



CENTRAL COUNCIL

*Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska*

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Tribe Declares Endorsement of Alaska First Unity Ticket



R-L: Bill Walker, President Richard Peterson,  
and Byron Mallott

President Richard Peterson announced the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska's (Tribe) endorsement of Bill Walker for Governor and Byron Mallott for Lieutenant Governor last Friday during a meet and greet with tribal citizens. This is one of the very few times in the Tribe's history where it has unanimously endorsed a gubernatorial candidate.

The Tribe's Executive Council passed a resolution in April endorsing Mallott as candidate for Governor. However, they had not formalized their position after Mallott withdrew as Democratic Party candidate for Governor to form the Alaska First Unity ticket with independent candidate for Governor Bill Walker.

The bipartisan Unity ticket appeals to many Alaska Native voters with Walker and Mallott's established positions on important Alaska Native issues such as tribal sovereignty, subsistence, and voting rights. Walker and Mallott have also identified high cost of energy and education as priorities which are both issues extremely important to Alaska Native communities. "The Unity ticket's position is in line with our tribal values and will give Alaska tribes the best opportunity to advance ourselves for the benefit of our people and villages," said President Peterson.

"Everything in my life has been formed by who I am as an Alaska Native person," said running mate and Lieutenant Governor candidate Mallott.

Addressing President Peterson on his position with regard to the State of Alaska suing Tribes over issues relating to tribal sovereignty, Walker said, "This administration will work with tribes, not against tribes."

Walker is a lifelong Alaskan who was born in Fairbanks and lived in Valdez for 30 years where he served as mayor. He has practiced law for over 25 years for the law firm of Walker & Richards, LLC, in Anchorage. In 2010, he ran for Governor and came in second to Governor Parnell in a statewide primary with 33 percent of the vote.

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