



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

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

Resolution EC 22-48

Title: Opposition to an Alaska State Constitutional Convention

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 34,000 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, the Alaska Lieutenant Governor is required to put before the voters' ballot question: "Shall there be a constitutional convention?" if a convention has not been called within the last 10 years, and this question will appear on the November 8, 2022 ballot; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's Constitution was ratified in 1956; it is a short, elegant, document that provides freedoms and rights unique to Alaska and has served the people of Alaska well and is often referenced as a model constitution that has been a stabilizing guide through turbulent times; and

WHEREAS, Alaskans have consistently voted against a constitutional convention and, instead, have opted for the more targeted, transparent constitutional amendment process for change; and

WHEREAS, a constitutional convention could open up the entire constitution for revision; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's economic future could be destabilized, with economic, legal, and regulatory uncertainty stymieing future investment; and further taxes, environmental regulations, education, and more would be potential subjects for revision, with approval of any changes proposed only final after a multi-year process; and

WHEREAS, there are many potential risks for Southeast Alaska communities under a constitutional convention, including the ferry system, fishing access and management, hunting rights, subsistence, mineral and water rights, Power Cost Equalization, rural education funding, and government services to the region's rural areas, which could jeopardized; and

WHEREAS, reassessing Alaska's constitution could fundamentally endanger the rights of all Alaskans and pose specific threats to the recognition of tribal sovereignty, only so recently achieved under state law;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Council of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska hereby opposes an Alaska State Constitutional Convention.

ADOPTED this 23rd day of September 2022, by the Executive Council of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, by a vote of 5 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions and 1 absence.

CERTIFY



President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST



Tribal Secretary Jacqueline L. Pata