



A Resolution that the Alaska Democratic Party work with Defend Our Constitution and other like-minded organizations to educate voters regarding the risks inherent in the convening of a constitutional convention

**The following resolution was proposed by the Tongass Democrats and adopted by unanimous consent at the Alaska Democratic Party State State Convention in Seward, Alaska
May 7, 2022**

Whereas, The Constitution of the State of Alaska was ratified on April 4, 1956 and took effect with Alaska's admission to the United States as a U.S. state on January 3, 1959; and

Whereas, Article XIII, Sec. 1 provides that amendments may be proposed by a two-thirds vote of each house of the legislature and placed on the ballot for the next general election. If a majority of the votes cast on the proposition favor the amendment, it is adopted; and

Whereas, pursuant to Art. XIII, Sec. 1, the legislature has proposed 40 amendments since statehood, 28 of which have been approved by the voters; and

Whereas, Art. XIII, sec. 3 authorizes the convening of a constitutional convention. If during any ten-year period a constitutional convention has not been held, the lieutenant governor is required to place on the ballot for the next general election the question: "Shall there be a Constitutional Convention?" and if a majority of the votes cast are in the affirmative, delegates to the convention are to be chosen at the next regular statewide election, unless the legislature provides for the election of the delegates at a special election; and

Whereas, The proposition to convene a constitutional convention has appeared on Alaska's ballots in 1970, 1972, 1982, 1992, 2002 and 2012. The 1970 measure narrowly passed, but was rejected by the Alaska Supreme Court as deceptively worded. For that reason, it was placed on the 1972 general election ballot (and every subsequent 10 years). With the exception of 1970, voters have soundly defeated the ballot measure each time it has been presented to them; and

Whereas, If the ballot measure for a constitutional convention passes, it will be up to the legislature to establish the basic contours: when and where the convention should convene and for how long, how the delegates will be selected (special or general election), and how many. However, the legislature has no authority to limit the topics that the delegates may consider for

revision, or elimination. It will only be limited by the creativity of the delegates who are elected and certified; and

Whereas, Constitutional convention advocates such as the Alaska Family Council and the Alaska Independence Party have proposed fundamental realignment of civil rights and dramatic restructuring measures;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Democratic Party urge all Alaska voters to vote NO on whether a constitutional convention should be convened; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Democratic Party work with Defend Our Constitution and other like-minded organizations to educate voters regarding the risks inherent in the convening of a constitutional convention.