



- COMPETITIVE
- EXCEPTIONAL VALUE
- OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALASKANS

FACT SHEET: TRANSPARENCY WITHIN NATIVE CORPORATIONS

State and Federal Law Protect Shareholders

When Congress passed the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), it specially stated its intent that decisions be made “with maximum participation by Natives in decisions affecting their rights and property....” In the decades since, the regional and village corporations (ANCs) have adopted procedures and communications channels to ensure that they meet – and exceed – state and federal statutes and operate in as transparent a manner as possible.

- Many processes are spelled out by Alaska law, such as how ANCs conduct their annual elections and proxy solicitations. Information about elections is posted online on the various ANC websites and mailed annually to each shareholder of record, according to deadlines set out in law. Additionally the state has published a booklet called “Information for Shareholders of ANCSA Corporations” that explains Alaska law, the rights of shareholders and how to file a complaint. That booklet can be downloaded from the state’s website or the state will mail a printed copy.
- ANCs are required by Alaska State statute to provide shareholders with accurate and timely information on the annual meeting, election process and board candidates to ensure that shareholders have the information needed to make informed decisions. Annual meeting and election information is included in regular newsletters, special newsletters and annual reports and proxy mailings, as well as on the ANC websites, e-newsletters and Facebook pages. ANCs continually seek ways to improve communications

with shareholders. To ensure that shareholder needs and preferences are being met, many conduct periodic shareholder surveys that assess what shareholders want in regard to the annual meeting and election process.

- All regional – and some village – corporations rotate the location of their annual meetings to increase shareholder participation. Many offer attractive incentives to encourage high shareholder involvement. Some are experimenting with podcasts as a way to be more transparent and to reach more shareholders.
- ANCSA requires ANCs to conduct an annual audit “in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards by independent certified public accountants or independent licensed public accountants, certified, or licensed by a regulatory authority of the State or the United States” and that the results be furnished to every shareholder.

ANCs Use Many Channels to Communicate with Shareholders

- Each of the regional ANCs and most of the village corporations have a shareholder relations department that communicates with shareholders on a regular basis; provides information about stock, enrollment and distributions; helps connect shareholders to jobs and job training, scholarships, and social and cultural programs; keeps track of individual shareholders; and serves as an ombudsman for shareholder issues.
- ANCs use a combination of electronic, printed and in-person channels to communicate with shareholders

and listen to - and respond to - issues and concerns.

These include:

- Websites
 - Annual reports and proxy statements
 - Newsletters – both printed and mailed and/or delivered electronically
 - Facebook, YouTube and Twitter
 - Hotlines
 - Community meetings
 - Annual meeting
 - Podcasts
 - Direct mailings
 - Radio updates
- All regional – and some village – corporations hold regularly scheduled meetings in region to update shareholders and listen to – and respond – to shareholder issues. Many have specific village liaisons.
 - Virtually all ANC boards have regional – and in many cases village - representation.

ANCs Are Locally Controlled

- ANC shareholders have many channels of influence, including shareholder meetings, village meetings, hotlines and web comments and – most importantly – the ballot box.
- Unlike most corporations, ANC elections and annual meetings are very local and shareholders exercise very direct control.
- While each ANC nominates a board-supported slate of board candidates, it is not unusual for shareholders to elect independent candidates. At least one regional ANC has seen independent candidates take control of its board in recent years.