Increase in American Indian and Alaska Native US Populations

1990: 1.9 million
2000: 4.1 million
2010: 5.2 million

Key Issues that Bring Native People to the Ballot Box

- Tribal Government Sovereignty
- Indian Child Welfare
- Education
- Water
- Energy
- Gaming
- Environmental Impact Issues
- Federal Budget & Spending

Elected Representation in US Government

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Proportional</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senate</td>
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<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If representation in Congress was proportional to the US Native population, we would have 2 Native Senators and 8 Native members of the House.

73 Native State Legislators

- Alaska: 3 Native Legislators
- Arizona: 6 Native Legislators
- California: 2 Native Legislators
- Colorado: 2 Native Legislators
- Connecticut: 1 Native Legislator
- Delaware: 1 Native Legislator
- Hawaii: 2 Native Legislators
- Idaho: 1 Native Legislator
- Illinois: 1 Native Legislator
- Indiana: 1 Native Legislator
- Iowa: 1 Native Legislator
- Kansas: 1 Native Legislator
- Kentucky: 1 Native Legislator
- Louisiana: 1 Native Legislator
- Maine: 1 Native Legislator
- Maryland: 5 Native Legislators
- Massachusetts: 1 Native Legislator
- Michigan: 1 Native Legislator
- Minnesota: 8 Native Legislators
- Mississippi: 1 Native Legislator
- Missouri: 1 Native Legislator
- Montana: 11 Native Legislators
- Nebraska: 1 Native Legislator
- Nevada: 1 Native Legislator
- New Hampshire: 1 Native Legislator
- New Jersey: 2 Native Legislators
- New Mexico: 8 Native Legislators
- New York: 3 Native Legislators
- North Carolina: 1 Native Legislator
- North Dakota: 3 Native Legislators
- Ohio: 3 Native Legislators
- Oklahoma: 1 Native Legislator
- Oregon: 1 Native Legislator
- Pennsylvania: 1 Native Legislator
- Rhode Island: 2 Native Legislators
- South Carolina: 1 Native Legislator
- South Dakota: 5 Native Legislators
- Tennessee: 1 Native Legislator
- Texas: 1 Native Legislator
- Utah: 1 Native Legislator
- Vermont: 1 Native Legislator
- Virginia: 1 Native Legislator
- Washington: 4 Native Legislators
- West Virginia: 1 Native Legislator
- Wisconsin: 1 Native Legislator
- Wyoming: 2 Native Legislators

National Congress of American Indians
Embassy of Tribal Nations
1516 P Street NW | Washington, DC 20005
www.NCAI.org | www.NativeVote.org
Top 15 States with the Highest Populations of Voting-Age Natives

The power of the Native Vote has been significant in state, local, and important national races.

Montana: Building a Base of Power


1999 - Tribal nations' influence leads to the appointment of a tribal member as Chair of Redistricting Commission.

2003 - Montana creates six American Indian-majority districts.


Alaska: Erosion of Native Districts

1959-2009 - State population triples between 1959-2009, though no change in the number of state representatives or legislative districts.

2010 - Ballot measure to expand the number of legislative districts fails.

2011 - Alaska Redistricting Board merges two Southeast Districts, diminishing Native voter impact.

2012 - Election loss of long-serving Alaska Native State Senator Albert Koekesh due to redistricting.

Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) credits her victory in the 2010 election to the significant power of the Alaska Native vote. With over 100,000 write-in votes, she was only the 2nd successful US Senate write-in candidate.

Senator John Tester (D-MT) won his close re-election race with less than 20,000 votes, with difference-making support coming from citizens of tribal nations.

Senator Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND) won her 2012 election by a 1% margin. Heitkamp noted that her only road to Washington, DC was through Indian Country.

Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD) was re-elected by 500 votes in 2002, with the pivotal final votes counted coming from the Pine Ridge Reservation.

34% Not Registered to Vote

American Indians and Alaska Natives reported a higher not registered to vote rate as compared to 26.5% of not registered to vote non-Hispanic Whites.

1.2 Million Not Registered to Vote

The turnout rate among American Indians and Alaska Native registered voters is 1 to 10 percentage points lower than the rate of other racial and ethnic groups.

Montana tribal nations challenge 1990 redistricting and file case in federal court.

Tribal nations' influence leads to the appointment of a tribal member as Chair of Redistricting Commission.

Montana creates six American Indian-majority districts.

Nine American Indians serve in the Montana Legislature, reflecting proportion of American Indian state population.

Montana population triples between 1959-2009, though no change in the number of state representatives or legislative districts.

Ballot measure to expand the number of legislative districts fails.

Alaska Redistricting Board merges two Southeast Districts, diminishing Native voter impact.

Election loss of long-serving Alaska Native State Senator Albert Koekesh due to redistricting.

In 2018, Senator John Tester (D-MT) won his close re-election race with less than 20,000 votes, with difference-making support coming from citizens of tribal nations.

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Data rounded to the nearest thousand.

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