



CENTRAL COUNCIL  
*Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska*  
Office of the President • Edward K. Thomas Building  
9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

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Executive Council of the Central Council  
TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA

Resolution EC 21-01

Title: Opposition to SB 39 and the Erosion of Voting Access

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 32,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, under Article X of the Tlingit & Haida Constitution, the Executive Council is the governing body of Tlingit & Haida when the Tribal Assembly is not in session; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Assembly is not in session; and

WHEREAS, every eligible Alaskan citizen has a fundamental right to vote; and

WHEREAS, on November 8, 2016, Alaskan's overwhelmingly voted to make voting easier and clear unwarranted hurdles to access to our most basic right through the Automatic Voter Registration ballot initiative; and

WHEREAS, since becoming law the "PFD Automatic Voter Registration" allows simultaneous voter registration when an eligible citizen applies for the yearly PFD unless a citizen opts out; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Division of Elections estimated that approximately 70,000 eligible Alaska citizens have become new, registered voters within the first year of passage; and

WHEREAS, the PFD Division already uses comprehensive fraud detection analysis and would prevent voter registration fraud, allowing Alaska to have the most accurate voter database in the nation; and

WHEREAS, a PEW Foundation study demonstrated that processing electronic registrations cost ten times less than paper processing; and

WHEREAS, Rural Alaska uses vote-by-mail for Rural Educational Attendance Area (REAA) elections to ensure a robust voter turn-out; and

WHEREAS, in 2020 the number of Alaskans that took advantage of our ability to vote-by-mail increased voter turnout by almost 10%; and

WHEREAS, efforts to increase Alaskans ability to vote in any secure way possible, should be increased, not decreased; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 39 is a bill that seeks to undo the clear directive of Alaska's voters by eliminating both Automatic Voter Registration and limit the ability to vote-by-mail;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Council of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska hereby strongly opposes Senate Bill 39 and any attempts at erode access to voting.

ADOPTED this 29<sup>th</sup> day of January 2021, by the Executive Council of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, by a vote of 4 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions and 2 absences.

**CERTIFY**

  
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President Richard J. Peterson

**ATTEST**

  
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Tribal Secretary Ralph Wolfe