future mutations, and a discussion of how we ultimately will determine that the pandemic is over. Further focus on what comes next will be a major theme of the forum, as will how and why leadership matters. Can we flatten the curve by working together?

Please click [HERE](#) to download the forum abstract.

When: October 19, 2021 (Virtual)

Time: 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (AKST)

Honorary Hosts:

U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski
U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan
U.S. Congressman Don Young
Governor Mike Dunleavy

Special Guest Speakers:

Lieutenant General David Krumm, Commander, Alaskan NORAD Region, Alaskan Command, and Eleventh AF
Rodger Baker, Senior Vice President, Strategic Analysis, Stratfor
Dr. Jay Butler, Deputy Director, Deputy Director for Infectious Diseases, Center for Disease Control
Vivian Korthius, President, Association of Village Council Presidents
Col. Damon Delarosa, US Army Corps of Engineers
Hugh Short, PT Capital

[Click here for more information and to register online.](#)

Please note that the AFN Forum is closed to the media. Members of the press should contact [AFN Director of Communications Jeff Silverman](#) with questions.

The White House and the National Security Council will host a tribal consultation on tribal and Arctic strategy on October 19 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Alaska Time, immediately prior to AFN's forum. More information on how to sign up for the White House consultation will be emailed to AFN members and tribal leaders. The White House will hold a similar consultation for Alaska Native corporation on October 21, 2021.

White House Announces Tribal Consultations on America the Beautiful Initiative

The White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is holding two tribal consultations to garner input on the America the Beautiful initiative, particularly the focus area of supporting tribally led conservation and restoration priorities.

The Secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture, and Commerce, and the Chair of the CEQ issued the [Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful Report](#) on May 6, 2021. The report provides a framework for how the U.S. can achieve national conservation goals, including conserving at least 30 percent of U.S. lands and waters by 2030. The report notes difficulty for Native communities to access federal funding and assistance to support conservation efforts and calls for improved engagement with American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians on the care and management of public lands and waters, particularly regarding sacred and ceremonial sites, and trust and treaty rights.

Click [HERE](#) to read the 'Dear Tribal Leader Letter' for more information and specific questions CEQ is putting forward to garner input from Native communities. Below are the times and instructions for the two consultation sessions.

Tribal Consultation Option 1:

October 26, 2021

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m (EAT)

Click [HERE](#) to register in advance

Tribal Consultation Option 2:

October 28, 2021

3:00 - 5:30 p.m. (EST)

Click [HERE](#) to register in advance

In addition to or, instead of joining these sessions, you may provide your written input to conservation@ceq.eop.gov by November 23rd, 2021. If you have any questions regarding this effort,

please feel free to contact Stephenne Harding, Senior Director of Lands, at Stephenne.S.Harding@ceq.eop.gov, or at (202) 881-9419.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Widespread Virus Transmission Continues Across Alaska While Case Count Levels Off Slightly

By the end of the week of October 4-8, Alaska's daily COVID-19 case counts appeared to be slightly leveling off from prior weeks of steady case increases, according to the *Anchorage Daily News*. However, case counts remain far above last winter's peak, and on Friday, the number of COVID-positive patients hospitalized rose slightly while the state's percentage of positive tests hit an all-time high.

State health officials said this week that they were cautiously optimistic about the latest virus data trends, but there's still widespread virus transmission in the state and the pandemic is far from over.

By Friday, Alaska's average test positivity rate over the last week had reached a record high of 10.12%. That means about one in 10 COVID-19 tests performed came back positive. Epidemiologists say a rate above 5% can indicate widespread transmission in the community and a need for more testing.

Vaccine Doses Given	Current Hospitalizations	Total Resident Cases	Total Resident Deaths
760,811	186	116,367	570

Alaska Dept. of Health and Social Services COVID Data Hub

For up-to-date information, visit the [State of Alaska's COVID-19 page](#). You can download the Alaska Department of Health and Human Services "Reasons to Get Vaccinated Flyer" by clicking [here](#).



Getting vaccinated remains the best defense against serious illness and death, health authorities say. The July report found unvaccinated Alaskans were 7 1/2 times as likely to be hospitalized as vaccinated people.

Misinformation about vaccinations and how well they work and the downplaying of the seriousness of COVID-19 continues to be a big factor in why so many Alaskans remain unvaccinated. There is a lot of misinformation out there, particularly on social media. Click [here](#) for CDC's helpful page for [mythbusting](#). For facts, guidance, and data at the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services' main COVID page, click [here](#).

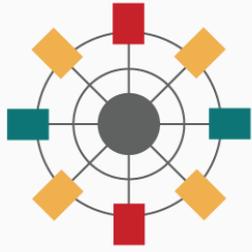
YOU CAN TAKE ACTION – Choosing to get vaccinated is the single most important action you can take to protect yourself and your community and to reopen our economy. Check with your local health care provider to get the facts about vaccines, wearing masks and protecting your families. If you haven't been vaccinated yet, [find a vaccine](#).

For more information about vaccines, visit covidvax.alaska.gov.

CDC's new guidelines on safer activities for you and your family:

- [If you are fully vaccinated](#), you can participate in many of the activities that you did before the pandemic.
- To maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an [area of substantial or high transmission](#).
- Wearing a mask is most important if you have a weakened immune system or if, because of your age or an underlying medical condition, you are at [increased risk for severe disease](#), or if someone in your household has a weakened immune system, is at increased risk for severe disease, or is unvaccinated. If this applies to you or your household, you might choose to wear a mask regardless of the level of transmission in your area.
- You should continue to wear a mask where required by laws, rules, regulations, or local guidance.
- Learn more about the CDC's recommendations for fully vaccinated people at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html.

Biomedical visualization studio Visual Science has created the most detailed and scientifically accurate 3D model of the SARS-CoV-2 virus at atomic resolution. The model is based on the latest scientific research into the structure of coronaviruses, as well as input from expert virologists involved in the research. This is the most accurate model of the SARS-CoV-2 viral particle currently available. To produce it, Visual Science employed the same techniques of structural bioinformatics used in basic research and drug development. <https://visual-science.com/projects/sars-cov-2/animation/>



AFN Navigator Program

*Helping Alaska
Natives stop COVID
and secure resources.*

AFN Navigator Program Trainings, Events & Workshops

Click [HERE](#) for a list of upcoming AFN Navigator events, workshops, and trainings.

AFN Meeting Schedule

AFN Quarterly Board Meeting — Friday, October 15

Board will decide whether to hold a virtual or in-person 2021 Convention

AFN Forum : Northernmost Border: Leadership in Uncertain Times — Tuesday, October 19

AFN Annual Convention — December 13-15, 2021