



**Alaska Native Brotherhood & Alaska Native
Sisterhood
Grand Camp**



RESOLUTION NO. # 13-26

Title – Voting Rights in Alaska needs U.S. Department of Justice Vigilance

WHEREAS, voting is a fundamental right and one of the greatest privilege of living in a democracy, a privilege for which our ancestors fought hard and shed blood, whose efforts should not be wasted; and

WHEREAS, voting is a responsibility of the citizens of a free nation to keep the government being run by appropriate people by choosing representatives for the people and holding them accountable for the nation's development; and

WHEREAS, a single vote can make the difference in an election and each vote should count and not abridged by incumbent representatives or political parties; and

WHEREAS, accurate and active voting furthers the mission of the ANB and ANS to better the lives of Native people and their families; and to fight for civil rights and land rights for all Native people; and

WHEREAS, the right and privilege to vote can only be exercised by those who are qualified and have registered to vote in accordance to laws and procedures that do not discriminate (e.g. voter ID and composition of districts); and

WHEREAS, Supreme Court Chief Justice announced in a recent decision that a key protection in the Voting Rights Act (Justice Department pre-clearance as it relates to Alaska) is no longer needed as circumstance which existed 50 years ago no longer exist; and,

WHEREAS, discrimination involving state government action and inaction continues to be present and representatives of the State of Alaska include fewer Native representatives and evidence of laws disproportionately impacting Native votes in evident through the recently proposed voter ID laws and redistricting proposals; education proposals, law enforcement and availability of energy and transportation opportunities; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Alaska Native Brotherhood and Sisterhood Grand Camp meeting at Yakutat, Alaska, October 9-11, 2013, that the opportunity to register to vote must never be passed up and that members and Local Camps are encouraged to exercise the right and privilege to vote in every election and be it

FINALLY RESOLVED THAT the President of the United States receive a copy of this resolution and be encouraged through the Justice Department to maintain vigilance of changes enacted by the State of Alaska as to voter ID laws proposed and the composition of election districts throughout the State.

ANB Grand President

ANS Grand President

ATTEST: I certify that this resolution was adopted by the ANB/ANS Grand Camp in convention at Yakutat, Alaska, during the week of October 8 through 11, 2013.

ANB Grand Secretary