CENTRAL COUNCIL OF THE TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
Ninety-First Annual Tribal Assembly
September 23-25, 2026
Juneau, AK

Resolution TA 26-41

Title: Directing the Development of Legislation Establishing an Independent Ethics Advisory Board

By: Seattle Tlingit & Haida Community Council

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 38,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida is committed to maintaining the highest standards of integrity, accountability, transparency, and public trust in Tribal government; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Assembly continually seeks to strengthen the institutions of Tribal government by promoting ethical leadership, transparency, accountability, and public confidence, and recognizes that independent ethics advisory bodies can provide guidance, education, and recommendations that improve governance and reinforce the Tribe's commitment to integrity; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Assembly recognizes that public confidence in Tribal government is strengthened when ethics matters involving elected officials are reviewed through processes that are independent, impartial, transparent, and respectful of the rights of all parties involved; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Assembly recognizes that elected officials are entrusted with significant responsibilities on behalf of Tribal citizens and should be held to clear ethical standards while also receiving fair, impartial, and consistent due process when allegations of misconduct arise; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Assembly recognizes the important roles of the Human Resources Department, the President, and the Executive Council in addressing matters involving elected officials, ethics, governance, and personnel responsibilities, and further recognizes that an independent advisory process may complement those existing responsibilities by providing independent findings and recommendations regarding ethical matters involving elected officials while preserving the constitutional authority of existing Tribal governmental bodies; and

WHEREAS, an Ethics Advisory Board could enhance confidence in Tribal government by providing independent review of ethics complaints involving elected officials and issuing written findings and recommendations while remaining advisory in nature; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of such a Board requires careful consideration of the Tribe's Constitution, Tribal statutes, Standing Rules of Order, personnel policies, confidentiality requirements, due process protections, and the respective authorities of the President, Executive Council, Tribal Assembly, Human Resources Department, and Tribal Judiciary; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Assembly finds that the development of a comprehensive legal framework, through consultation with Tribal leadership, legal counsel, Human Resources, and other stakeholders, is in the best interests of the Tribe before establishing an Ethics Advisory Board;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ninety-First Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, convened September 23–25, 2026, authorizes the Executive Council to appoint and convene an ad hoc Ethics Advisory Board Committee to develop proposed governing documents establishing an Ethics Advisory Board, including procedures for reviewing ethics complaints involving elected officials and issuing written findings and non-binding recommendations for consideration by the Tribal Assembly at its 2027 Annual Assembly; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ad hoc Ethics Advisory Board Committee may include presentations by subject matter experts with expertise or experience in Tribal governance, legal affairs, human resources, ethics, personnel administration, dispute resolution, or public administration whose experience would contribute to the development of a fair and effective ethics framework;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ad hoc Ethics Advisory Board Committee shall consult with appropriate Tribal departments and officials, including the Human Resources Department, Tribal legal counsel, the Office of the President, members of the Executive Council, and other stakeholders as appropriate, to ensure that the proposed legislation is consistent with the Tribe's Constitution and governing laws;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ad hoc Ethics Advisory Board Committee shall develop a draft of the proposed governing documents and conduct a public comment period to solicit input from Tribal citizens, Delegates, Community Councils, and other relevant stakeholders prior to submitting its recommendations to the Executive Council for consideration and presentation to the 2027 Tribal Assembly;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Executive Council shall present to the 2027 Tribal Assembly:

- A proposed ordinance establishing the Ethics Advisory Board;
- Recommended amendments to any governing documents necessary to implement the Board;
- A fiscal impact analysis;
- An implementation plan.

ADOPTED this 25th day of September 2026, by the Ninety-First Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

CERTIFY

President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST

Tribal Secretary Michelle D. Martin