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Coastal Villages Releases Results of Candidate Questionnaire and Encourages Residents to Make a Plan to Vote

Anchorage, AK – Coastal Villages Region Fund (CVRF) is encouraging voters to make their voices heard in the upcoming general election with the release of a regionally focused candidate questionnaire and reminding Western Alaska residents to make a plan to vote.

To support the nearly 6,000 registered voters living in its 20 coastal communities, CVRF asked the major candidates for Governor and the United States House of Representatives to respond to a short questionnaire about topics and issues that directly affect voters in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. The questionnaire asked candidates to share their views on the biggest challenges facing the region, what economic sustainability for the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta looks like, how they would balance competing fishing interests in the region, and their position regarding the allocation of resources within the Community Development Quota (CDQ) program.

In their responses to the questionnaire, candidates touched on the need for additional infrastructure in the region, public safety, the downturn in salmon returns, creating employment opportunities, addressing high energy costs, and the need for housing. A complete copy of the responses to the candidate questionnaire are available here. Full physical copies will be available in CVRF's Community Service Centers and its Anchorage office, and a shorter version will be distributed to residents of CVRF communities.

In addition to the responses to the candidate questionnaire, CVRF also wants voters in Western Alaska to know that they have multiple opportunities to make their voices heard. CVRF's team Community Service Representatives will be available to answer questions about ways to cast your ballot in the upcoming election and will be distributing "Make a Plan to Vote" flyers with election dates, polling locations, and deadlines for in-person, early absentee, absentee by mail, and absentee by electronic transmission.

"In this election, the choices we make will determine the future leaders of our communities, our state, and the whole country," said CVRF Chairman Richard Jung from Napakiak. "No matter which way you choose to vote, our votes will show government decision-makers that collectively, as a region, we care about our future and should be taken seriously."

CVRF encourages all registered voters to make their voices heard this November and invites voters to visit their local Community Service Centers if they have any questions, would like full

copies of the candidate responses, or would like additional information about the upcoming election.

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Coastal Villages Region Fund (CVRF) uses Bering Sea fishing rights granted to it by the Community Development Quota (CDQ) program to foster sustainable and diversified local economies in western Alaska. CVRF is organized as a 501(c)(4) Alaska non-profit corporation and operates in 20 member communities located along the west coast of Alaska, from Scammon Bay to Platinum. CVRF generates the money to fund its programs by harvesting fish in the Bering Sea with its own fleet of vessels.

CVRF is dedicated to creating sensible, tangible, and long-term economic development opportunities that generate hope for the more than 9,300 residents of its communities. It is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of one member democratically elected from each community. CVRF is the largest Alaskan-owned seafood company in history and the first CDQ group to own and control the vessels that harvest the vast majority of its CDQ allocations.

For more information, visit <u>www.CoastalVillages.org</u> and www.facebook.com/CoastalVillagesRegionFund.