



**2024 Annual Convention
Ridgefield, Washington**

RESOLUTION #2024 – 41

**“SUPPORT FOR RANKED CHOICE VOTING AND OREGON BALLOT
MEASURE 117”**

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties, Executive Orders and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are representatives of and advocates for natural, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and Tribes in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of ATNI; and

WHEREAS, reforms to local, state, and federal electoral systems should work to address the disenfranchisement of Tribal Communities, are time tested and proven to work, minimize strategic voting, and allow voters to express their preferences and values; and

WHEREAS, the Congressional report “Voting for Native Peoples: Barriers and Policy Solutions,” released in July of this year by the Committee on House Administration, U.S. House

of Representatives, highlights the use of at-large electoral districts to put up barriers to political participation for Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, ranked choice voting is a proven voting system used in over 50 jurisdictions around the United States, including Benton and Multnomah Counties in Oregon, and statewide in Alaska and Maine; ranked choice voting allows voters to vote their values and preferences, has led to the election of more people of color, and has improved the voting experience; and

WHEREAS, multi-winner ranked choice voting, also known as proportional ranked choice voting, is an effective remedy to replace the at-large electoral districts often used as barriers to Native voters; and

WHEREAS, Measure 117, a statewide measure that will be on Oregon’s general election ballot in November 2024 would call for single winner federal and statewide elections to use ranked choice voting; and

WHEREAS, Measure 117, if passed, would call for the Oregon Secretary of State to give formal guidance to local governments that wish to implement multi-winner ranked choice voting; and

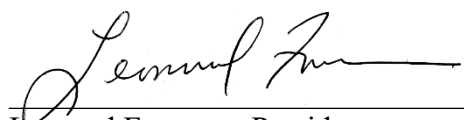
WHEREAS, if our Tribes and tribal voters can engage fully in the political system—free from the barriers that currently obstruct us—we can reclaim power and participate in a way that is fair and just; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI supports Oregon Ballot Measure 117, which would change Oregon’s voting method for federal and statewide positions to ranked choice voting and require the Oregon Secretary of State to give formal guidance to local governments that choose to change their multi-winner districts to ranked choice voting; and

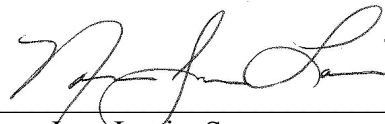
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of ATNI until it is withdrawn or modified by a subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2024 Annual Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest Indians, held at ilani Casino Resort, Ridgefield, Washington on September 29 – October 3, 2024 with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary