

AFN resolutions are one of the most effective ways for regions to shape AFN's advocacy agenda for the coming year. The strongest resolutions are strategic, actionable, and build consensus across Alaska Native communities.

Here are some recommendations to help you through the resolutions process:

1. Start with Your Region's Highest Priorities

Encourage each region to ask:

- What issue most affects our communities right now?
- Is this an issue AFN is uniquely positioned to help advance?
- Will addressing this benefit other Alaska Native communities as well?

AFN resolutions are most successful when they elevate issues that have statewide significance, even if they originate from a regional concern.

2. Build Support Before the Convention

The most successful resolutions are rarely surprises.

- Talk with neighboring regions.
- Reach out to other tribal organizations and corporations.
- Discuss the issue with AFN committee members and leadership before submitting the resolution.
- Identify potential co-sponsors whenever possible.

Building relationships beforehand often makes the discussion on the convention floor much smoother.

3. Focus on Solutions, Not Just Problems

A strong resolution clearly identifies:

- The problem.
- Why it matters.
- The specific action AFN is being asked to take.

For example, instead of simply stating there is a shortage of housing, ask AFN to advocate for specific federal appropriations, state policy changes, or legislation.

4. Be Specific About the Requested Action

Ask:

- Should AFN advocate with Congress?

- Should AFN work with the State of Alaska?
- Should AFN convene partners?
- Should AFN support litigation?
- Should AFN seek funding?
- Should AFN establish a working group?

The clearer the "Resolved" clauses, the easier it is for AFN to implement the resolution.

5. Provide Supporting Information

Include:

- Data and statistics.
- Local examples.
- Existing laws or policies.
- Previous AFN resolutions on the topic.
- Community impacts.

Strong evidence strengthens the case for adoption.

6. Think Beyond One Year

Ask whether the issue:

- Requires immediate action.
- Needs a multi-year advocacy effort.
- Could become part of AFN's strategic priorities.

Some of AFN's most impactful initiatives have grown from resolutions that were reaffirmed over several years.

7. Avoid Duplication

Before drafting a new resolution:

- Review prior AFN resolutions.
- Determine whether an existing resolution simply needs reaffirmation or updating.
- Build upon previous work whenever possible.

This helps AFN maintain continuity and demonstrate sustained advocacy.

8. Consider the Resources Required

Every adopted resolution creates expectations for follow-through. Consider:

- Is the requested action realistic?

- Does AFN have the ability to lead this effort?
- Are partnerships needed?
- Are there funding opportunities to support implementation?

9. Connect the Issue to AFN's Mission

Explain how the priority advances one or more of AFN's core goals, such as:

- Tribal sovereignty and self-determination
- Alaska Native health and wellness
- Education
- Economic development
- Cultural preservation and language revitalization
- Voting rights and civic participation
- Public safety
- Subsistence and food sovereignty
- Climate resilience
- Housing and infrastructure

Showing alignment with AFN's mission helps demonstrate why the issue belongs on the statewide agenda.

10. Stay Engaged After Adoption

Passing a resolution is only the beginning. Regions should:

- Stay involved in implementation.
- Provide updates and technical expertise.
- Help identify funding opportunities.
- Meet with elected officials alongside AFN.
- Report back on progress and emerging needs.

Successful advocacy is an ongoing partnership between AFN and its member organizations.

Questions Regions Should Ask Before Submitting a Resolution

- Is this a statewide issue or one with broader implications for Alaska Native people?
- What specific action do we want AFN to take?
- Who needs to act to solve this issue?
- Have we coordinated with other regions?
- What evidence supports our request?
- How will success be measured?

The AFN resolution process is the voice of Alaska Native peoples in action. Every resolution helps shape AFN's advocacy priorities, legislative agenda, and organizational work. By bringing forward thoughtful, well-supported, and solution-oriented resolutions, regions ensure that the issues most important to their communities become part of a unified statewide effort to advance the rights, well-being, and self-determination of Alaska Native people.

