

UNITY CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

NATIVE YOUTH TOOLKIT

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NATIVE YOUTH IMPACT ON THE NATIVE VOTE

Native voices hold immense power, and every vote matters. Our communities are steeped in a rich legacy of resilience, strength, and advocacy. Now, more than ever, it is crucial to uphold that legacy by making sure our voices resonate in every election. Each step forward represents a victory. Share inspiring stories of Native voter turnout, advocacy initiatives, and policy achievements to foster ongoing engagement. Let's honor our collective strength and amplify the momentum we have built.

TOOLS AND RESOURCES

TAKE ACTION TODAY!
EVERY EFFORT COUNTS
TOWARD BUILDING A
STRONGER FUTURE
FOR NATIVE
COMMUNITIES.



- HOTLINES:
ELECTION PROTECTION
1-866-OUR-VOTE

PARTNER WEBSITES:

- [NATIVEVOTE.ORG](https://nativevote.org)
- [NARF VOTING RESOURCES](https://narfvotingresources.org)
- [DEMOCRACY IS INDIGENOUS](https://democracyisindigenous.org)

2024

WHY YOUR VOICE MATTERS AS A NATIVE YOUTH

Native American youth have a unique opportunity to lead change in their communities by engaging in the democratic process. Even if you're not yet old enough to vote, your actions can inspire others to participate in elections and ensure Native voices are heard. Civic engagement is a powerful tool to protect tribal sovereignty and create a brighter future for all Native peoples.



Leadership: Native youth are the future leaders of their communities; their vote ensures their voices are heard in shaping policies that directly impact them.

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH](#)
[UNITY YOUTH](#)
[GOTV PSAs](#)

Native Youth Can Lead Change

Civic engagement extends beyond voting; it involves actively participating in the development of your community. This includes volunteering, advocating for change, and raising awareness about important issues.

For Native youth, this presents a chance to safeguard tribal sovereignty and amplify Indigenous voices at every government level.

Engaging in these activities helps foster your community's long-term health and resilience.



GETTING INVOLVED

Native youth have a unique role in shaping the future of their communities

By organizing voter registration drives, hosting discussions, or even leading campaigns on social media, you can encourage others to participate in the democratic process.

Youth are often seen as community leaders, and your engagement can inspire others to get involved, especially in an underrepresented area.

DEAR NATIVE YOUTH:
Your voice carries weight, whether you are educating elders about voting rights, assisting peers with registering to vote, or helping debunk misinformation.

Think of yourself as a bridge between generations, helping preserve Native traditions while advocating for progress.

The strength of your efforts today will directly impact the quality of representation and resources your community will receive tomorrow.



Protecting the Native Vote

- Indigenous voters face challenges like distant polling places, lack of residential addresses, and restrictive voter ID laws.
- It's crucial to educate the community on voting rights and requirements.
- Organize carpools and ensure proper identification for all voters.
- Advocate for mobile polling stations and tribal ID acceptance to empower Native voices in elections.



Educating your community can protect the Native vote. Together, we can dismantle barriers and ensure every Native voice is heard.



ADDRESSING COMMON MYTHS



**MYTH:
"MY VOTE
DOESN'T
MATTER."**

**TRUTH: NATIVE VOTES HAVE
DECIDED ELECTIONS, SUCH
AS SENATOR HEIDI
HEITKAMP'S NARROW
VICTORY IN NORTH DAKOTA**

**MYTH: "I CAN'T
REGISTER
WITHOUT A
TRADITIONAL
ADDRESS."**

**TRUTH: TRIBES CAN
ESTABLISH COMPLIANT
ADDRESSING SYSTEMS.
CONTACT NARF FOR
SUPPORT
[VOTER ADDRESS INFO](#)**

Spotting and Reporting Voter Suppression

What to Be Aware Of:

- Intimidation lurking near polling locations.
- Deceptive information regarding voting prerequisites ([VoterIntimidation_2pager](#))

Actions to Consider:

- Chronicle the occurrence (time, place, specifics).
- Relay it to election officials
- or dial 1-866-OUR-VOTE
- Discredit the falsehood by naming it and the motivations behind the disinformation
- State the falsehood you intend to correct
- Deliver factual information to combat the falsehood and direct people to trusted sources
- Know the facts - study up ([VoterIntimidation_2pager](#))
- ([narf-voter-rights-PDF](#))

**YOUR VOTE
MATTERS**



MOBILIZE

MOTIVATE FELLOW NATIVES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CALL TO ACTION.

Plan Your Efforts:

Use the Field Organizer
Template:

1. Set Goals (e.g., register 50 new voters).
2. Create a Timeline (work backward from Election Day).
3. Implement Strategies (e.g., phone banks, social media campaigns)

[Voter-Action-Kit-2024](#)



Mobilizing your community to vote is one of the most impactful ways to make a difference. Start by creating a timeline for your efforts, setting goals, and organizing activities like voter registration drives or educational events. Collaboration with tribal leaders, community members, and local organizations can amplify your efforts.



Ways to Engage Your Community:

- Community Forums
- Powwows
- Halloween Parties
- Art Competitions
- Visited College Campuses
- Indigenous People Day Events
- Civic Engagement Bingo
- Photo Contests
- GOTV Billboards
- Outdoor Movie Nights
- Music Concerts
- Phone Banking
- Voter Education Events
- Ballot Parties
- Video Public Service Announcements
- Radio Advertisements
- Podcast Interviews and Explainers
- Transit Advertisements
- Tailgate & Sporting Events
- Community Raffles & Giveaways
- Taco-About Voting Event

www.nuifc.org/nativevote

WAYS TO GOTV

SHARE INSPIRING SUCCESS STORIES NATIVES

unityinc.org/native-vote | Democracy Is Indigenous | 480. 718.9793



In partnership with Tribes Forward & Center For Native American Youth

NCAI 2024 COMMUNICATION TOOLKIT

Social Media Tips for Youth Advocates

Why Use Social Media?

It's a powerful platform to educate, mobilize, and inspire your peers.

Sample Posts:

- “Let no vote be wasted!
Use your power and get
out the Native vote!
#EveryNativeVoteMatters
#GetOutTheVote”

Action Tip: Always verify the information before sharing. Counter misinformation with trusted sources like NativeVote.org



Voter Education for Adults Working with Youth



Encourage Participation:

- Emphasize the importance of representation in government.
- Provide resources like voter guides and sample ballots

Support Youth Efforts:

- Help youth plan events and voter drives.
- Share stories of Native leaders who inspire civic engagement.

Help them Honor the Past:

- The Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 granted Native Americans the right to vote, but barriers persisted for decades.
- Sample “Today, your involvement honors the struggles of past generations.”

NATIVEVOTE

TAP TO PLAY



For More Information visit:
unityinc.org/native-vote



NATIVEVOTE