

COMMITTEE REPORT

ATNI Native Vote – November 5th

Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians -
2024 Midyear Convention, Canyonville, OR

DISCUSSION

Report:

1) U.S. Presidential Election – November 5

- [2023 Progress report for Tribal Nations](#) highlighting the 81-page report from the White House. Strengthening the government-to-government relationship with Tribal Nations.
- Biden/Harris appointed the most Native Americans to their administration.
 - U.S. Secretary Deb Haaland
 - [DOI Priorities](#): We understand that Tribal sovereignty and self-governance, as well as honoring the federal trust responsibility to Tribal Nations, must be the cornerstones of federal Indian policy. DOI is working to [invest in Indigenous communities](#) and ensure that they have the support, resources, and infrastructure to thrive.
 - U.S. Treasury Chief Lynn Malerba
 - Fatima Abbas, Director of the new Office of Tribal and Native Affairs at the U.S. Treasury Department
- **Interagency Steering Group on Native American Voting Rights**, 54 page Report
 - <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Tribal-Voting-Report-FINAL.pdf>
 - President Biden signed Executive Order 14019, Promoting Access to Voting, directing the federal government where possible to provide nonpartisan election-related information and opportunities for engagement. The Executive Order also created an Interagency Steering Group on Native American Voting Rights, to research the barriers Native peoples face in achieving full access to participate in U.S. elections, and to recommend ways to mitigate or eliminate these barriers.
 - As directed by the Executive Order, this report also presents best practices and recommendations to mitigate and eliminate the barriers Native voters encounter. *Some of these recommendations pertain to federal legislation, some to action by federal agencies, and some to state and local government. Some are already in place in particular jurisdictions and should be encouraged more widely. **But it is clear that there is much work to be done.***

ATNI Tribes might not be in the battleground states but the Presidential election matters and how we educate our citizens' is important to ensure the highest voter participation on November 5th.

Super States for President, U.S. Senate, & U.S. House:

- 8 Swing States for U.S. Presidential Election: Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin
- 7 States Will Decide the U.S. Senate: Senator Gallego in Arizona, Senator Slotkin in Michigan, Senator Tester in Montana, Senator Rosen in Nevada, Senator Brown in Ohio, Senator Casey in Pennsylvania, and Senator Baldwin in Wisconsin.
- Campaigns Impact Tribal Elections
 - National elections trickle down and impact Tribal elections.
 - Down ballot races impact Tribes sometimes more than Presidential elections, Governors, Secretary of States, sheriffs, judges, county officials can all drastically impact Tribes.
 - Misinformation, Protest Voters, Your Vote Doesn't Matter, Voting for two evils, white nationalism, neo-Nazi's, proud boys, single issue voters, and voter suppression are real and are impacting voter turnout.

What can Tribes Do:

- Organize their own citizens to vote.
- State parties are not all created equal. Some are more organized than others but please reach out to your state party if you have not heard from them this year to ask how they are preparing to get out the Native vote.
- Endorse Candidates - Create an endorsement list and share it out in Tribal newspaper, email, and social media.
- Make candidates answer a questionnaire before you endorse them on tribal sovereignty and issues impacting your Tribal Nation.
- Structure G.O.T.N.V. in your community – host ballot parties, get volunteers to sit at the polls during elections, and help people register to vote prior to deadlines.
- Do not wait for others to organize in your Tribe and surrounding areas. You know your community the best and you know what motivates people, utilize your Nations values to inspire engagement.
- Invite Candidates to community events to speak.

2) Native Vote WA

Kady Titus (Koyukon Athabascan), kady@waconservationaction.org

We aim to support Native voters in finding their voice and power in the political process. We know that Native people have great political power in local, state, and national elections, and we serve as partners in empowering Native voters. We provide tools and education to help Native people exercise their right to vote. To this end, we increase Native voter turnout by sharing knowledge regarding candidates, political issues, combating voter suppression, and more.

<https://www.nativevotewashington.org/events-2-1>

- Voting is Good Medicine, webinar held once a month
- **Sept. 24:** National Voter Registration Day!
- **Oct 18:** Start of 18-day voting period through election day. Ballots are mailed out.
- **Oct 28:** Online and mail registrations must be received 8 days before election day.

- **Nov 5:** Election day! Register to vote in person during business hours and any time before 8:00 pm on Election Day.

3) **Senator Claudia Kauffman**

- Won Primary by 35 votes. Every door and every phone call made the difference.
- Spoke to the need to organize within your Tribe and community.
- Tribal Proprieties Legislative Report, first of its kind for WA and she helped create it. =>
 - <https://senatedemocrats.wa.gov/kauffman/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2024/01/Tribal-Priorities-Legislative-Report-2023.pdf>

4) **Oregon: Redistricting**

Tribal Democracy Project:

Brian Smith (Muscogee), Co-Director and Jaylyn Suppah (Warm Springs), Co-Director

- **Stronger Together: Native Americans Fight for Fair Redistricting Report:**
 - https://www.commoncause.org/oregon/wp-content/uploads/sites/24/2024/05/OR_StrongerTogetherv4.pdf
 - Each census and redistricting cycle gives communities the opportunity to advocate for representative government districts that are responsive to their unique needs. The process of redistricting, however, continues to be weaponized to unfairly limit the political power of discrete communities. Gerrymandering, the practice of manipulating local, state, and congressional districts to hoard and hold on to power at the expense of the public will, is a common voter suppression tactic. Special interests such as political parties or incumbent candidates may seek to “crack” or “pack” voters to handpick the composition of districts and manipulate the outcome of elections.
 - This redistricting cycle saw attempts (some ardently thwarted, some successful — for now) to undermine the Native American vote through gerrymandering. Our report seeks to highlight the trials and triumphs of this redistricting cycle from the perspective of Native community leaders and organizers, compiling lessons learned to serve as a resource for future organizing. This report highlights the following:
 - The impact of the recent redistricting cycle on Native communities,
 - Policy reforms that support fair Native representation, and
 - Best practices to guide future redistricting organizing.

ADOPTED AND RECOMMENDED TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Resolution # & Title: **NONE**

COMMITTEE - TABLED

Resolution # & Title: **NONE**

Minutes/Report submitted by: **Julie Johnson and Theresa Sheldon**
 ATNI Native Vote Committee Chairs