

Resolutions produced by the 2021 Conference of Young Alaskans

The mission of the Conference of Young Alaskans (COYA) is to connect young Alaskans to a rich history, a vibrant present and a thriving future. Framed by historic and current lessons, young Alaskan leaders apply their knowledge and creativity to visions, goals and proposed actions for the state and its people.

Representing a diverse array of communities, delegates deliberated on themes impacting Alaska's local governments. COYA delegates develop respect for Alaska's past and present leaders, discover insights into the challenges facing the diverse regions of Alaska and find inspiration for making a difference in our State's future through a municipal-focused lens.

This year, COYA was convened in Fairbanks. COYA delegates deliberated on and worked together to formulate proposed actions for Alaska's local governments.

The outcomes of this process are a series of resolutions that were developed by COYA delegates in small groups, each of whom developed a vision and goal statement, and then corresponding resolutions. Resolutions were voted upon by COYA delegates and presented to the Alaska Conference of Mayors.

Action proposed to the AML membership does not endorse the content herein.

Conference of Young Alaskans

Resolution 2021-01

Sustainability of Communities

Calling for strengthened local food economies and encouraging local food production and sustainable harvesting.

WHEREAS, by 2038, we envision an Alaska where environmental and public health, creativity, and intergenerational resilience are perpetually fostered within communities and supported by local and tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, many Alaskans in both urban and rural Alaska do not have access to healthy, affordable, and adequate food; and

WHEREAS, Alaskans have always depended on local foods, especially those from the land, though today a substantial portion of food consumed is not produced within the state; and

WHEREAS, access to quality and affordable local foods improves public health and increases the resilience of remote communities in the face of intensifying climate disruption; and

WHEREAS, growing local food economies depend on the place-based guidance and support of local governments; and

WHEREAS, the small businesses generated by stronger local food economies spend more of their revenue in their home community, generating stronger, more distributed economic activity than the status quo; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that local food economies throughout Alaska will be strongly supported by local governments based on subsistence, cultural, and historic connection to place; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that more than half of food consumption will be locally grown or harvested.

Conference of Young Alaskans

Resolution 2021-02

Sustainability of Communities

Encouraging access to community programs that support public health and intergenerational resilience.

WHEREAS, by 2038, we envision an Alaska where environmental and public health, creativity, and intergenerational resilience are perpetually fostered within communities and supported by local and tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, communities in Alaska will have the resources needed to strengthen their resilience, improve their wellbeing, and plan more effectively for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Natives have faced numerous historical traumas that are intergenerationally woven into their communities and could benefit from healing support from local governments; and

WHEREAS, public health research shows that traditional knowledge sharing and community spaces greatly contribute to individual resilience and broader public health; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's local governments have an obligation to ensure the safety and wellbeing of their residents; and

WHEREAS, failing to prevent the cycle of historical and generational traumas will perpetuate harm in Alaska communities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Alaskans will have access to community programs that support public health and intergenerational resilience that is in partnership with local governments.

Conference of Young Alaskans

Resolution 2021-03

Sustainability of Communities

Recommending that local governments should improve public participation and cooperation with tribal governments and provide leadership in solution to address social and environmental crises.

WHEREAS, by 2038, we envision an Alaska where environmental and public health, creativity, and intergenerational resilience are perpetually fostered within communities and supported by local and tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the unique challenges that Alaska's communities face necessitate new and creative approaches to address issues, large and small; and

WHEREAS, the involvement of the public's voice in decision making processes in social and environmental areas can be strengthened, including by encouraging greater representation and inclusivity; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Natives have traditional knowledge of the landscape from thousands of years of experience that can lead communities to more successful outcomes in addressing crises; and

WHEREAS, the diversity of issues faced by Alaska's local governments requires a diverse toolset — a toolset that great public process and innovative solutions will help expand; and

WHEREAS, the consequences of failing to adequately address the environmental crises facing communities, like ocean acidification, coastal erosion, and growing wildfires are unacceptable.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that local governments in Alaska will greatly improve public participation and cooperation with tribal governments so that they can lead in creative solutions to social and environmental crises.

Conference of Young Alaskans

Resolution 2021-04

Public Safety

Encouraging a standardized preliminary training and education for all law enforcement and service providers.

WHEREAS, by 2038, we envision that public safety departments and services work together to promote an environment representative of the diverse communities and cultures across Alaska, ensure the safety and livelihood of all people, and adapt to and meet the needs of local communities; and

WHEREAS, current training for Village Police Safety Officers (VPSO) focuses on understanding of legal procedure and physical confrontation with use of force and weapons, which perpetuates harm to people and only addresses issues at the surface level; and

WHEREAS, training for these officers, and all officers, needs to include methods of de-escalation, anti-racism training, trauma-informed care and understanding consent; and this standardized but culturally responsive training will include firearms training for VPSOs at the caliber and level of any other officer within the state, and all officers will undergo the same basic training including special accommodations for service location; and

WHEREAS, special accommodation training is necessary for VPSO, borough, and municipal police officers based on service location receive training of local Indigenous culture and values, historical oppression, intergenerational trauma, and more, based on community input; and

WHEREAS, lack of training, funding, and resources for VPSOs have led to communities struggling to feel safe and receive justice, which allows crime to disrupt physical and mental safety throughout communities; and

WHEREAS, independent citizens review boards may be established in every community to influence and inform local government of people's concerns; and

WHEREAS, local governments would be responsible for enforcing training requirements and ensuring each region is assigned an officer with the necessary training to best serve that specific community.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that there shall be standardized preliminary training and education for all law enforcement and service providers that adapts to the needs of communities based on region and culture.

Conference of Young Alaskans

Resolution 2021-05

Public Safety

Improving access, outreach, and funding of public safety across all departments and services.

WHEREAS, by 2038, we envision that public safety departments and services work together to promote an environment representative of the diverse communities and cultures across Alaska, ensure the safety and livelihood of all people, and adapt to and meet the needs of local communities; and

WHEREAS, a dearth of accessible resources causes community members to result in unhealthy coping mechanisms; with more outreach to the community by public safety departments and services people are able to seek necessary help; and

WHEREAS, public safety departments and services will benefit from greater educational opportunities and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, the selection and hiring of officers should reflect the condition and expectations of the community; and

WHEREAS, local government should collaborate with local tribal governments and community leaders to seek out necessary funding to create the necessary programs to meet community needs such as Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit (MMIWG2S), mental health resources, substance abuse programs, etc.;

Whereas, the police department will be given separate branches to specifically address MMIWG2S cases and domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, local government will facilitate ways to include community concerns, feedback, and suggestions.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that local governments will improve access, outreach, and funding of public safety across all departments and services to meet and adapt to community needs

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Resolution 2021-06

Public Safety

Increasing accountability of all law enforcement entities.

WHEREAS, by 2038, we envision that public safety departments and services work together to promote an environment representative of the diverse communities and cultures across Alaska, ensure the safety and livelihood of all people, and adapt to and meet the needs of local communities; and

WHEREAS, department budgets should be accessible to the public so citizens are informed and aware of where their taxes are expended; and

WHEREAS, independent citizens review boards should be established in every community to influence and inform local government of people's concerns, which would ensure law enforcement receives the necessary funding to serve the community with accountability; and

WHEREAS, transparency is defined by the community, informed by public safety expertise, and enforced by local government; and

WHEREAS, the process of accountability for municipal police and village police officers is mandatory, evaluated by citizen review boards, and enforced by local government; and

WHEREAS, the local government will be held responsible for being more transparent, and will be responsible and report all major finances, and make them publicly accessible.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that local governments will increase their accountability of police and village police officers by expanding transparency and promoting a strong community voice.

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Resolution 2021-07

Diversity, Social Justice, and Equity

Expanding local government non-discrimination laws.

WHEREAS, by 2038, we envision a future in which Alaskans thrive in accessible, safe communities where we see ourselves in representative local governments and in education curricula that are rooted in Indigenous values and histories and reflect Alaskans of all races, genders, and abilities; and

WHEREAS, according to a Gallup study in 2021, 1 in 6 members of Generation Z (ages 19 to 24 in 2021) identify as LGBTQ+; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Bostock v. Clayton County* (2020) that employment discrimination against LGBT people is illegal under federal law; and

WHEREAS, according to the CDC, 1 in 4 Americans live with a disability; and

WHEREAS, the Americans with Disabilities Act (1990) prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, local ordinances are critical to bringing legal recourse closer to home, therefore making it more accessible to seek and receive justice; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has failed to pass legislation adding gender or sexual orientation to our existing non-discrimination laws, leaving LGBTQ+ Alaskans without legal protections at any level against discrimination in housing, banking, or public services.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that all local Alaska governments will have established or expanded local non-discrimination ordinances to include protections on the basis of gender, gender expression, sexuality, race, ethnicity, and disability.

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Resolution 2021-08

Diversity, Social Justice, and Equity

Implementation of culturally relevant and representative education curricula by local school boards.

WHEREAS, by 2038, we envision a future in which Alaskans thrive in accessible, safe communities where we see ourselves in representative local governments and in education curricula that are rooted in Indigenous values and histories and reflect Alaskans of all races, genders, and varied abilities; and

WHEREAS, a strong education system demonstrates that hard work and knowledge can be shared in ways that help Alaskans grow and develop; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Native histories should be included and well-represented in education and

WHEREAS, the local government operates and enforces state laws and raises money to pay for schools; and

WHEREAS, we hope to avoid Alaskans missing opportunities to better their lives through an education system have has been improved to reflect culturally relevant and representative curricula.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that local school boards will have implemented education curricula that is rooted in Indigenous values and histories and reflect Alaskans of all races, genders, and disabilities/abilities.

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Resolution 2021-09

Diversity, Social Justice, and Equity

Implementation of citizen review boards.

WHEREAS, by 2038, we envision a future in which Alaskans thrive in accessible, safe communities where we see ourselves in representative local governments and in education curricula that are rooted in Indigenous values and histories and reflect Alaskans of all races, genders, and varied abilities; and

WHEREAS, implementing a review board will give citizens a chance to review incidents independently from law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, communities including (but not limited to) Nome, Juneau, and Anchorage already have Public Safety Commissions; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement will have received appropriate training and will bear the liability of consequences of failure to follow said training; and

WHEREAS, local government will work together with their citizens to further ensure their safety.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that local Alaskan governments will have implemented citizen review boards to ensure that people of all genders, gender expressions, sexualities, races, ethnicities, trauma survivors, and varied abilities will be treated with respect by law enforcement.

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Resolution 2021-10

Education

Ensuring a quality, culturally competent, and trauma-informed Alaska Native history education for all students.

WHEREAS, by 2038, we envision a future for education in Alaska that curricula include accurate Alaska Native histories that are culturally competent and trauma-informed from pre-kindergarten through university; and

WHEREAS, current Alaskan education teaches history that inadequately highlights Alaska Native cultures and values; and

WHEREAS, schools do not have sufficient resources to incentivize teachers who represent Alaska's cultural diversity to pursue teaching or stay in the profession long-term; and

WHEREAS, schools do not have adequate resources to ensure quality education for students; and

WHEREAS, local governments should support school boards in securing diversified funding for culturally-competent and trauma-informed curricula at all education levels; and

WHEREAS, we envision an Alaska that acknowledges its past and educates youth on where they came from, and has the resources to do so.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that governments should provide all schools (pre-kindergarten through university) sufficient, reliable, and timely resources to ensure a quality, culturally competent, and trauma-informed Alaska Native history education for all students.

Conference of Young Alaskans

Resolution 2021-11

Education

Inspiring homegrown teachers to teach a quality, culturally competent, and trauma-informed Alaska Native history education for all students.

WHEREAS, by 2038, we envision a future for education in Alaska that curricula include accurate Alaska Native histories that are culturally competent and trauma-informed from pre-kindergarten through university; and

WHEREAS, youth are the foundation of our nation; and

WHEREAS, homegrown teachers are knowledgeable in what occurs within the communities they serve and create meaningful connections with their students; and

WHEREAS, most educators in Alaska are non-Alaska Native, though they often serve majority-Native communities; and

WHEREAS, local governments should support school boards in securing diversified funding for culturally-competent and trauma-informed curricula and educator training at all education levels; and

WHEREAS, we hope to diversify our curricula and educators' perspectives on Alaska Native history so that they are prepared to serve the full range of students they will see in Alaskan classrooms.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that educational systems in Alaska inspire homegrown teachers who represent the communities and values they serve and provide them culturally competent and trauma-informed training.

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Resolution 2021-12

Education

Teaching Alaska Native histories, cultures, and languages at all levels of school that feature accurate recollections by Alaska Native peoples.

WHEREAS, by 2038, we envision a future for education in Alaska that curricula include accurate Alaska Native histories that are culturally competent and trauma-informed from pre-kindergarten through university; and

WHEREAS, public schools in Alaska should teach accurate Alaska Native histories centering Native voices; and

WHEREAS, Alaskans must understand where historical traumas that they experience or may have caused come from; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Native peoples know their stories best, yet Alaska public-school curricula can better acknowledge this; and

WHEREAS, certain books that center the voices of Natives and those of other marginalized identities are and have been excluded from educational curricula school districts in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, local governments should support school boards in securing diversified funding for culturally-competent and trauma-informed curricula at all education levels; and

WHEREAS, every student in the Alaska education system should know where Alaska Native peoples come from.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that governments ensure Alaska Native histories, cultures, and languages are taught in an age-appropriate way at all levels (pre-kindergarten through university) and feature accurate recollections by Alaska Native peoples.

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Resolution 2021-13

Economic Development

Diversification of job markets and implementing policies that increase labor force participation.

WHEREAS, by 2038, we envision that Alaska's municipal governments shall have successfully invested in and supported the diversification of their economies; and

WHEREAS, Alaska has seen a net decrease in population and should work to increase labor force participation rates; and

WHEREAS, economic diversification means an economy in which the state and local communities are not reliant on volatile resources and can mitigate economic shock through autonomous and strategic sector support; and

WHEREAS, in order to achieve robust job activity, investment from both public and private industry, in myriad sectors (included, but not limited to technology, energy, tourism, small business, etc.) is pertinent to diversification and economic growth; and

WHEREAS, local communities should reduce barriers to entry for small business and entrepreneurial ventures to ensure equitable opportunities for all potential business owners; including through a series of targeted investments suitable to local community considerations; and

WHEREAS, local economies rely on local and State resources for funding and development and should continue to seek to reasonable economic autonomy; and

WHEREAS, if we maintain our current economic trajectory, local governments will not always be able to offer adequate opportunity for job market growth and high employment rates.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that local governments will have more thoroughly diversified job markets and have implemented policies that increase labor force participation.

Conference of Young Alaskans

Resolution 2021-14

Economic Development

Encouraging sustainable economic development and climate-conscious investments.

WHEREAS, by 2038, we envision that Alaska's municipal governments shall have successfully invested in and supported the diversification of their economies; and

WHEREAS, young Alaskans support economic growth and sustainable development that increases quality of life and economic opportunity allowing residents to reach their full potential and independence in their home communities; and

WHEREAS, young Alaskans define infrastructure as investments in communities through health, education, transportation, food security, energy, and water, among other means; and

WHEREAS, we define climate-conscious investments as those that acknowledge and proactively respond to the threats posed by climate change while incorporating Indigenous perspectives and local resources in creation of new infrastructure and economic sectors; and

WHEREAS, Alaskans should increase reliance on non-extractive economies including, but not limited to, responsible tourism, technology, agriculture, blue and green economies, renewable resources, and transportation; and

WHEREAS, Alaska has unique geographic considerations and robust resources at our disposal allowing us to capitalize on the emerging developments associated with a just transition to a healthy economy and clean environment; and

WHEREAS, local governments possess the unique local knowledge of place-based industry and can support the implementation of infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS, if Alaska continues its current trajectory with its over-reliance on non-renewable resource development and under-prioritization and a lack of willingness to address the threat of climate change, economic growth will be stymied.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that sustainable economic development in Alaska will be reached through climate-conscious investments utilizing Indigenous Peoples' knowledge, local resources, and a values and place-based framework.

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Resolution 2021-15

Economic Development

Encouraging investments in community spaces and critical infrastructure that increase community well-being.

WHEREAS, by 2038, we envision that Alaska's municipal governments shall have successfully invested in and supported the diversification of their economies; and

WHEREAS, investing in infrastructure to prepare for the economy of tomorrow is a necessary step for building a healthy economy; and

WHEREAS, there are communities in Alaska that lack access to basic utilities such as water, sewer, electricity, gas, telecommunications, and broadband internet; and

WHEREAS, such basic utilities are critical to engaging in today's economy and will be increasingly critical to the economy of tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, local communities can serve a unique role in bringing together people, talent, and ideas to create innovative solutions addressing their individual needs, and are supported by infrastructure that allows for community connectivity; and

WHEREAS, Alaska received a C- on the American Society of Civil Engineers' Infrastructure Report Card last evaluated in 2017; and

WHEREAS, the continued improvement and construction of community-identified infrastructure needs is necessary for the purpose of economic diversification and economic health; and

WHEREAS, local governments are largely responsible for stewarding public spaces and collecting input for public projects such as city centers, public parks, and other spaces to meet the recreational, cultural, and educational needs of a community; and

WHEREAS, underserved communities and the continued degradation of public infrastructure are realities in Alaska that need to change.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that local governments will have invested in community spaces, developed critical and community-identified infrastructure, and reduced barriers to fostering community well-being.

Conference of Young Alaskans

Resolution 2021-16

Infrastructure and Public Utilities

Calling for the provision of basic utilities such as water, sewer, means of transportation, and broadband to every community within Alaska.

WHEREAS, by 2038, we envision that Alaska's infrastructure and public utilities will serve the basic needs of all Alaska communities and transition to an equitable, climate-adaptive, energy-efficient framework with a long-term plan for maintenance, consumer representation, sustainable funding, connectivity, and innovation; and

WHEREAS, many communities throughout the State of Alaska do not have access to public utilities, including, but not limited to, municipally-provided water, wastewater systems, and adequate means of transportation; and

WHEREAS, 24-30% of Alaska communities do not have access to broadband, which has become essential to daily living activities such as shopping, education and professional use; and

WHEREAS, solely providing water and wastewater utilities to all communities in the state would cost over \$2 billion; and

WHEREAS, opportunities exist to advocate for additional funding from the federal government through leveraging local communities' relationships with Alaska's congressional delegation; and

WHEREAS, neglecting access to basic utilities will have serious consequences for the health, prosperity and quality of life in a massive amount of Alaska's communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Alaska local governments will establish an intergovernmental network to petition state and federal governments for additional funds to install water, sewer, transportation and broadband utilities in those communities that are in need, and ensure all Alaskans have access to basic public necessities.

Conference of Young Alaskans

Resolution 2021-17

Infrastructure and Public Utilities

Supporting Alaska's local governments to establish a framework for community-driven sustainable infrastructure.

WHEREAS, by 2038, we envision that Alaska's infrastructure and public utilities will serve the basic needs of all Alaska communities and transition to an equitable, climate-adaptive, energy-efficient framework with a long-term plan for maintenance, consumer representation, sustainable funding, connectivity, and innovation; and

WHEREAS, Alaska has unique challenges to its infrastructure (e.g., the freeze-thaw cycle of permafrost, communities off the Alaska Railbelt, etc.), requiring increased maintenance needs to accommodate for more efficient flow of resources throughout port networks; and

WHEREAS, significant changes to Alaska's environment (e.g., warming temperatures, rising coastlines, shoreline erosion, will impact core community needs) have exacerbated existing infrastructure challenges; and

WHEREAS, infrastructure provides the basic services essential to the survival of rural and urban Alaska communities, including transportation, ports, broadband, and other vital networks; and sustainable infrastructure provides a framework for communities to maintain and grow with consideration to economic, social, and environmental implications; and

WHEREAS, public education, community advocacy, Tribal entities, and local municipalities are essential to enacting sustainable infrastructure with respect to the cultural, geographic, social, and economic needs in rural and urban Alaska communities; and

WHEREAS, neglecting sufficient stakeholder engagement and environmental, economic, and geographic factors in Alaska's infrastructure may result in inaccessible, low-quality, and costly projects which damage public trust in government.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that every Alaska local government will develop and implement a framework for community-driven sustainable infrastructure to maintain, improve, and expand public works.

Conference of Young Alaskans

Resolution 2021-18

Infrastructure and Public Utilities

To support statewide collaboration on climate adaptive infrastructure and public utilities.

WHEREAS, by 2038, we envision that Alaska's infrastructure and public utilities will serve the basic needs of all Alaska communities and transition to an equitable, climate-adaptive, energy-efficient framework with a long-term plan for maintenance, consumer representation, sustainable funding, connectivity, and innovation; and

WHEREAS, unpredictable natural disasters may impact Alaska, where 11 percent of the world's earthquakes take place; and

WHEREAS, permafrost, the frozen rock and soil underneath approximately 85 percent of all Alaska, and its freeze-thaw cycle can cause pipelines to rupture, roads to be renovated, and entire buildings to collapse; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's infrastructure deficiencies exist in the Alaska Marine Highway, accessible drinking water, and port maintenance; and

WHEREAS, local governments possess responsibility for many infrastructure projects and investments, with guidelines and rules dictated by federal and state governments; and

WHEREAS, inequities exist across rural villages which disproportionately experience impacts of climate change without adequate financing or resources to address its harm.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Alaska's local governments will establish an intergovernmental network to share and distribute information and resources for communities disproportionately impacted by climate change and pursue opportunities to invest and grow climate resilience in public works.

Conference of Young Alaskans

Resolution 2021-19

Climate Resilience

To create a Department of Climate Affairs in municipal bodies.

WHEREAS, by 2038, we envision a future where local and tribal governments collaborate in just transition to create and build long lasting climate resiliency

WHEREAS, creating a designated budget and staff to address climate change in municipal bodies will improve the ability to develop and implement policies and actions that address the impacts being felt locally; and

WHEREAS, Alaska is already seeing the impacts of climate change at twice the rate of the rest of the United States and it disproportionately impacts disadvantaged, low-income, Indigenous, and rural communities; and

WHEREAS, the impacts of climate change are seen through record temperatures each year, precipitation increase across the state affecting river flow, sea ice, and snow conditions, and migration patterns shifting North, which affects subsistence practices and infrastructure planning; these threats to communities such as Nome and Shishmaref create community crises as traditional ways of life must be altered and lives are lost; and

WHEREAS, local governments are the most equipped to address local effects of climate change, and collaboration with Indigenous communities will ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable residents are met; and

WHEREAS, that Indigenous knowledge of land and subsistence embody the respect of land that must be used to build a new framework for how western economies and communities interact with land; and

WHEREAS, no action will result in more severe and more frequent disasters, the eradication of what makes Alaska special: traditions, culture, vast natural landscapes, and the bountiful lands and waters.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that each borough and municipality will create a Department of Climate Affairs or equivalent that will be responsible for collaborating with Indigenous communities to build local resilience to climate change.

Conference of Young Alaskans

Resolution 2021-20

Climate Resilience

To expand holistic climate education in K-12 schools across Alaska.

WHEREAS, by 2038, we envision a future where local and tribal governments collaborate in just transition to create and build long lasting climate resiliency.

WHEREAS, a just transition is defined as a framework for a fair shift to an economy that is ecologically sustainable, equitable and just for all Alaskans; and

WHEREAS, the climate crisis disproportionately impacts youth who are aging into an economy that is unprepared to bear the financial consequences of increased food insecurity, sanitation concerns, and infrastructural damage, and are not given the emotional support or tools to cope with rapid loss of home, family, and ways of life; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous knowledge is not part of public education curriculum, and conventional scientific and educational curricula disregard traditional knowledge that has been collected over tens of thousands of years; and

WHEREAS, that Indigenous knowledge of land and subsistence embody the respect of land that must be used to build a new framework for how western economies and communities interact with land; and

WHEREAS, no action will result in more severe and more frequent humanitarian and environmental disasters, including loss of life, traditions, and culture.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that holistic climate education rooted in Indigenous Knowledge will be integrated in every K-12 system in the state to increase awareness, understanding, and preparedness in our youth.

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Resolution 2021-21

Climate Resilience

To ensure diversified energy sources across Alaska.

WHEREAS, by 2038, we envision a future where local and tribal governments collaborate in just transition to create and build long lasting climate resiliency; and

WHEREAS, a just transition is a framework for a fair shift to an economy that is ecologically sustainable, equitable and just for all Alaskans; and

WHEREAS, exploring, funding, and implementing new sources of energy will help local governments build security and economic development in their localities; and

WHEREAS, Alaska currently sources three quarters of its energy from nonrenewable sources that will eventually be depleted; and

WHEREAS, no action for economic diversification will result in Alaska's extractive economy to be depleted within the next century, leaving Alaskans destitute; and

WHEREAS, the increasing severity and frequency of environmental disasters will threaten homogenized energy systems, while a diversified energy portfolio will ensure that all Alaskans will have access to essential resources in event of an emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that local governments would take on responsibility to build coalitions with Indigenous leaders, nonprofit and for-profit entities to implement diverse and accessible energy solutions.

Conference of Young Alaskans

Resolution 2021-22

Quality of Life

Encouraging local governments to develop metrics for quality of life in their communities.

WHEREAS, by 2038, we envision a future in which communities across Alaska shall know what it takes and have access to the resources to be healthy, safe, and fulfilled; and

WHEREAS, ancestral knowledge is valued as a vital component of the sustainable success of communities across the state; and

WHEREAS, continued and additional research is needed to evaluate Alaska Native well-being and recognize Indigenous knowledge as legitimate; and

WHEREAS, culturally-responsive research strategies for determining quality of life will guide local governments in allocating resources and setting policy priorities; and

WHEREAS, indigenizing research and assessing the needs of communities is an ongoing process that must be continuously challenged.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that local governments will develop culturally responsive quality of life metrics based on community input.

Conference of Young Alaskans

Resolution 2021-23

Quality of Life

Facilitating access to safe housing and health care.

WHEREAS, by 2038, we envision a future in which communities across Alaska shall know what it takes and have access to the resources to be healthy, safe, and fulfilled; and

WHEREAS, safe and affordable housing lays the foundation for a collective sense of well-being within communities; and

WHEREAS, there are 1,949 homeless on any given night in Alaska in 2020, and of those 224 are unsheltered and 1,725 are sheltered; and

WHEREAS, many communities lack access to permanent, quality health care provided by credentialed professionals; and

WHEREAS, tribal healing and cultural involvement as healing are integral parts of individual and community well-being; and

WHEREAS, local and tribal governments often directly provide health care and support for the services and programs that contribute to a holistic and proactive culture of health.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that all communities in Alaska will be uplifted by government to access safe housing and holistic, culturally informed, quality health care.

Conference of Young Alaskans

Resolution 2021-24

Quality of Life

Advocating for subsistence and land-based lifestyles for both rural and urban communities.

WHEREAS, by 2038, we envision a future in which communities across Alaska shall know what it takes and have access to the resources to be healthy, safe, and fulfilled; and

WHEREAS, subsistence lifestyles encompass a range of place-based activities including harvest and consumption of local foods, traditional and historical use of land and water, and recreation; and

WHEREAS, engaging with nature has been proven to improve mental and physical health, especially for low-income, and BIPOC communities, and for Native and non-Native communities alike; and

WHEREAS, access to land can be impacted by local government through planning, zoning, and management of parks; and

WHEREAS, subsistence is closely tied to quality of life through food security, and access to land increases overall well-being.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that local governments will embrace regional differences and subsistence will be prioritized through land and water access and management.