

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 18, 2020

Stand Tall with Mike Pulls Out of Alaska Supreme Court Appeal

ANCHORAGE- Today, Stand Tall with Mike instructed its attorneys to withdraw its appeal from the Alaska Supreme Court after actions made by the court last week indicate that further participation in the legal process would not be a productive use of its resources.

Last Friday, the Court ordered signature gathering to begin immediately, despite concerns from the trial court that allowing the process to continue before a final decision was reached would cause voter confusion and irreparable harm. To counteract this harm, Stand Tall With Mike believes the public is better served by devoting resources to educating the public why this recall is unjustified, a waste of public resources, an affront to the 145,000 Alaskans who voted for this Governor, and a distraction from the critical issues facing Alaskans.

Also on Friday, the court held a scheduling conference setting oral arguments for March 25, telling the lawyers the court will issue its ruling rapidly perhaps even the day of the argument. This blistering pace is simply unnecessary. At issue are constitutional questions of first impression that deserve careful consideration. In combination with lifting the stay, when there was no harm in allowing the legal process to conclude next month, it is clear the Court is determined to let the recall effort go forward before it has even reviewed the parties' legal briefings.

Also on Friday's call, the court indicated that Chief Justice Joel Bolger would not recuse himself. Chief Justice Bolger is a material witness in the case, and directly participated in the events that gave rise to one of the recall charges. Since then he has made public statements criticizing vetoes made by the Governor.

An election will be scheduled within the next few months. Stand Tall with Mike will place its trust in the voters, not unelected judges, to protect the integrity of our elections, now and into the future.

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