



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #AK-21-003

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TITLE: Support Legislation to Expand and Protect Voting Rights

WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution requires that voting rights of United States citizens shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, previous condition of servitude, sex, or age (18 and older); and

WHEREAS, registering to vote and casting a ballot are fundamental rights of citizens of the United States and a core component of American democracy; and

WHEREAS, voter registration has a long-storied history of institutional discrimination in the United States and is being used by some states as a tool to legally block eligible voters from the polls; and

WHEREAS, the recent unprecedented attacks on American Democracy and the active effort to undermine and undo the will of the people is one of the driving forces behind the false and baseless claims of voter fraud in the 2020 election that is being used as justification in at least 45 states to restrict voting rights and voting access of United States citizens; and

WHEREAS, American Indians and Alaska Natives (AN/ANs) experience significant barriers to registering to vote and casting a ballot compared to their non-Native counterparts and since its first meeting in 1944, NCAI has advocated for the voting rights of Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians is one of the founding members of the Native American Voting Rights Coalition (NAVRC), a non-partisan coalition of national, regional, and local grassroots organizations, scholars, lawyers, and activists advocating for the equal access of Native Americans to the political process; and


WHEREAS, automatic voter registration systems expand access to voter registration through the use of secure cost-effective procedures and enhances the integrity, accuracy, and efficiency of the electoral process for all eligible citizens.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) as a founding member of the NAVRC, does hereby support federal legislation that make it easier to vote in Federal elections, end congressional gerrymandering, overhaul Federal campaign finance laws, increase safeguards against foreign interference, strengthen government ethics rules, as well as provide additional measures to ensure the voting rights of every United States citizen is secure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2021 Mid Year Conference of the National Congress of American Indians, held June 20, 2021 - June 24, 2021, with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President

ATTEST:



Juana Majel Dixon, Recording Secretary