



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 25, 2020

**Contact:**

Kelsey Wallace,  
NPA Communications Director  
(907) 799-6149

[kelsey@nativepeoplesaction.org](mailto:kelsey@nativepeoplesaction.org)

**NATIVE PEOPLES ACTION ANNOUNCES 2020 FEDERAL AND STATE CANDIDATE  
ENDORSEMENTS**

*NPA works with individuals and organizations who will support and assist in our mission and goals for our people, communities and ways of life.*

(Anchorage, AK) - Native Peoples Action (NPA) strives to provide Alaska Native peoples and communities with a voice at all levels of policy making. We are dedicated to building capacity and empowering our peoples and communities to demand that political candidates, proposed policies and land management align and connect with Alaska Native traditional values. NPA Board, steering committee and staff are composed of Alaska Native policy experts, educators, activists, parents, Tribal leaders, and artists who have come together to address the ongoing strengths and challenges faced by Alaska Native Peoples and align politics with our values.

Native Peoples Action is dedicated to uplifting Alaska Native people and traditional ways of life by taking a stand, working together, and mobilizing action, as articulated in our guiding principles, outlined below.

***We Take a Stand.*** An equitable society and governance structures will be achieved when Indigenous values and peoples are in positions of decision- and policy-making authority in Alaska. Systems, laws, and regulations must align with our ways of life.

***We Work Together.*** We stand united to strengthen networks, find common ground, and advocate for the wellness of our peoples and the sustainability of our communities and ways of life.

***We Mobilize Action.*** We aim to amplify our peoples' power and voices to engage in and transform social and political systems.

*“As an Alaska Native person, I want to see candidates elected into office that genuinely care for our peoples and communities and align with our traditional Alaska Native values. I am also deeply concerned about issues such as the reality of climate change and the state of our Alaskan economy; those two issues are not separate in my mind and I want to see political candidates elected into office who understand that and have a vision and plan for a*

*Just Transition rooted in Indigenous knowledge and ways of life.” - Dr. Jessica Black, NPA Board Member*

As an organization, aligned with our operating principles and forward thinking for present and future generations, NPA works in collaboration with individuals and organizations who support and assist in achieving our mission goals. With great intention and care, Native Peoples Action evaluated each candidate who submitted a questionnaire and indicated they were interested in our formal endorsement. In addition to a comprehensive questionnaire, we researched and reviewed public information including websites, voting records and personal statements.

NPA evaluated each candidate on their commitment to support the following: our traditional ways of life, specific policies on protecting and fixing laws related to hunting and fishing rights, protecting access to voting for all Alaskans, their dedication to ensuring public safety for rural Alaska, implementing intentional and mandatory Tribal consultations when projects are being considered, candidate alignment with a Just Transition and climate policy as aligned with NPA values, stances on progressing policies to address the high energy costs in Tribal communities, increasing services for Elder care and strengthening educational success pre-K through postsecondary education.

*“Now more than ever, we need to elect officials who will work with Tribal communities and leaders in a meaningful and prioritized manner. We need elected representatives who will actively seek solutions to ensure Indigenous ways of life are protected, create budgets and policies that will invest in our future generations, care for our families in tangible and authentic ways and sincerely put people first. We need representatives who will work together and in partnership with our communities to create the best solutions for all Alaskans.” - Kendra Kloster, NPA Executive Director*

Based on evaluation of the received candidate questionnaire, extensive research, interviews, and internal review of each candidate, Native Peoples Action endorses the following candidates on the November general elections for the Alaska State House, Alaska State Senate, United States House of Representatives and United States Senate.

### **NPA Alaska State House Endorsements**

House District 1 - Christopher Quist  
House District 2 - Jeremiah Youmans  
House District 4 - Grier Hopkins  
House District 6 - Julia Hnilicka  
House District 10 - Monica Stein-Olson  
House District 13 - James “Jim” Canitz Sr  
House District 14 - Mike Risinger  
House District 15 - Lyn Franks  
House District 16 - Ivy Spohnholz  
House District 17 - Andy Josephson

House District 18 - Harriet Drummond  
House District 19 - Geran Tarr  
House District 20 - Zack Fields  
House District 21 - Matt Claman  
House District 22 - Stephen Trimble  
House District 23 - Chris Tuck  
House District 25 - Calvin Schrage  
House District 27 - Liz Snyder  
House District 28 - Suzanne LaFrance  
House District 34 - Andi Story  
House District 35 - Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins  
House District 36 - Dan Ortiz  
House District 38 - Tiffany Zulkosky  
House District 40 - Elizabeth Ferguson

**NPA Alaska State Senate Endorsements**

Senate District B - Marna Sandford  
Senate District D - Dan Mayfield  
Senate District H - Bill Wielechowski  
Senate District J - Tom Begich  
Senate District M - Andy Holleman  
Senate District N - Carl Johnson

**NPA Federal Senate and Representative Endorsements**

United States Senate - Dr. Al Gross  
United States House of Representatives - Alyse Galvin

Paid for by Native Peoples Action, Inc., PO Box 210914, Anchorage, AK 99521. This message is approved by Kendra Kloster, Executive Director. This Notice to Voters is required by Alaska law. We certify this literature is not authorized, paid for, or approved by any candidate.

###