

78th Annual Convention

Virtual Event | NCAI Pacific Region

Pre-Congress Dates: Oct. 7-8, 2021

Congress Dates: Oct. 11-14, 2021



National
Congress of
American
Indians

**BUILDING
A STRONGER,
BRIGHTER
INDIAN COUNTRY.**



A PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

PROUD TO SUPPORT THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF
AMERICAN INDIANS 78TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

A Good
**NEIGHBOR
EMPLOYER
STEWARD**
of the **EARTH**



**THE SMSC LEADS
IN A GOOD WAY**

We seek to embody
Dakota values each day.

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) is a federally recognized, sovereign Dakota tribal government located southwest of Minneapolis/St. Paul. Making it a foremost priority to be a good neighbor, the SMSC is one of the top philanthropists in Minnesota and one of the largest charitable givers in Indian Country. The tribe also focuses on being a strong community leader in protecting and restoring natural resources.



SHAKOPEE MDEWAKANTON
SIOUX COMMUNITY



shakopeedakota.org    
952.445.8900 • 2330 Sioux Trail NW, Prior Lake, MN

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY

OCTOBER 11, 2021



National
Congress of
American
Indians

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AGENDA IN-BRIEF PRE-CONGRESS MEETINGS

Thursday, October 7

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Task Force and Work Group Meetings
Task Force and Work Group Meetings

Friday, October 8

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.
2:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.
4:00 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.

Registration/Rules & Credentials
Concurrent Breakouts
Concurrent Breakouts
Concurrent Breakouts

**Annual Convention registration is not required for Task Force and Work Group Meetings on Thursday. Breakout Meetings on Friday requires Annual Convention registration.*

78TH ANNUAL CONGRESS AGENDA

Sunday, October 10

12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Registration/Rules & Credentials
NCAI Fund Board Meeting
NCAI Executive Board Meeting

Monday, October 11

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Registration/Rules & Credentials/Resolutions
(open for duration of the Convention)
First General Assembly
Full Committee Meetings
Regional Caucus Meetings

Tuesday, October 12

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.

Second General Assembly
Subcommittee Meetings
Regional Caucus Meetings

Wednesday, October 13

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Begins at 2:30 p.m.
4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.

Third General Assembly
Full Committee Meetings
NCAI Voting
Regional Caucus Meetings (Optional)

Thursday, October 14

Closes at 10:00 a.m.
11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

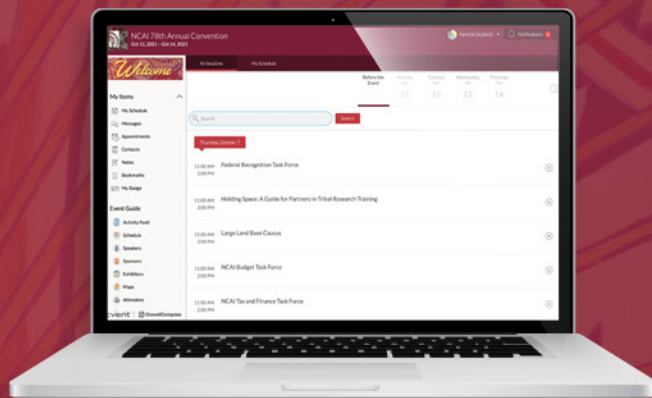
NCAI Voting
Fourth General Assembly



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AGENDA

All times listed in the agenda are Eastern Daylight Time. NCAI Task Forces are open and do not require paid registration for NCAI's Annual Convention.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7

Technical Support Open

10:30 - 3:30

Registration/Rules & Credentials Open

11:00 - 3:30

[Holding Space: A Guide for Partners in Tribal Research Training](#)

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Registration is closed for this session due to space limitations for the interactive portions of the training. Watch for announcements for future trainings.

Given the history of negative experiences with research, Tribal Nations are now increasingly building research oversight and actively engaging in research. However, challenges and conflicts with academic researchers can still disrupt or slow this work. This training is for anyone interested in learning how to strengthen tribal-academic research partnerships. Participants will play the interactive Tribal Research Future Game and learn how governance, trust, and culture can help strengthen research partnerships that lead to more tribally-driven and culturally relevant research that benefits the community.

Federal Recognition Task Force

11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Closed to Press*

The Federal Recognition Task Force works to address the unique interests of non-federally recognized Tribal Nations, including: the federal acknowledgment process, how non-federally recognized Tribal Nations work with state and local entities, and other issues. The Federal Recognition Task Force invites all interested Tribal Nations and citizens to participate.

NCAI Budget Task Force

11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Recent historic investments have underscored the importance of how federal funds are distributed, implemented, and reported for the tribal programs in Indian Country. Billions of dollars are flowing through new and existing processes, including millions in federal oversight and investigative authority. Active and ongoing engagement with the executive branch is critical to affect strong budgetary policy, including future funding and negotiation with the federal government. Join the Budget Task Force to discuss emerging issues and to develop policy recommendations for NCAI to consider.

NCAI Tax and Finance Task Force

11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Tax revenue is essential to help build healthy rural and regional economies. Join the NCAI Tax and Finance Task Force for an open meeting to discuss work in the fields of tax and finance in Indian Country. This Task Force has been charged with: advancing tribal priorities on legislative and administrative tax and finance policy, developing solutions to dual taxation, facilitating tribal engagement with the U.S. Treasury Tribal Advisory Committee (TTAC), and sharing information regarding tribal-state tax agreements.



AGENDA

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7

NCAI Technology Task Force

11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Tribal access to modern communications networks supports economic development, tribal governance, healthcare, education, and public safety in Tribal Nations and surrounding communities. The NCAI Technology Task Force will hold an open meeting to discuss ongoing advocacy in the fields of technology and telecommunications in Indian Country. The Task Force is comprised of tribal leadership, tribal telecommunications companies, Information Technology (IT) experts, entrepreneurs, and representatives from tribal organizations. Conference attendees are encouraged to attend this meeting.

NCAI Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Task Force

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The general welfare of American Indian and Alaska Native families is fundamental to sustaining self-sufficiency, investing in a sustainable economy, and preparing a ready and willing workforce. The NCAI Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Task Force will discuss current administrative and legislative initiatives impacting Tribal TANF nationally. This includes working toward continued reauthorization of Tribal TANF and finding solutions to overcoming barriers to the delivery of programs and discovering best practices for strengthening Tribal TANF programs.

Climate Action Task Force

3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

The working mission of the Climate Action Task Force is to “document, inform, and support the climate action efforts of Tribal Nations and native organizations, and identify and advocate for policies and funding designed to empower their ability to engage in effective, sustainable climate action.” This task force meeting will provide an overview of administrative and congressional updates to improve and expand federal support for tribal climate actions and will be led by the Task Force’s three co-chairs.

NCAI Addiction Task Force

3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Join the NCAI Addiction Task Force to discuss administrative and legislative priorities to increase access and improve the function of behavioral health and addiction programs at the tribal level. The Addiction Task Force continues to support efforts to advance education, treatment, preventative services, and public safety in tribal communities.

NCAI-ITA Joint Transportation Task Force

3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Join the NCAI-ITA Joint Transportation Task Force for a conversation focused on building a unified advocacy approach to tribal transportation development and legislative reauthorization to promote safety and prosperity in tribal communities and to ensure the United States upholds its government-to-government relationship with Tribal Nations.

NCAI Native Languages Task Force

3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Resolution AK-21-026 declared a state of emergency for native languages at NCAI’s 2021 Mid Year Conference. Join the Native Languages Task Force for an open session to discuss strategies to advocate for an Executive Order on native language preservation from the Biden Administration, and tribal leader perspectives on developments in native languages at the tribal, state, and federal policy levels.



AGENDA

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7

***NCAI Task Force on Violence Against Women**

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

***Closed to Press**

The NCAI Task Force on Violence Against Women serves as a unified tribal voice opposed to violent crimes perpetrated against American Indian and Alaska Native women. During this meeting, task force members will highlight tribal programs that prevent and address violence against women in Indian Country, examine national and international violence against women policy work, and coordinate efforts to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act with strong tribal provisions in the 117th Congress.

***Tribal Border Caucus**

3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

***Closed to Press**

Tribal citizen crossings of the United States-Canada and United States-Mexico borders for traditional, cultural, or religious purposes have been a paramount concern for Tribal Nations split by the invisible lines that divided their homelands and relatives. The Tribal Border Caucus invites all northern, southern, and Alaska border Tribal Nations to provide updates and discuss ongoing issues such as navigating the opening of the borders during the COVID-19 pandemic, travel visas, treaty rights, and searches of tribal regalia or cultural items.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8

Climate Change — What You Need to Know and What Indian Country Is Doing

1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

The cultures and lifeways of Tribal Nations and their citizens are place-based and closely tied to subsistence practices. Because of dramatic shifts in weather and climate, resources are disappearing faster than we can restore them, and Tribal Nations are being left disproportionately vulnerable to climate change. At the tribal, national, and international levels, NCAI is leading the response to dramatic climate shifts. This session will provide an insight into climate change actions within tribal and international communities.

Speakers:

- Andrea Carmen, Executive Director, International Indian Treaty Council
- Frankie Myers, Vice Chairman, Yurok Tribe

Defining Treasury's Role in Tribal Governments' Economic Recovery

1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Treasury is managing over \$30 billion in pandemic program tribal set asides. This historic funding is to address relief needs and long-term recovery, including economic recovery for Indian Country. The new Office of Recovery Programs is leading this effort and the deployment of funds to Tribal Nations is a critical priority. Join this session to hear directly from Treasury's recovery leadership and tribal leaders on current efforts and next steps for growing the Treasury-Tribal Nations partnership on tribal economic recovery, including a tribal leader report out on the Treasury Tribal Advisory Committee.

Moderator: Marilynn Malerba, Lifetime Chief, Mohegan Tribe

Speakers:

- Terra Branson-Thomas, Secretary of the Nation and Commerce, Muscogee Nation
- Marilynn Malerba, Lifetime Chief, Mohegan Tribe



AGENDA

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8

2020 Census Data and Redistricting — What's New? What's Next?

2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Throughout Indian Country, Tribal Nations will use the 2020 Census results in funding formulas, policy development, local tribal governance, American Indian and Alaska Native research, and public health surveillance. In addition to providing an update on the latest results from the 2020 Census data release of the P.L. 94-171 Redistricting File, during this session, speakers will review the latest on state redistricting efforts and define fair representation for tribal communities in the redistricting process.

Moderator: Aaron Payment, 1st Vice President, National Congress of American Indians and Chairperson, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Speakers:

- Yvette Roubideaux, MD MPH, Director, NCAI Policy Research Center
- Gwynne Evans-Lomayesva, MPP, Researcher, NCAI Policy Research Center
- Sandra Mitrovich, Civic Engagement Team, NCAI
- Ahtza Dawn Chavez, Executive Director, NAVA Education Project
- Samantha Kelty, Native American Rights Fund

Sovereign Technology: Achieving Digital Justice in Tribal Communities

2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Sovereignty and self-determination are critical aspects of broadband and telecommunication investments in tribal communities. As the United States makes historic investments to uphold its trust responsibility to Tribal Nations, telecommunications funding must be tailored to the unique needs of each Tribal Nation to promote flexibility and self-determination. Join NCAI for an in-depth discussion on current broadband funding opportunities available to Tribal Nations and how to utilize federal funding to achieve digital equity and build robust broadband telecommunications networks and infrastructure on tribal lands.

Moderator: Dr. Traci Morris (Chickasaw Nation), Director, American Indian Policy Institute, Arizona State University

Panelists:

- Stephen Roe Lewis, Governor, Gila River Indian Community
- Adam Geisler (Luiseño), National Tribal Government Liaison, NTIA
- Heidi Todacheene (Navajo), Senior Advisor, DOI
- Matthew Duchesne, Chief, Office of Native Affairs and Policy, FCC
- Tedd Buelow, National Tribal Coordinator, USDA Rural Development

Where Does the Money Go? Impacts of the 2020 Census and Federal Funding for Tribal Nations

4:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Significant growth of the American Indian and Alaska Native population in the 2020 Census has implications for policy and federal funding. Tribal Nations understand that having accurate data for funding formulas is critical to ensuring resources are allocated appropriately. However, due to COVID-19 and privacy measures, some Tribal Nations were impacted during the 2020 Census enumeration. In this session, speakers will discuss the potential impacts of the 2020 Census results on federal funding formulas from the perspectives of the U.S. Census Bureau, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and a Tribal Nation.



AGENDA

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8

Where Does the Money Go? Impacts of the 2020 Census and Federal Funding for Tribal Nations

Moderator: Joe Garcia, Head Councilman, Ohkay Owingeh

Speakers:

- Nicholas A. Jones, Director and Senior Advisor of Race and Ethnic Research and Outreach, Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau
- Todd M. Richardson, General Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Policy Development and Research, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Gary LaPointe, Chief Executive Officer, Sicangu Wicoti Awayankapi Corporation

You Can't Drink Paper Water: Protecting Tribal Water Rights and the Future of Settlement Negotiations

2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Water holds a sacred importance to many Tribal Nations and is vital to tribal subsistence, cultural practices, and more. Water rights secured and upheld through arduous settlement processes are often referred to as “paper water rights.” Similar to other infrastructure needs, water delivery systems have been severely underdeveloped and underfunded throughout Indian Country. After years of negotiations and environmental turmoil, turning the “paper water” secured in tribal water rights settlements into “wet water” remains a challenge for many. Join NCAI for a conversation on the current state of tribal water rights policy and panel discussion with tribal leaders and water policy professionals.

Moderator: David Gover, Staff Attorney, Native American Rights Fund

Panelists:

- Shelly Fyant, Chairwoman, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Russell “Buster” Attebery, Chairman, Karuk Tribe
- Tracy Goodluck, Deputy Director, DOI Secretary's Indian Water Rights Office
- Devin Rhinerson, Vice President, Pace LLP on Behalf of the Colorado River Indian Tribes

NCAI Committee and Subcommittee Chairs Meeting with Resolutions Committee

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

The NCAI Resolutions Committee will provide an overview of the NCAI committee structure, the 78th Annual Convention agenda, and resolutions process.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10

Registration/Rules & Credentials Open

11:00 - 4:00

NCAI Fund Board Meeting

11:00 - 12:30

NCAI Executive Committee Board Meeting

1:00 - 4:00



AGENDA

All times listed in the agenda are Eastern Daylight Time.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 11

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Registration/Rules & Credentials Open

Technical Support Open

Resolutions Open

FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Call to Order and Welcome

Fawn Sharp, President, National Congress of American Indians

Honor Guard

American Indian Veterans Association of Southern California

Invocation

Jack Potter Jr., Chairman, Redding Rancheria Tribe

Welcome from Local Planning Committee

Shannon Romero, NCAI Pacific Regional Vice President Alternate

Welcome from Local Official

Gavin Newsom, Governor, State of California

President's Report

Fawn Sharp, President, National Congress of American Indians

Chief Executive Officer's Report and Overview for the Week

Dante Desiderio, Chief Executive Officer, NCAI

Rules of the Convention

Dr. Malia Villegas, Volunteer, NCAI Rules and Credentials

Election Process

Patrick Anderson, Chair, Election Committee

Resolutions Process Report

Leslie Wheelock, Co-Chair, NCAI Resolutions Committee

W. Ron Allen, Co-Chair, NCAI Resolutions Committee

Special Presentation

Keith B. Anderson, Chairman, Shakopee Mdewakanton Indian Sioux Community

White House Administration Update

Julie Chavez Rodriguez, Director, White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs



AGENDA

All times listed in the agenda are Eastern Daylight Time.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 11

Strengthening Our Voices: An Update on Native American Voting Rights

The White House Steering Committee on Native American Voting Rights will provide a summary overview of the tribal consultations with American Indian and Alaska Native leaders around the country regarding challenges, successes, and next steps in strengthening voting rights across Indian Country.

Mobilizing to Reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act Today

Juana Majel Dixon, Recording Secretary, NCAI and Co-Chair of the NCAI Task Force on Violence Against Women

Shannon Holsey, Treasurer, NCAI and Co-Chair of the NCAI Task Force on Violence Against Women

Boarding School: Our Truth, Our Reconciliation

Full Committee Meetings

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Economic, Finance & Community Development
Human Resources
Land & Natural Resources

*Closed to Press

Litigation & Governance
Veterans

Regional Caucus Meetings

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Alaska Region
Eastern Oklahoma Region
Great Plains Region
Midwest Region
Northeast Region
Northwest Region

*Closed to Press

Pacific Region
Rocky Mountain Region
Southeast Region
Southern Plains Region
Southwest Region
Western Region

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Technical Support Open

Registration/Rules & Credentials Open

Resolutions Open

SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Call to Order and Welcome

Aaron Payment, 1st Vice President, National Congress of American Indians

Invocation

Mikela Jones, Principal for UAIC Tribal School, Little River Band of Pomo Indians



AGENDA

All times listed in the agenda are Eastern Daylight Time.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12

White House Administration Update

Vice President of the United States, Kamala Harris

U.S. Department of Commerce Update

Secretary Gina M. Raimondo, U.S. Department of Commerce

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Update

Secretary Marcia L. Fudge, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

U.S. Department of Transportation Update

Secretary Pete Buttigieg, U.S. Department of Transportation

Mohsin Syed, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs, U.S. Department of Transportation

U.S. Department of the Treasury Update

Deputy Secretary Wally Adeyemo, U.S. Department of the Treasury

Jacob Leibenluft, Chief Recovery Officer, U.S. Department of the Treasury

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Update

Secretary Xavier Becerra, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

U.S. Department of the Interior Update

Secretary Deb Haaland, U.S. Department of the Interior

Bryan Newland, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior

Tribal Leader Discussion

We will focus on infrastructure and community development issues in each panelist's respective tribal community and reflect on the past year as a tribal leader and administrator. We will hear about the various challenges, successes, lessons learned, and any federal or tribal programs that had a big impact related to broadband, housing, transportation, and infrastructure.

Subcommittee Meetings

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Health

Human, Religious & Cultural Concerns

Technology & Telecommunications

***Room 1**

Disabilities

Education

Elders

***Room 3**

Taxation

Tribal Gaming

Elders

***Room 5**

Economic Development, Finance & Employment

Housing

***Closed to Press**

Transportation & Infrastructure

Veterans

***Room 2**

Jurisdiction & Tribal Government

Indian Child & Family Welfare

Public Safety & Justice

***Room 4**

Energy & Mineral Policy

Environmental Protection & Land Use

Trust Lands, Natural Resources & Ag



AGENDA

All times listed in the agenda are Eastern Daylight Time.

Regional Caucus Meetings

5:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.

Alaska Region
Eastern Oklahoma Region
Great Plains Region
Midwest Region
Northeast Region
Northwest Region

***Closed to Press**

Central Region
Rocky Mountain Region
Southeast Region
Southern Plains Region
Southwest Region
Western Region

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13

NCAI Executive Board Elections

In order to vote in NCAI Elections, Tribal Nation and Indian Individual Memberships as well as Convention Registration must be current by 2:00 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, October 13, to vote in the NCAI elections.

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Technical Support Open

Registration/Rules & Credentials Open (Closes at 2:00 p.m.)

Resolutions Open

THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Call to Order and Welcome

Juana Majel-Dixon, Secretary, National Congress of American Indians

Invocation

Climate Change Administration Update

John Kerry, United States Special Presidential Envoy for Climate

Tribal Leader Update

RoseAnne Archibald, First Nations National Chief, Taykwa Tagamou Nation

White House Administration Update

Brenda Mallory, Chair, Council on Environmental Quality

Tribal Leaders Discussion on Climate Change

Leonard Forsman, Chairman, Suquamish Tribe; President, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians
Cheryl Andrews-Maltais, Chairwoman, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah
Andrew Joseph Jr., Chairman, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservations
Amelia Flores, Chairwoman, Colorado River Indian Tribes
Gary Harrison, Traditional Chief and Chairman, Chickaloon Native Village

White House Administration Update

Katherine Tai, Ambassador, United States Trade Representative

Rules and Credentials Report



National
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AGENDA

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13

Nominations and Speeches for NCAI Board Administrative Offices

Standing Rules of Order, Section V. A. 3. Nomination speeches shall be no longer than two minutes. Individuals making nominations must state their name, the tribes they represent, and indicate that they are a member in good standing with NCAI. Nominations do not have to be seconded, and no seconding speeches shall be allowed. Campaign speeches by candidates shall be no longer than five minutes.

NCAI Executive Board Elections

Voting will take place between Wednesday, October 13 at 2:30 p.m. EDT – Thursday, October 14 at 10:00 a.m. EDT. Information on how to vote will be emailed to members in good standing with NCAI.

Full Committee Meetings

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Economic, Finance & Community Development
Human Resources
Land & Natural Resources

***Closed to Press**

Litigation & Governance
Veterans

Regional Caucus Meetings

4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Alaska Region
Eastern Oklahoma Region
Great Plains Region
Midwest Region
Northeast Region
Northwest Region

***Closed to Press**

Pacific Region
Rocky Mountain Region
Southeast Region
Southern Plains Region
Southwest Region
Western Region

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Registration Open

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Resolutions Open

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Technical Support Open

FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Call to Order and Welcome

Shannon Holsey, Treasurer, National Congress of American Indians

Invocation

Joe Garcia, Head Councilman, Ohkay Owingeh



AGENDA

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14

Memorials

Treasurers Report

Shannon Holsey, Treasurer, National Congress of American Indians

Tribal Supreme Court Project Update

Formed in 2001 in response to a series of U.S. Supreme Court cases that negatively affected tribal sovereignty, the Tribal Supreme Court Project promotes coordination and improves strategy on litigation that may affect the rights of all Tribal Nations.

John Echohawk, Executive Director, Native American Rights Fund
Joel West Williams, Senior Staff Attorney, Native American Rights Fund
Esther Labrado, Staff Attorney, National Congress of American Indians

Announcements and Swearing in of NCAI Executive Board Members

Patrick Anderson, Chair, Election Committee
Jonathan Arakawa, NCAI Youth Commission Co-Vice President, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
Ben Schoonover, NCAI Youth Commission Secretary, Cherokee

Swearing in of NCAI Executive Board Members

Resolutions Committee Report Full Committee Reports and Consideration of Resolutions

- Economic, Finance & Community Development Committee
- Human Resources Committee
- Litigation & Governance Committee
- Land & Natural Resources Committee
- Veterans Committee

Retiring of Colors

American Indian Veterans Association of Southern California

Closing Invocation

Regina Cuellar, Chairwoman, Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians

Adjourn 78th Annual Convention



National Congress of American Indians Executive Board



*President
Fawn Sharp*

Vice President, Quinault Indian Nation

President Fawn Sharp serves as the 23rd President of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI). Elected on October 24, 2019, at NCAI's 76th Annual Convention & Marketplace, Sharp is the third woman to hold the position of NCAI President. In addition to holding numerous leadership positions, producing publications, and conducting lectures all over the United States, Sharp also serves as the Vice President of the Quinault Indian Nation in Taholah, Washington, after being a five-term past president.



*First Vice President
Aaron Payment*

Chairperson, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

First Vice President Aaron Payment is serving in his second term as Chairperson of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. With 42,000 members, his Tribal Nation is the largest east of the Mississippi River. He has served as a Tribal Council Member, Vice-Chairperson, and is now in his second four-year term as Chairperson. Payment has been in tribal elective office for nearly 14 years. Before serving as chairperson, he worked in higher education directly serving fellow Native Americans.



*Secretary Juana
Majel-Dixon*

Traditional Legislative Councilwoman, Pauma Band of Mission Indians

Juana Majel-Dixon has served as the Traditional Legislative Councilwoman for the Pauma Band of Mission Indians since 1970. Majel-Dixon also serves as the Natural Resource Director and Policy Director at the Pauma Band of Mission Indians. She has worked as a professor at Palomar College since 1981, providing instruction to college students in many areas, including Federal Indian Law. Majel-Dixon has served on the trust reform task force during both the Clinton and Bush administrations and is a leader of several NCAI committees, task forces, and other initiatives.



*Treasurer
Shannon Holsey*

Tribal President, Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians

Shannon Holsey serves as President of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians. After growing up on the Stockbridge-Munsee reservation in Bowler, Wisconsin, Holsey served as a tribal council member for eight years before becoming president, committing the tribe to act as good stewards of its economy, environment, and culture. Among several other leadership roles, Holsey also serves as President of the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council and is on the Wisconsin State Legislature's Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations.



National Congress of American Indians Regional Vice Presidents

Alaska

Rob Sanderson, Jr.

4th V.P., Central Council of Tlingit
& Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

Alternate:

Michael Williams, Sr.

Chief, Akiak Native Community

Eastern Oklahoma

Norman Hildebrand

Second Chief, Wyandotte Nation

Alternate:

David Woerz

Tribal Legislature, Chickasaw Nation

Great Plains

Larry Wright

Chairman, Ponca Tribe of Nebraska

Alternate:

Rodney Bordeaux

Chairman, Rosebud Sioux Tribe

Midwest

Rebecca Crooks-Stratton

Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community

Alternate:

Shelley Buck

Tribal Council President, Prairie Island
Indian Community

Northeast

Tina Abrams

Councilor, Seneca Nation of Indians

Alternate:

Rodney Butler

President, Mashantucket Pequot Tribe

Northwest

Leonard Forsman

Tribal Chair, Suquamish Tribe

Alternate:

Melvin Sheldon, Jr.

Council Member, Tulalip Tribes

Pacific

Erica Rae Macias

Tribal Council Secretary, Cahuilla Band
of Indians

Alternate:

Shannon Romero

Chairperson, Bishop Paiute Tribe

Rocky Mountain

Mark Pollock

Tribal Business Council, Blackfeet Nation

Alternate:

Shelly Fyant

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

Southeast

Nancy Carnley

Commissioner, Ma-Chis Lower Creek Indian
Tribe of Alabama

Alternate:

Brucie Ogletree Richardson

Chief, Haliwa Saponi Indian Tribe

Southern Plains

Robert Tippeconnie

Secretary, Comanche Nation

Alternate:

Matt Roberson

Committee Member, Wichita and
Affiliated Tribes

Southwest

Joe Garcia

Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo

Alternate:

J. Michael Chavarria

Governor, Santa Clara Pueblo

Western

Amber Torres

Walker River Paiute Tribe

Alternate:

Vacant



National Congress of American Indians Staff

Dante Desiderio

Chief Executive Officer
ddesiderio@ncai.org

Imani Damali-Cathi

Administrative Assistant
idamali@ncai.org

Whitney Smith

Director, Human Resources
wsmith@ncai.org

Keona Proctor

Membership Manager
kproctor@ncai.org

Naomi Rhema

Events Producer
nrhema@ncai.org

Courtney Chavis

Grants Manager
cchavis@ncai.org

Dimitar Marvrodiev

Staff Accountant
dmarvrodiev@ncai.org

Ian Record

Director, Partnership
for Tribal Governance
irecord@ncai.org

Yvette Roubideaux

Director, Policy Research Center
yroubideaux@ncai.org

Yawna Allen

Director, Civic Engagement
and Special Projects
yallen@ncai.org

Jantzen Hale

External Media Relations
jhale@ncai.org

Colby Duren

Director, Policy and Legal
cduren@ncai.org

Tyler Scribner

Policy Lead, Federal
Revenue & Appropriations
tscribner@ncai.org

Ryan Seelau

Policy and Research
Specialist, Legal & Governance
rseelau@ncai.org

Jamie Gomez

Chief of Staff
jgomez@ncai.org

Mahmoud Moussa

Information Technology
Supportmmoussa@ncai.org

Amy Gay

Director, Conferences and Events
agay@ncai.org

Suzanne Gould

Archival Specialist
sgould@ncai.org

Lisa Vandever

Native Youth Project Manager
lvandever@ncai.org

Pamela Fagan

Operations and Finance Consultant
pfagan@ncai.org

Karla Williams

Staff Accountant
kwilliams@ncai.org

Ashley Hamilton

Research Associate, Partnership
for Tribal Governance
ahamilton@ncai.org

Gwynne Evans- Lomayesva

Researcher, Policy Research Center
gevans-lomayesva@ncai.org

Kenrick Escalanti

Creative Director
kescalanti@ncai.org

Brooklyn Brown

Wilma Mankiller Fellow,
Communications
bbrown@ncai.org

Kelbie Kennedy

Policy Manager, Policy Lead
National Security &
Community Safety
kkennedy@ncai.org

Cholena Wright

Policy Lead, Community
Development & Infrastructure
cwright@ncai.org

Sadie Red Eagle

Policy Research Specialist,
Environmental Sustainability &
Natural Resources
sredeagle@ncai.org

Nketia Agyeman

Office Manager/Executive Assistant
nagymen@ncai.org

Warren Hope

Director of Finance
whope@ncai.org

Bernida Humetewa

Director, Tribal Outreach
bhumetewa@ncai.org

Paul Beccio

Communications Architect
pbeccio@ncai.org

Saundra Mitrovich

Civic Engagement Associate,
smitrovich@ncai.org

Max Muller

Corporate Counsel
mmuller@ncai.org

Diana Shull

Human Resource Consultant
dshull@ncai.org

Coby Klar

Research Associate, Partnership
for Tribal Governance
cklar@ncai.org

Sierra Watt

Research Associate, Policy
Research Center
swatt@ncai.org

Miranda Raney

Communications Associate
mraney@ncai.org

Dillon Shije

Wilma Mankiller Fellow,
Policy
dshije@ncai.org

Esther Labrado

Legal Manager, Policy Lead
Legal & Governance
elabrado@ncai.org

Julia Wakeford

Policy Lead, Social &
Cultural Resources
jwakeford@ncai.org

Quinn Buchwald

Policy Specialist, Environmental
Sustainability & Natural Resources
qbuchwald@ncai.org





A Welcome Letter from NCAI President Fawn Sharp

On behalf of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), we are honored to welcome you to the 78th Annual Convention. We are excited to gather virtually once again in celebration of the ancestral home of our brothers and sisters in the Pacific region. Let us come together with tribal leaders, policymakers, and partners of Indian Country to bring light to the vital issues pressing our communities today.

This year's theme is "Building Together," making it the perfect opportunity for us to build on the shared priorities of our nations, communities, and people.

While the past year has resulted in great suffering for our Tribal Nations facing the ongoing impacts of COVID-19, and has brought to the forefront the generational trauma caused by Native American boarding schools in the United States, we must move forward—united and stronger—in honor of our community members, ancestors, and the future of Indian Country.

This week, we will stand together as the collective voice of Indian Country, speaking our truth to protect our Tribal Nations, our people, and our ways of life. We hope you leave our convention with a renewal of hope and strength in the power of Indian Country.

Siokwil,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "F. Sharp".

President Fawn Sharp

National Congress of American Indians



National
Congress of
American
Indians

Q&A with NCAI CEO

DANTE DESIDERIO

In May 2021, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) welcomed home a familiar face when Dante Desiderio was formally announced as the organization's new Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Desiderio made his return to the NCAI family after a 10-year tenure as executive director of the Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA). As a leading Native American economic policy expert with a proven ability to implement Tribal Nation-driven agendas, Desiderio now oversees the day-to-day management and operations within NCAI and brings with him a passion for serving our nations, communities, and people.

Let's get to know more about the CEO!

Tell us about your Tribal Nation.

My family or clan is one of seven that make up the High Plains Indian Settlement of Sappony located along the boundary line of North Carolina and Virginia. The settlement was named High Plains or, in Siouan, acconshuck, because it served as an isolated and elevated refuge between the three waters that surround our settlement. We are the descendants of the Siouan Tribes that remained in their homelands and united as one nation under the prominent Sappony.

Outside of work, what are your favorite things to do?

My life outside of work is centered on raising and keeping up with my two daughters. Other than going to soccer games and school activities, I spend a lot of time helping my tribal community. I have dedicated a lot of time volunteering for youth camp, serving as one of the tribal historians, planning projects, and helping at gatherings.

"I purposely pursued positions and courses over the years that would challenge me, build my capacity, and learn different skills and concepts in those areas."

What is your professional background and areas of expertise?

Like most interesting careers, my path to where I am today has been winding and full of surprises. However, most of it has been spent in the financial services and economic development area. I learned early that a key component of individual, organization, and government empowerment is understanding how economies and finance work. I purposely pursued positions and courses over the years that would challenge me, build my capacity, and learn different skills and concepts in those areas. I am proud that I have taken a more difficult path of self-learning. It has become an asset for my family, community, and the organizations that I have had the honor of serving on behalf of Indian Country.





“Indian Country is in a new era of self-determination, and tribal leaders have tremendous challenges and responsibilities. Leaders need a responsive organization that can be a credible partner to help lead and lean into the change.”

-Dante Desiderio

*National Congress of American Indians
Chief Executive Officer*

What influenced your decision to pursue the role of CEO?

It was a very difficult decision to leave NAFOA, an organization that me and my amazing team had grown for ten years. However, I recognized that NCAI was in a difficult place and could benefit from a new approach. I also recognized that we, Indian Country, needed a healthy and viable organization to unite us and represent us in Washington. It became a decision to do what I could to help out.

What is your philosophy on service to Indian Country?

I firmly believe that we, as Indian people, need to know where we come from and truly understand the sacrifices that our people have made over many years. Every Tribal Nation has an amazing story of survival and perseverance. We all have an obligation to serve in some way to improve our place in the world and respect those sacrifices. We must continue until we have our balance restored and our lifeways honored.

How do you see NCAI evolving in the next year, two years or five years?

Change is always difficult. With the board's support and vision, we have embarked on a difficult transition and new direction for the organization. Our primary objective is to create a more supportive and leading organization that will grow beyond any one individual and meet the very real and demanding challenges we face today and those that we will face well into the future. Indian Country is in a new era of self-determination, and tribal leaders have tremendous challenges and responsibilities. Leaders need a responsive organization that can be a credible partner to help lead and lean into the change.

The organization needs to restructure in almost every way over the next few years to meet the new challenges— and we are still the caterpillar. Stay tuned.





A Welcome Letter from the Local Planning Committee

*O*n behalf of the Local Planning Committee, comprised of California's tribal leaders and Native organizations, we welcome you to the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) 78th Annual Convention.

We all recognize that due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the extreme need to take precautions to ensure the safety of tribal communities across Indian Country, it was determined that we would hold the conference in this virtual format.

Although, we will not literally “rub elbows” this year, we are still proud to plan and assist NCAI in this important convening. The agenda is robust with pertinent information for all tribes, tribal leaders, and those who work with and for our people.

In this virtual format, we are still able to showcase the vibrant California tribal culture and people. We hope you enjoy the festivities and take great joy in participating.

Three cheers to the leadership and staff at NCAI who work tirelessly to make this convention a success. Thank you also to all who participated on the Local Planning Committee, we will be together in person soon.

Please continue to practice pandemic safety protocols. We are all counting on each other.

Sincerely,
Local Planning Committee



78th Annual Convention

*Thank You
To our dedicated NCAI volunteers who are instrumental to our work, we
thank you and your Tribal Nations for your continued support.*

W. Ron Allen
Chairman, Jamestown
S'Klallam Tribe

Patrick Anderson
Tlingit/Aleut

Will Micklin
Central Council of Tlingit
Haida Indian Tribe of Alaska

Malia Villegas
Alutiiq/Sugpiaq

Leslie Wheelock
Oneida Nation

Emily White Hat
Sicangu (Rosebud)
Lakota Nation

NCAI gives a heartfelt thank you to the members of the Local Planning Committee (LPC) for their hard work, commitment, and resources. We appreciate you.

Russell (Buster) Atteberry
Chairman
Karuk Tribe

Hedi Bogda Hitchcock
Bogda Law/Consulting
Leech Lake Band of
Ojibwe Tribal Member

Erica Macias
Tribal Council Secretary
Cahuilla Band of Indians
Pacific Regional Vice
President, NCAI

Rosemary Morillo
Soboba Band of Luiseño
Indians

Gabriel Pimentel
Executive Director
Southern California
Indian Center

Jack Potter Jr
Chairman
Redding Rancheria

Shannon Romero
Vice Chairperson
Bishop Paiute Tribe
Pacific Alternate
Regional Vice President,
NCAI

James Sarmento
Executive Director of
Cultural Resources
Shingle Springs Band of
Miwok Indians

Sonny Skyhawk
SICANGU
Lakota Nation of So. Dakota
SICANGU
Lakota Treaty Council
Board Member
Alcohol Justice

Tracy Stanhoff
President
American Indian
Chamber of
Commerce of
California

Cheri Thomas
Quinault Indian
Nation

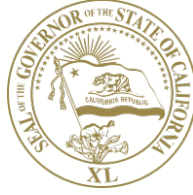
Raul Verdugo
Advocacy Manager
Alcohol Justice



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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR


October 10, 2021

78th Annual Meeting of the National Congress of American Indians

On behalf of the State of California, it is with humility and respect that I welcome you to the Pacific Region for the 78th Annual Meeting of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI). While we would be honored to join you in-person, we fully support the measures NCAI has taken to protect attendees and their tribal communities who have already been so deeply affected by the pandemic.

California, home to the largest population of Native Americans and the second-largest number of tribes, benefits immeasurably from our strong partnerships with the Tribal Nations that have called this land home since time immemorial. Over the last three years, we have worked together to tackle challenges many of us never thought we would live to see—a global pandemic, catastrophic wildfires and a national reckoning on social justice and inequity.

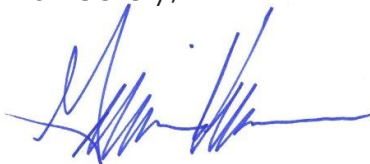
As long-standing community and government leaders, California Tribal Nations have shined a light on how California might do better in our governance by focusing on community, equity and taking care of this land so it might take care of us. And, through resilience, protest, art and persistent advocacy, California Native peoples have compelled a reexamination of our collective history and identity. We admit that we have not always maintained the strong tribal relationships that have helped us through these unprecedented times. In fact, we still have much to do to keep our promises, continue to build trust with our tribal partners and undo some of the harm we have caused. But we are hopeful that by first taking full account and accountability of the State's actions and the harm we have caused, we can build something better, brighter, and more reflective of all Californians.



The State has made demonstrable progress in our efforts to reckon with our past, make space for healing, and promote equity. Following our apology to California Native Americans for the exploitation, violence, and genocide our predecessors inflicted upon Native peoples, we created a Truth and Healing Council, which is embarking on the journey of accurately addressing our past and moving forward together. We have also made important strides in the spirit of reparations to expand tribal stewardship of ancestral lands and natural and cultural resources, promote visibility of the rich diversity of Native cultures, begin to address the issue of missing and murdered indigenous peoples, teach our youth the true history of California, and expedite the return of Native ancestors to their people.

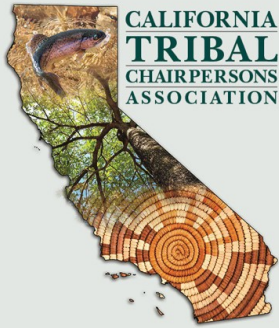
California will continue in its steadfast commitment to work with Tribal Nations as cooperative leaders and caretakers of one of the most diverse, beautiful, and dynamic states in this nation—not just because it is the smart thing to do, but because it is the right thing to do. Once again, I thank you for inviting me to share with you in this conference and we stand ready to support your work as you address issues important to all Tribal Nations.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom
Governor of California





Bo Mazzetti, Chairman
bomazzetti@aol.com

Michael Hunter, Vice-Chairman
tribalchairman@coyotevalley-nsn.gov

Erica M. Pinto, Secretary
epinto@jiv-nsn.gov

Garth Sundberg, Treasurer
gsundberg@trinidadrancheria.com

Russell "Buster" Attebery, Member at Large
battebery@karuk.us

Kevin Day, Member at Large
kday@mewuk.com

Dale Miller, Member at Large
dmiller@elk-valley.com

Daniel Salgado, Member at Large
chairman@cahuilla.net

October 11, 2021

Greetings to all NCAI members and event attendees,

Welcome to the virtual, National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) 78th annual convention! As the Chairman of the California Tribal Chairpersons Association (CTCA), it is my honor to welcome all of you to the great state of California, home of 109 federally recognized tribes.

The CTCA is a non-profit corporation consisting of federally-recognized tribes (represented by tribal chairpersons and vice-chairpersons) from across the State of California. The CTCA's members are tribal leaders collaborating, promoting, improving, and advocating for tribal sovereignty, natural and cultural resource protection, health and wellness of Native people, education, economic development for Tribal Governments, and other priorities identified by individual Member Tribes and Regional Associations and approved by the CTCA as a common objective. The CTCA is organized as a tribal resource and recognized as a central point for the issues in California.

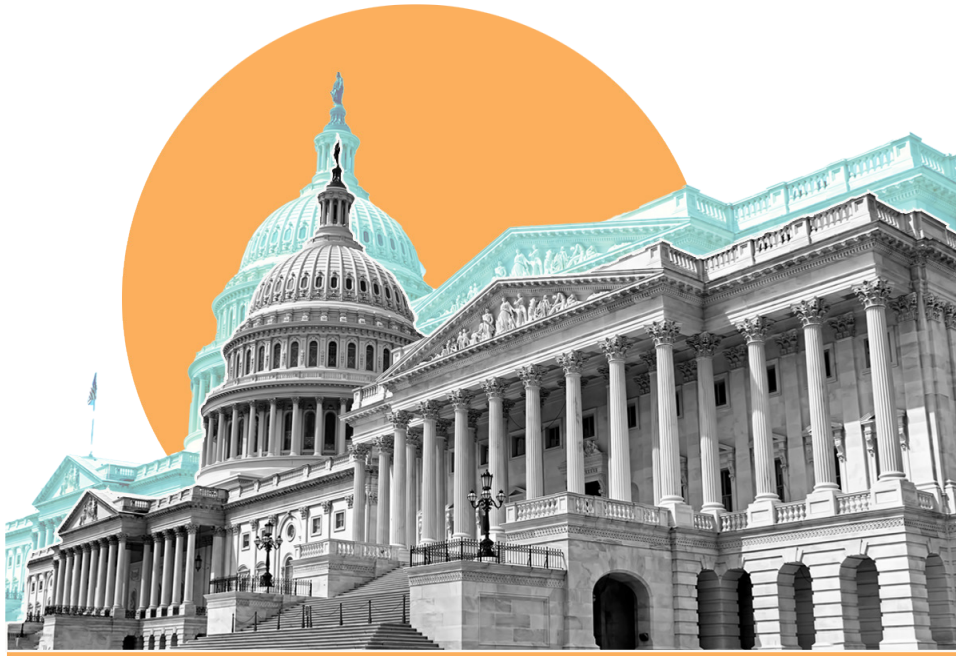
As the Chairman of not only the CTCA, but also the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians, I have worked diligently and closely with California's state government to elevate, educate, bring awareness, and work to facilitate change on critical issues that impact Tribal Nations in California. Most recently, we met with the California legislative delegation to discuss the tribal water crisis. It was a step in the right direction.

As American Indians, it is important that we protect our tribal sovereignty. We must continue to work to hold the federal government accountable for the barriers they have in place, including underfunding of tribes, outdated laws and broken promises. The federal government must be held accountable and honor the treaties and the promises made to our ancestors.

As we continue to stand as a united front and show the world our resiliency, I have high hopes for the future of Indian Country. I hope each of you has a great time at this convention. Although we could not be together in person this year, I thank you all for being here and your time and efforts to continue to elevate the voices of Indian Country and educate those who need it most.

Sincerely,

Bo Mazzetti, Chairman
California Tribal Chairpersons Association



TOP POLICY WINS

OVERALL

- The American Rescue Plan Act**
- Providing over \$26 billion for Indian Country

SOCIAL/CULTURAL

- **U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland established the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative to investigate the loss of human life and lasting consequences of residential Indian boarding schools.**
- **More than \$6 billion for Indian Health Service, provided support for lost reimbursements, COVID-19 vaccines, tracing, facility improvements.**

INFRASTRUCTURE/COMMUNITY

- **\$1 Billion in Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grants through the Department of Commerce**

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

- **NCAI and partners released a joint policy brief on the 2018 Farm Bill to serve as a midpoint status report about how the Farm Bill is working for Indian Country and how the implementation of tribal provisions could be improved.**

NATIONAL SECURITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

- **Tribal leaders and all of Indian Country successfully advocated for FEMA to waive the 25 percent non-federal cost share for COVID-19 disaster relief funding.**
- **Bipartisan Victims Of Crimes Act Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act passing providing funding to the Crime Victims Fund and tribal set-aside funding.**

FEDERAL SPENDING AND REVENUE

- **Approximately \$34.5 billion in supplemental federal spending was specifically marked for Indian Country in FY 2021**

LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE

- **Since January 2021, federal agencies have held more than 150 national-level consultation sessions totaling more than 350 hours of government-to-government interaction.**





NCAI Policy and Legal

Policy action and advocacy are at an alltime high in Washington, DC. The NCAI Policy and Legal teams have worked tirelessly with our partner tribal organizations to advance Indian Country priorities over the last. Since December 2020, Congress has passed over \$4.1 trillion in additional spending through supplemental appropriations and the American Rescue Plan Act providing over \$26 billion in relief to tribal governments.

The record funding levels of funding and program access also mean increased engagement from the federal government agencies to Tribal governments. One of the first actions of the new Biden-Harris Administration in January 2021 was to issue a Presidential Memoranda on strengthening the Nation-to-Nation relationship between Tribal Nations and the federal government. Updating tribal consultation policies and focusing on building relations with Tribal Nations are critical to the federal trust responsibility and ensuring access to the new funding and programs for Indian Country now and going forward.

The policy highlights below track the past year's congressional and administrative actions impacting Indian Country. NCAI's Policy Team is continuing to advocate and inform policymakers to ensure that Indian Country's priorities and voices are heard.

NCAI Summaries of this years spending packages:

[H.R.133 - Consolidated Appropriations Act Legislative Summary](#)

[American Rescue Plan Act Legislative Summary](#)

[Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act Preliminary Legislative Analysis](#)

[Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act NCAI Topline Summary of Tribal Provisions](#)

NCAI Policy Focus Areas

- Social and Cultural Resources
- Community Development and Infrastructure
- Environmental Sustainability and Natural Resources
- National Security and Community Safety
- Federal Spending and Revenue
- Legal and Governance





NCAI Policy and Legal



Social and Cultural Resources

Social and Cultural Resources encompass the spiritual, cultural, physical, and practical well-being of Native people and tribal communities. The continued existence of our Tribal Nations is reliant on protecting sacred cultures and languages, ensuring tribal citizens and elders receive the health care they need to survive, and that Native children receive the education they need to thrive. Tribal sovereignty within these and other social programs is essential to their success, as only Tribal Nations know what will serve their communities best. Now more than ever, the Federal government must uphold its treaty and trust obligations to Tribal Nations during times of crisis. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the gaps in support for Indian Country have been glaring. Facing the loss of elders and struggling to educate our next generations remotely, NCAI has tirelessly advocated for the resources owed to Tribal Nations.

With the need for additional health care being a continued focus throughout the pandemic, the [American Rescue Plan \(ARP\)](#), with more than \$6 billion for Indian Health Service, provided support for lost reimbursements, COVID-19 vaccines, tracing, facility improvements, and funding for Urban Indian Health while



extending 100% Federal Medical Assistance Percentage to Urban Indian Health Organizations.

The [ARP](#) provides a substantial amount of funding for social and educational programs, including: \$10 million in emergency funding for Native American language preservation and maintenance grants; a \$1 billion Pandemic Emergency Fund with \$74.8 million for non-recurrent short-term benefits to territories and Indian tribes which operate Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs. Additionally, the ARP included \$850 million for the Bureau of Indian Education, Bureau-funded schools, and Tribal Colleges and Universities. [H.R. 133](#) appropriated \$409.4 million to the Bureau of Indian Education to Bureau-funded schools and Tribal Colleges and Universities.

In June 2021, U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland established the [Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative](#) to investigate the loss of human life and lasting consequences of residential Indian boarding schools. The Initiative, which is under the supervision of the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, will prepare a detailed report on history of Indian residential boarding schools and conduct tribal consultations on future sitework for the protection of cemeteries and burial sites.



Secretary Haaland announcing the Indian Boarding School Initiative at the 2021 Mid Year Conference

Community Development and Infrastructure

Community Development and Infrastructure is the foundation upon which Tribal Nations achieve economic freedom, sovereignty, and cultural continuity. Severe deficiencies in physical infrastructure in Indian Country impact every facet of life for tribal citizens. Tribal nationhood and resiliency are dependent upon access to safe roads and transportation, clean water, habitable living and gathering spaces, and robust technology and telecommunications networks that allow Tribal Nations to continue thriving in a rapidly changing world.

As the need for improved infrastructure continues to increase, congressional lawmakers have begun to take steps toward upholding their federal trust responsibilities and make historic investments in critical infrastructure sectors in Indian Country. [The American Rescue Plan Act \(ARP\)](#) and [H.R. 133: The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 \(H.R. 133\)](#) both included several policy provisions to address urgent infrastructure needs for Tribal Nations.



Congress is also finalizing [H.R. 3684 - the Infrastructure and Jobs Act](#), a \$1.2 trillion bi-partisan infrastructure package. The U.S. Senate passed bill has over \$15 billion in tribal-specific funding measures and an additional \$146.3 billion in competitive grants and cooperative agreements.



- H.R. 133 allocated \$800 million for The Emergency Rental Assistance Program and the [American Rescue Plan Act \(ARP\)](#) provided \$498 million for the Homeowner's Assistance Fund to be distributed to Tribal Nations, Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHE's), and the Office of Hawaiian Homelands through the [U.S. Department of Treasury](#).
- The ARP provided \$750 million to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus, for activities and assistance authorized under title I of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act, including \$450 million for Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG); \$5 million for Native Hawaiian Block Grants; [\\$280 million for Indian Community Development Block \(ICDB\) grants](#); \$10 million for training and technical assistance to tribes and TDHEs; and \$5 million for administrative costs.
- [H.R. 133](#) provided an additional \$114 million for activities eligible under the Tribal Transportation (TTP) Program
- The Senate-passed [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act \(IIJA\)](#) includes a five-year Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act Reauthorization which allocated \$3 billion for the TTP Program and provides \$270 to the BIA Road Maintenance Program. Additionally, it would reauthorize and allocate \$39 million for the Tribal High Priority Projects Program and fund the Tribal Transit Program at approximately \$229 million, and also would establish an Office of Tribal Government Affairs and an Assistant Secretary for Tribal Government Affairs in the U.S. Department of Transportation.
- The [Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grant \(TBCG\) Program](#), [Emergency Broadband Benefit Program \(EBB\)](#), and [Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program](#) were established under H.R. 133. Under [IIJA](#), the TBCG program administered by the Department of Commerce will receive additional funding of \$2 billion bringing the total amount of funding for this program to a historic \$3 billion.
- [ARP provided \\$900 million for Bureau of Indian Affairs](#) programs including \$100 million for the [Housing Improvement Program](#) and \$20 million to provide and deliver potable water to Tribal Nations and their citizens.
- [IIJA](#) includes many long-awaited water infrastructure and Indian water rights settlements funding provisions. Notably, IIJA provides \$2.5 billion to complete all currently-authorized Indian water rights settlements; \$270 million to improve water quality and sanitation under the EPA's Indian Reservation Drinking Water Program; \$290 million to Improve Sanitation in Rural and Native Villages; and more than \$1.7 billion in Clean Water and Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund Tribal set-asides.



Environmental Sustainability and Natural Resources

Tribal Nations and their citizens maintain a strong physical, cultural, spiritual, and interdependent relationship with their homelands, natural resources, and environmental well-being. The protection of natural resources and tribal homelands must include a multi-pronged, holistic approach to environmental sustainability. This approach includes advocating for policy solutions to environmental issues like climate change, conservation, water rights, fishery management, wildlife, agriculture, and environmental co-management opportunities. Significant gaps in federal funding and implementation processes continue to hinder Tribal Nations' ability to respond to environmental degradation and limit protection for our natural resources.

During the past year, the federal government has responded to tribal concerns through providing historic funding and revenue policy that will assist Tribal Nations in responding to natural disasters, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the betterment of environmental restoration projects across Indian Country.

- The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 provided \$30 million in direct funding for tribal fishery disaster relief. This set-aside provides relief assistance to any federally-recognized Tribal Nation located in Coastal States, including those that are located in the Great Lakes Region.
- The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provided over \$16 billion in support for USDA existing programs, with a large focus on socially disadvantaged producer programs. ARPA provided approximately \$4 billion in FSA Loan Debt Relief for socially disadvantaged producers; \$1 billion in technical and financial assistance to support socially disadvantaged producers; \$3.6 billion for commodity purchasing; \$7 million for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program; and extended the 15 percent increase in SNAP Benefits through the end of September 2021.
- The Senate-passed Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act (IIJA) would authorize and reauthorize several environmental sustainability programs and other related spending between Fiscal Year 2022 and Fiscal Year 2026. Most notably, IIJA provides \$216 million in direct funding for tribal climate resilience, adaptation, and community relocation efforts; \$150 million tribal set-aside for orphaned well site plugging remediation and restoration; and \$27.9 billion in eligible competitive grant and cooperative agreement funding for Tribal Nations and organizations administered the Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, Department of the Interior, Department of Energy, and the Environmental Protection Agency.
- Earlier this year, NCAI's Tribal Food Sovereignty Advancement Initiative (TFSAI) released two key resources for tribal food producers and Tribal Nations looking to expand their food production efforts. NCAI and partners released a joint policy brief on the 2018 Farm Bill to serve as a midpoint status report about how the Farm Bill is working for Indian Country and how the implementation of tribal provisions could be improved. NCAI also released a 95-page Tribal Food Sovereignty and Food Production Resource Directory, a comprehensive listing of funding resources and technical assistance programs to assist individual Native food producers and Tribal Nations in expanding their food production efforts.



National Security and Community Safety

Tribal Nations are the first and oftentimes the only responders in Indian Country to natural disasters, national security threats, and criminal activity. The restoration of tribal jurisdiction over non-Indian offenders and the necessary funding for tribal services are key to ensuring that Indian Country is safe and secure for everyone. Throughout the last year, NCAI has continued to advocate for critical changes to address federal shortfalls in Indian Country and advance National Security and Community Safety priorities within Congress and the Administration.

In March 2021, the House passed a bipartisan Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Reauthorization bill (H.R. 1620). The bill contains key provisions that restore tribal jurisdiction over non-Indians for certain crimes involving children and elders, sexual violence, stalking, sex trafficking, obstruction of justice, and assaults against law enforcement and corrections personnel. The restoration of Tribal Nation jurisdiction over non-Indians is an important step forward in combating violence against American Indians and Alaska Natives in Indian Country. The Senate is currently negotiating a bipartisan VAWA bill that would include all of the vital tribal provisions found in the House bill. Tribal Nation can use the [NCAI VAWA Toolkit](#) to urge their Senators to cosponsor to the bi-partisan Senate bill today!

In June 2021, President Biden signed the Victims Of Crimes Act Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act of 2021 into law. The law helps replenish the Crime Victims Fund (CVF) and supports Tribal Nation services for victims of crime. For the past three years, Congress has carved out a tribal set aside in the annual CVF appropriations, which has led to Tribal Nations directly receiving hundreds of millions of dollars to help victims of crime in Indian Country. While the 2021 Act will help replenish the CVF, it will not make the tribal set-aside permanent. NCAI and Tribal Nations will continue to advocate and work with Congress to [amend VOCA and establish a permanent Tribal Nation CVF set aside](#).

- **Family Violence Prevention and Services Act Reauthorization.** The Family Violence and Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) provides critical support for tribal domestic violence shelters, training and technical assistance centers, safety planning, emergency response hotlines, and prevention initiatives. In order to address violence against AI/AN women, victims and survivors must have access to culturally appropriate shelters and resources. The House and Senate recently marked up the Family Violence Prevention and Services Improvement Act of 2021 ([S. 1275](#) and [H.R. 2019](#)) at the committee level and are preparing to take the bills to the floor for a final vote. The bills will increase funding for Tribal Nations and codify an Indian Domestic Violence Hotline and an Alaska Native Resource Center. Tribal Nations should call on their legislators to cosponsor the bills today!
- **COVID-19 Disaster Declarations Cost Share Waiver.** Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic Tribal Nations, NCAI, and other tribal organizations have called on the federal government to waive the 25 percent non-federal cost share for COVID-19 disaster relief funding. In early 2021, President Biden waived the cost share for all Tribal Nations and declared the waiver



retroactive, making it easier for Tribal Nations to access COVID-19 funding through FEMA. Tribal Nations can find additional information regarding tribal emergency disaster declarations, tribal major disaster declarations, and the FEMA reimbursement process in the [NCAI Disaster Preparedness Webinar Series](#).



Federal Spending and Revenue

Tribal Nations paid in full for the federal promises exchanged when they ceded millions of acres of land that made the United States what it is today. It is the obligation of the federal government to support tribal self-governance, protect tribal lands, assets, resources, and treaty rights. Funding this trust responsibility is critical to the fulfilling of the fiduciary relationship of the United States with Tribal Nations. Additionally, the power to tax is an essential attribute of tribal sovereignty and is a necessary instrument of self-government. Unfortunately, the lack of tax parity and the threat of dual taxation severely limits Tribal Nations' ability to carry out government functions and invest in critical infrastructure, contributing to Tribal Nations' unique reliance on federal spending and revenue.

The President's legislative agenda and the Coronavirus pandemic brought tribal and federal governments together at unprecedented levels to respond to the diverse issues tribal communities face. This shared responsibility to govern, particularly during times of crisis, resulted in historic spending and revenue policy for Indian Country in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 and strong prospects for continued investments and improvements in FY 2022 and beyond.

Approximately \$34.5 billion in supplemental federal spending was specifically marked for Indian Country in FY 2021, with investments in both existing and newly-established tribal programs and set-asides. Additionally, tribal governments shared revenue and tax credit benefits as part of Coronavirus pandemic relief and response. These spending and revenue decisions represent a momentous federal recognition of tribal sovereignty that has opened up new relations at the highest levels of the federal government.



As part of that supplemental spending, the Social Security Administration (SSA) released a September 2021 Dear Tribal Leader letter stating that financial assistance provided from tribal governments to assist tribal citizens due to COVID-19, funded by the Coronavirus Relief Fund or Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds and American Rescue Plan, does not count against Supplemental Security Income (SSI) eligibility and payment amounts. The recent position from the SSA will ensure that tribal citizens do not face further undue hardships with SSI as a result of receiving emergency assistance.

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FY 2021 regular appropriations established indefinite appropriation accounts for Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) Section 105(l) lease agreements at both the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS) and of the Interior (DOI), opening up new funding opportunities to address infrastructure improvement in Indian Country. FY 2021 also included an Administrative budgeting solution to the outsized impacts of government shutdowns and Continuing Resolutions on tribal operations, through the grant of exception apportionment for certain Indian Affairs and Indian Health Service (IHS) accounts.

The FY 2022 regular appropriations process is currently underway, with some of the largest single-year funding increases ever proposed by a U.S. President for tribal programs released earlier this year, including recommending advance appropriations for the IHS. Congress' recent FY 2022

Budget Resolution also included provisions paving the way for Congress to enact advance appropriations for IHS Services and Facilities accounts.

Leading into FY 2022, Congress is poised to enact additional spending and revenue fixes through an infrastructure bill and through the budget reconciliation process. These investments will continue the momentous sovereign recognition and federal funding growth experienced during FY 2021. New and modified legislation means new Executive branch regulations and interpretive rulemaking. Active engagement with the Executive branch to form strong spending and revenue policy will remain key throughout the next fiscal year.





Legal and Governance

NCAI's efforts in the legal and governance space serve to protect and enhance treaty and sovereign rights, secure traditional laws, cultures, and ways of life; promote a common understanding of the rightful place of Tribal Nations in the family of American governments and improve the quality of life for Native communities and peoples include working to support the legal rights Tribal Nations and tribal citizens. This work includes supporting litigation throughout the country, promoting Native nominees for judicial appointment, and scrutinizing the record of federal judicial nominees.

NCAI partners with the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) on the Tribal Supreme Court Project (TSCP) - an effort that started 20 years in 2021 to strengthen tribal advocacy before the U.S. Supreme Court. Through the TSCP and other engagement with litigation around the country, NCAI signs onto and files amicus briefs in cases affecting Indian Country. NCAI was part of amicus briefs in several cases this year, including *Trump v. New York*, *United States v. Cooley*, *Yellen v. Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, et al.*, *Mitchell v. Kirchmeier, et al.*, *In the interest of Y.J., a Child*, and *Dundon v. Kirchmeier, et al.*

NCAI is engaged in international Indigenous issues, law and policy, participating in institutions such as the World Intellectual Property Organization, the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change, as well as various mechanisms within the United Nations. NCAI also submitted comments to the Department of State in response to Executive Order 13175 recommending the creation of an Ambassador on Indigenous Affairs and the creation of a Tribal Advisory Council to more fully institutionalize Native representation during the formation of U.S. foreign policy.

Another important part of In the past year in tribal governance, Tribal Nations witnessed a large shift in consultation policy after President Biden signed a Presidential Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships, requiring all federal agencies to develop consultation plans in consultation with Tribal Nations in accordance with Executive Order 13175. Since January 2021, federal agencies have held more than 150 national-level consultation sessions totaling more than 350 hours of government-to-government interaction. In that same timeframe, NCAI staff attended hundreds of hours of consultation and submitted written comments to dozens of agencies. For more information about upcoming tribal consultations and current federal consultation policies, visit NCAI's [Consultation Support Center](#).





Key Court Decisions:

***United States v. Cooley*:** On June 1, 2021, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a unanimous opinion in *United States v. Cooley*, holding that tribal law enforcement have the authority to temporarily detain and search non-Indians traveling on public rights-of-way running through a reservation for suspected violations of state or federal law. The Court relied on the second Montana exception, explaining that a tribe cannot address conduct that threatens the health and welfare of the tribe if a tribal police officer does not have the authority to search and detain for a reasonable time any person the officer believes may have committed a crime. The Court also rejected the standard put forth by the Ninth Circuit, noting that requiring a law enforcement officer to ask a suspect if he is Indian creates an incentive to lie and that the requirement that the violation of law be “apparent” created a new, potentially unmeetable standard.

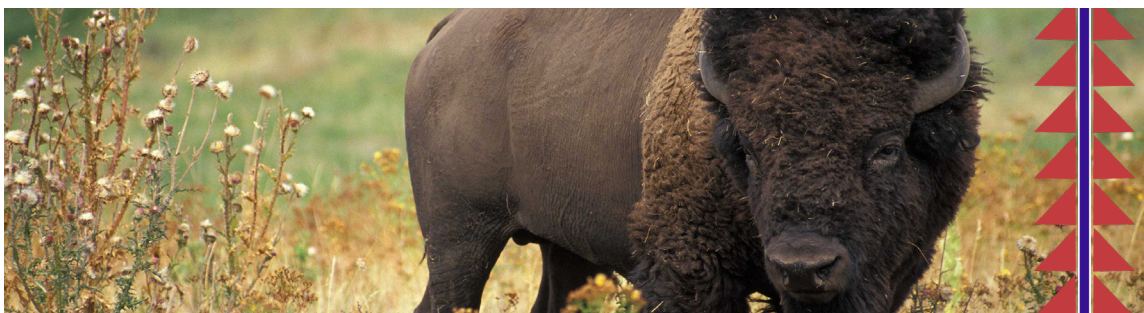
***Yellen v. Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation*, et al.:** On June 25, 2021, the U.S. Supreme Court held that Alaska Native Corporations (ANCs) are included in the definition of “Indian tribes” under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDA) and thus eligible for funding under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The Court stated that the ruling “does not ‘vest ANCs with new and untold tribal powers,’” but rather “confirms the powers Congress expressly afforded ANCs and that the Executive Branch has long understood ANCs to possess.”

***Brackeen v. Haaland (formerly Brackeen v. Bernhardt)*:** On April 5, 2021, the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals published a 325 page en banc decision upholding the majority of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) while striking down some provisions of the law. The opponents of ICWA have filed for cert in the U.S. Supreme Court. The Protect ICWA Campaign consisting of NCAI, the National Indian Child Welfare Association, the Native American Rights Fund, and the Association on American Indian Affairs will continue to coordinate with Tribal Nations and allies on the case.

***McGirt v. Oklahoma*:** On July 9, 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation’s reservation in eastern Oklahoma was never disestablished by Congress. This ruling has gone on to be cited by many other Tribal Nations to reaffirm their own reservations and protect their treaty rights. The State of Oklahoma continues to dispute the ruling in *McGirt* and has filed a petition in *Oklahoma v. Bosse* asking the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn its recent ruling.

To read more about these cases, and additional ones, check out the [Tribal Supreme Court Project update](#) developed by our partners at NARF.



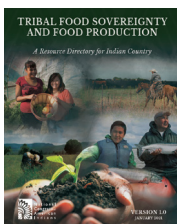


POLICY - Tribal Governance

NCAI Tribal Governance and Special Projects

In 2009, NCAI established the Partnership for Tribal Governance to create, coordinate, and share the knowledge, tools, and resources that Tribal Nations need to strengthen their governance systems and more fully and effectively exercise their sovereignty in critical areas.

In 2019, NCAI created the “Tribal Governance and Special Projects” (TGSP) department to include the Partnership for Tribal Governance and a growing number of other tribal governance-supporting initiatives focused on key topics. Over the past year, TGSP has made significant strides across these initiatives, developing and sharing cutting-edge educational, informational, and technical assistance resources with Tribal Nations, leaders, and key decision-makers. Below are some key highlights of that work.



FOOD SOVEREIGNTY AND FOOD PRODUCTION RESOURCE DIRECTORY

The [resource directory](#) provides a comprehensive collation of funding and technical assistance resources available to individuals and Tribal Nations and organizations for their food sovereignty efforts. Containing more than 160 entries, the directory features federal and non-governmental grant and loan programs, Indian Country Technical Assistance Providers, and distinct groupings for individuals, Tribal Nations/organizations, individuals and Tribal Nations/organizations, and Tribal Nations/organizations with partners. The directory is updated monthly and version 2.0, containing additional entries, will be released in early 2022.



TRIBAL FOOD SOVEREIGNTY: COMPREHENSIVE POLICY BRIEF

The [Comprehensive Policy Brief](#) highlights Indian Country's top-line policy priorities that will enhance the ability of Tribal Nations, organizations, and individual food producers to establish, protect, and grow food sovereignty initiatives. These recommendations are informing the ongoing dialogue between Tribal Nations and the federal government about key actions the government should take to support the growth of tribal food systems. The brief is arranged into four policy areas: agriculture, land, water, and climate action.



TRIBAL FOOD SOVEREIGNTY: CASE STUDIES

TFSAI case studies highlight innovative tribal governance practices related to food sovereignty and offer transferable lessons and strategies for Tribal Nations to consider as they work to develop their own food sovereignty initiatives. Currently, there are four case studies featuring the [Oneida Nation of Wisconsin](#), [Osage Nation](#), [San Carlos Apache Tribe](#), and [Yurok Tribe](#) with a fifth case study on the Blackfeet Nation coming soon. Each study is developed in full partnership with the participating Tribal Nation.





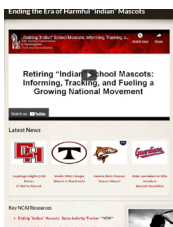
POLICY - Tribal Governance

NCAI Tribal Governance and Special Projects



STATE ACTIVITY TRACKER

The [State Activity Tracker](#) shares in real time the growing movement at the state level to retire Native “themed” school mascots. Designed to inform state officials, allies, media, and the general public, the tracker presents latest developments and key resources detailing the current status and extent of activity in each state. Currently, around 20 states have taken or are considering taking actions to address Native “themed” mascots used by public K-12 schools in their states.



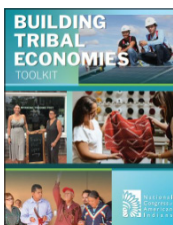
“PROUD TO BE” RESOURCE CENTER

The [Proud To Be](#) resource webpage highlights the decades-long campaign to end ‘Indian’ mascots. This webpage reflects NCAI’s ongoing work at the K-12 school, state, and professional sports team levels and should be used as a resource for those pursuing an end to ‘Indian’ mascots. The webpage includes a ‘Latest News’ section, a list of key NCAI resources, additional resources and research, an explanation of NCAI’s current work, and an archive of past communications.



NATIONAL SCHOOL MASCOT TRACKING DATABASE

The [Comprehensive National School Mascot Tracking Database](#) tracks more than two dozen different Native “themed” school mascots at the K-12 level, updating it weekly through Google alerts and direct school engagement. The database features comprehensive information for each school, from news stories to mascot logos to contact information for school administrators and board members. The database allows NCAI to identify and engage those schools that are having active conversations about their mascots. For a detailed visual depiction of the state of Native “themed” school mascots across the country and the growing movement to retire them, please see the infographic on page 41. **Coming Soon!**



NCAI’S “BUILDING TRIBAL ECONOMIES” TOOLKIT

NCAI’s [“Building Tribal Economies”](#) decision-framing toolkit, which will be released in late 2021, trains the focus of Tribal Nations on the strategic considerations involved with building integrated, resilient, tribal economies capable of supporting their communities and citizens today, tomorrow, and for generations to come. It poses probing questions that tribal leaders and other key decision-makers must ask of themselves, their governments, tribal employees, tribal citizens, and their current tribal economic development activities to craft economy-building approaches capable of achieving their long-term, nation-rebuilding goals. It also equips these stakeholders with the knowledge, tools, best-practice approaches, and proven strategies to understand what building a tribal economy requires and how to approach it.



ENDING “INDIAN” MASCOTS

A GROWING NATIONAL MOVEMENT



1,903 SCHOOLS

1,903 schools employing Native “themed” mascots across
992 school districts

90 SCHOOLS

41 SCHOOL DISTRICTS

90 schools across 41 school districts
still employing “R*nsk*ns” racial slur
as mascot

70 MASCOT CHANGES

70 school **mascot changes** in 2020

47 MASCOT CHANGES

47 school **mascot changes** so far in
2021

3 STATES

3 states (WA, CO, NV) **passed**
legislation banning Native “themed”
mascots at public K-12 schools in 2021

“

“True respect for Native people and other people of color requires our country to rid itself of the symbols of racism and intolerance that have far too long been embedded in popular culture and which have marginalized and dehumanized us. These symbols and names have no place in American society, and our work is not yet done.”

- Fawn Sharp (Quinault), NCAI President

“For too long, the presence of derogatory mascots has promoted inaccurate and offensive portrayals of American Indian individuals and communities.”

- Jared Polis, CO Governor

“There’s a distinction between honoring the history of a people and reducing their treasures, religious imagery, their faces, their bodies, their families, their most precious beliefs to a caricature.”

- Jessie Danielson, CO State Senator

“It is well past time to phase out Native-themed mascots and logos. It is degrading that we are being portrayed as no different than a token.”

- Debra Lekanoff (Tlingit), WA House Representative

”



Artist Spotlight

Lyn Risling



Lyn Risling's work reflects the renewal and continuation of cultural traditions and the natural world of her tribal peoples, the Karuk, Yurok, and Hupa of northwestern California. She is a descendant of ceremonial and cultural leaders and activists, such as her late grandfather, David Risling Sr., and her late father, David Risling Jr. Lyn has been involved in many aspects of her culture, such as revival, participation in tribal ceremonies, and other traditions. Her family has long been involved in traditional tribal arts and other contemporary art forms.

Lyn's art is part of a continuum whose roots are strongly connected to the land and heritage of her ancestors. It continues to grow and spiral out and back again, bringing the past, present, and future together through new creations of timeless images of color and design.

Lyn received a Bachelor of Arts in Art from the University of California, Davis, followed later by a master's degree from Humboldt State University, where she worked while raising her children.

For more information, visit Lyn's website: www.lynrising.com

WALTON FAMILY
FOUNDATION

Where Opportunity Takes Root

We are a family-led foundation that creates access to opportunity for people and communities by improving K-12 education, protecting the environment and advancing the quality of life in our home region.



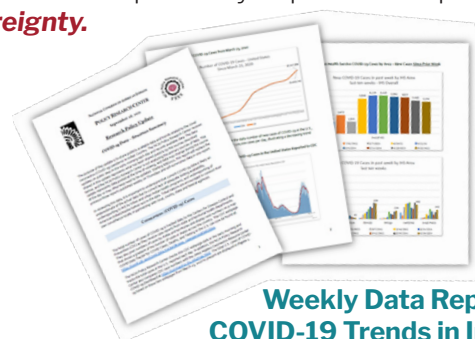


NCAI Policy Research Center

During a year when many Tribal Nations faced urgent challenges, the NCAI Policy Research Center focused on the impact data and research could make for tribal communities. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 election cycle, and many other obstacles, the NCAI Policy Research Center made significant progress to ensure data positively impacts tribal policy in three major areas: **Research; Strategy; and Sovereignty.**

RESEARCH: Providing research and data to Tribal Nations on NCAI priority issues

By publishing weekly reports on the latest COVID-19 data for Indian Country, the NCAI Policy Research Center team used data visualization to report trends for COVID-19 cases, deaths, and vaccine uptake across Indian Country. With this data, tribal leaders were able to take quick action to protect their communities.



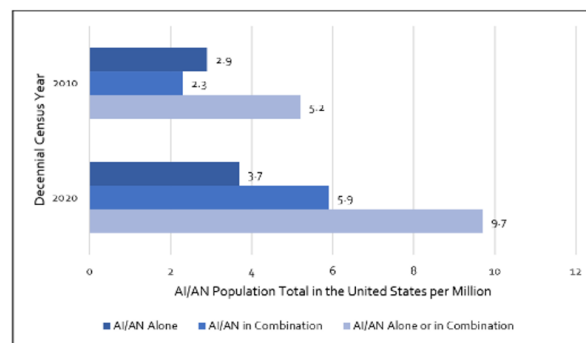
Weekly Data Reports Featured COVID-19 Trends in Indian Country

The NCAI Policy Research Center quickly analyzed a first look at the 2020 Census results for the AI/AN population. The team published an update within 24 hours of release to provide a quick explanation for the significant overall national increase in the AI/AN overall population and state population changes to tribal leaders in real-time. Soon thereafter, the NCAI Policy Research Center analyzed and published 2020 Census results for tribal lands (geographies) before the U.S. Census Bureau released data to the public.

The NCAI Policy Research Center also analyzed demonstration product data for the proposed 2020 Census privacy measures by assessing

2020 Census Reports 87% Increase in AI/AN Population since 2010 Census

Figure 1: The American Indian/Alaska Native Population in the United States between 2010 and 2020 – P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data File, U.S. Census Bureau



¹ Data released on August 12, 2021 was rounded to the millionth place and rounding errors may result in slight differences in how the data is reported in various graphs and charts.
Data Sources: 2020 Census Illuminates Racial and Ethnic Composition of the Country; The American Indian and Alaska Native Population: 2010 Census Briefs



the potential impact on Tribal Nations and confirming that impacts would likely be worse for small, rural, and remote tribal communities. Combined with data products and consultation letters, this analysis helped Tribal Nations understand potential impacts and the importance of advocating for more accurate tribal data during tribal consultation sessions with the U.S. Census Bureau.

Table 2: States with an AI/AN Voting Age Statewide Population Percentage Larger Than the Senate Margin of Victory

State	Senate Election Contenders	Senate Race Winner	AI/AN Voting Age Population Percentage	Senate Race Voting Margin of Victory Percentage
Alaska	Sullivan v. Gross	Sullivan (R)	17.6%	12.7%
Arizona	McSally v. Kelly	Kelly (D)	5.6%	2.4%
North Carolina	Tillis v. Cunningham	Tillis (R)	2.1%	1.8%

Source: 2019 Census Bureau, 2019 Population Estimates, Tables SCPRC-EST2019-18+POP-RES and SC-EST2019-ALLDATA; 270towin, Accessed on December 10, 2020.

The NCAI Policy Research Center disseminated Native Vote data reports to illustrate how the AI/AN population could impact the outcomes of close elections in key states.



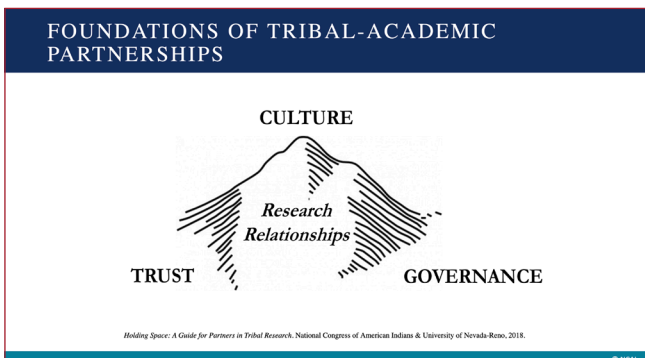
STRATEGY: Helping Tribal Nations use data in a strategic, forward-focused manner

During its 16th Annual Tribal Leader/Scholar Forum at the 2021 NCAI Mid Year Conference, researchers discussed data and research topics with tribal leaders. Sessions focused on priority topics that could drive strategic decisions, such as tribal research oversight, COVID-19 data on Native youth, behavioral health issues, tribal college students, juvenile justice data, and community partnership data.

To help inform tribal policy priorities and tribal research governance, PRC created a virtual exhibit format to share and disseminate resources with Tribal Nations on data resources at NCAI Conferences.

SOVEREIGNTY: Enabling Tribal Nations to exert more effective sovereignty over data/research

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and limited in-person meetings, the NCAI Policy Research Center developed a virtual platform for its Holding Space: A Guide to Partners in Tribal Research. To help strengthen tribal-academic research partnerships, the team continued to conduct interactive trainings with several institutions, tribal staff, researchers, and students.



The NCAI Policy Research Center submitted and distributed letters in response to several data and research-related tribal consultations, including the U.S. Census Bureau's plans to implement new privacy measures and the National Institutes of Health programs and activities. These letters resulted in actions and outcomes more favorable to Tribal Nations and their right to govern research conducted with their citizens and communities.



The Story of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Indian Country – Visualizing Data for Action

When COVID-19 cases started to rise in the United States in March 2020, the NCAI Policy Research Center began reviewing available data sources on COVID-19 cases, knowing that verification time for federal data would lead to delays in reporting. However, to take necessary actions to protect their communities, Indian Country needed data as soon as possible. Tribal Nations started reporting cases, but data was hard to find. By March 23, 2020, the NCAI Policy Research Center began tallying any data it could find, including state data, U.S. case data, Indian Health Service data, and data found in news reports.

A look back at the top of the spreadsheet shows the early numbers – 40 cases reported by IHS on March 24, 2020, 35 cases reported by Indian Country Today, cases in the low 100s in the D.C. area, and national cases below 20,000. While the differences in numbers were frustrating initially, the reporting became more consistent over time. The trends became clear – the COVID-19 pandemic was becoming an urgent threat to our communities and cultures.

The numbers tell another story on row 532 of the same spreadsheet as of September 1, 2021. As of that date, the total number of COVID-19 cases reported by IHS is 230,193, and the total number of cases in the U.S. is near 40 million. Weekly reports on these trends provided Tribal Nations a reliable data source, allowing them to make swift decisions to allocate resources and take action to protect their communities.

While most Tribal Nations likely relied on the IHS and regional tribal epidemiology centers for information, the NCAI Policy Research Center used data visualization techniques to show various trends specific to Indian Country

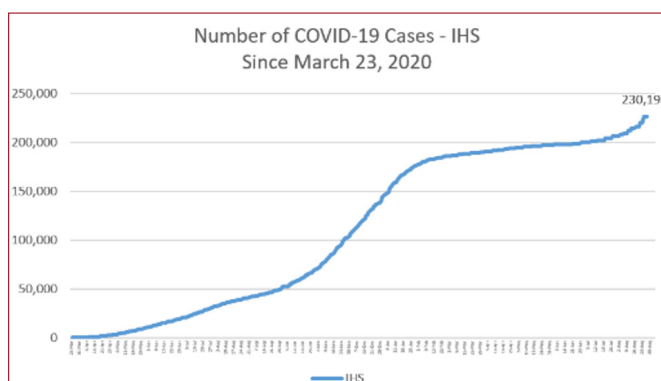
and by IHS Region. This same spreadsheet now has several tabs for other detailed data that helps create graphs showing trends in COVID-19 cases overall and by IHS region.

As vaccine data became available on the CDC website, the NCAI Policy Research Center compiled the numbers each day and began

	State websites				US Cases				State CDC				IHS				ICT			
	MD	DC	VA		us cdc	new	us JH		JH	CDC	MD	DC	VA		IHS	daily	ICT			
	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases		cases		deaths	deaths	cases	cases	cases		cases	increase	cases	deaths		
23-Mar	244		116		219	15,219														3
24-Mar	288		137		254	33,404	18,185								40		35			2
25-Mar	349		183		290	44,183	10,779								42	2	74			2
26-Mar	423		231		391	54,453	10,270	69,197							68	26	74			2
27-Mar	580		267		460	68,440	13,987	85,996							83	15	89			3
28-Mar	774	5	304	4	604	85,356	16,916	104,837	1711	1246	774	267	604		110	27	92			4
29-Mar	992	5	342	5	739	103,321	17,965	124,686	2191	1668	774	267	604		110	0	117			7
30-Mar	1239	10	401	9	890	122,653	19,332	143,055	2513	2112	774	267	604		135	25	117			7
31-Mar	1413	15	495	9	1020	140,904	18,251	164,610	3170	2405	1239	401	1020		165	30	190			10

The Beginning of Our Spreadsheet with Trend Data – 40 COVID-19 Cases Reported by Indian Health Service on March 24, 2020

reporting the percent vaccinated according to IHS and CDC data. This data helped identify an important challenge – while news reports highlighted the success stories of individual Tribal Nations with high vaccination rates, the trends told a different story. More efforts were needed to ensure the life-saving vaccines could protect Indian Country. While the COVID-19 pandemic is not over yet, the NCAI Policy Research Center will continue to track COVID-19 data trends. Hopefully, late nights and early mornings spent analyzing data will end soon as Tribal Nations combat and eventually recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.



Row 559 of Our Spreadsheet – Almost 250,000 COVID-19 Cases reported by Indian Health Service on September 28, 2021



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for our first 35 years.

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*O*ur gracious host for the 78th Annual Convention is the Pacific region. The Pacific region is an integral part of Indian Country and the legacy of NCAI. The Tribal Nations and communities of the Pacific region represent a place of rich culture and Indigenous fellowship. Members of the Local Planning Committee (LPC), Gabriel Pimentel and Russell “Buster” Attebery, have offered insight into this vibrant region.

An Embassy of Culture and Community

Gabriel Pimentel is the Executive Director of the Southern California Indian Center. The center offers an Indigenous space for community and support. The focus of the center is to provide resources to Native peoples in the Pacific region and across Indian Country.

Pimentel says the center’s goal is “not to create our vision, but to support their vision.” The Native community can find an array of support from employment needs, education, outdoor recreation, and culturally-centered behavioral therapy to karate or even computer coding training. Native families in need can get access to food and other goods.

Pimentel and his team are expanding this effort into other corners of Indian Country, including the Pacific Northwest, as well as states, such as Arizona and Virginia, and urban Native spaces, by collaborating with the local leadership in those areas. The Southern California Indian Center is an example of the expansive significance of culture and fellowship in the Pacific region.

A Region of Strong Nations

Russell “Buster” Attebery is the Tribal Chairman of the Karuk Tribe, one of two Tribal Chairmen representing the Pacific region on the Tribal-





The Southern California Indian Center, Inc. has been serving as a cultural community center for 44 years.

Interior Budget Council (TIBC) committee, and a member of the executive board for the California Tribal Chairperson Association (CTCA). The Karuk Tribe is the third largest tribe of the 110 tribes in California. The Karuk Tribe provides cultural community classes, language classes, basket weaving, bear grass braiding, and more.

The Karuk Tribe is an involved and valued asset of NCAI, submitting a resolution calling for the “Advancement of Meaningful Tribal Co-Management of Aboriginal Territories” at last year’s Annual Convention, which was subsequently passed.

The Karuk Tribe is also involved in combating the contemporary issues facing Indian Country, attending several consultations with state and federal agencies, and providing important commentary, including a push to integrate Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) with western science.

Chairman Attebery and the Karuk Tribe proudly represent the Pacific region, valuing the natural resources and beauty of their ancestral lands. The Karuk Tribe played a vital role in establishing the California Cyanobacteria and Harmful Algae Bloom Network (CCHAB), creating guidelines for protecting public health with regard to harmful algae blooms. The nation actively supports



Chairman Russell “Buster” Attebery has served as the Tribal Chairman of the Karuk Tribe since 2011.

and participates in the work to remove Klamath Dams, work which constitutes the largest fisheries restoration project in United States history, as well as maintains and operates a water quality monitoring system that covers 120 miles of the Klamath River. The Karuk Tribe is also a leader in land stewardship, including prescribed fire and cultural burning in the context of climate adaptation and water resource protection.

These valued members of the LPC represent the resilience, power, and culture of the Pacific region. We appreciate the Pacific region for hosting the NCAI 78th Annual Convention and look forward to one day celebrating this ancestral region in person.



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The Resolutions Process

Resolutions Due: 3 Weeks Before Conference

Only individual Indian members in good standing are authorized to submit a resolution. Good standing includes: membership dues are paid and current. Submit resolutions via the online form.

Resolutions Committee Review: 1 Week after Submission Deadline

The NCAI Resolutions Committee consists of Tribal Volunteer Co-Chairs and Executive Board Liaisons. The committee will review submitted resolutions and develop recommendations.

Submitted Resolutions Posted to NCAI Website

Submitted resolutions and recommendations will be posted to the NCAI website one week before the conference begins for sponsors and attendees to review. A broadcast will be sent to NCAI members when the documents are posted online.

Resolutions Sent to Committee/Subcommittee Chairs

At the time that the resolutions and recommendations are posted online, notice will be sent to committee and subcommittee co-chairs to review resolutions assigned to their committees.

Attend Committees and Subcommittees

Attend the NCAI Committees/Subcommittees to address concerns about your resolution raised by committee members. Check the agenda for committee meeting times and locations.

Resolutions Committee



Final Action Taken on Resolutions: Last Day of Plenary Session

Committee co-chairs present committee reports on the action taken on resolutions considered by their committee during the last plenary session. Resolutions may be pulled from the committee reports to be considered individually by the membership. The committee report is adopted or tabled by the body under a consent agenda.



VIRTUAL VOTING ELIGIBILITY



TRIBAL NATION



PAY TRIBAL NATION DUES



SUBMIT RESOLUTION FOR DELEGATE



TRIBAL NATION VOTE



INDIVIDUAL



PAY DUES



REGISTER FOR CONVENTION



INDIVIDUAL VOTE

VIRTUAL VOTING & CAMPAIGNING

Virtual Voting for NCAI Officers



Voting will take place between 2:30 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, October 13, 2021 and 10:00 a.m. EDT on Thursday, October 14, 2021.



Ballots will be sent via email.



Ballot will be filled out online.



Review your selections before submitting your ballot.

Options for Virtual Campaigning



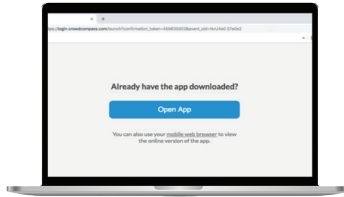
Each candidate will have five minutes to address the General Assembly.



Candidate bios will be on the convention app.



Candidates can interact with voters on the convention app and discuss their candidacy in between sessions.



Accessing the Event Portal

We've built an exciting event portal for the 78th Annual Convention that has all the important information you'll need to participate in the event, and features to enhance your user experience. Here's what you need to do to access the event portal from your desktop or a mobile device.

[View the How-To Guide >](#)



Logging in via App

Open the app, then enter the name of your event password in the search bar. Tap the name of your event, then tap Download to open it. Then, from the event home screen, tap the hamburger button in the top left to open the side nav menu. Tap Log in for more features to enter your details before verifying your account.

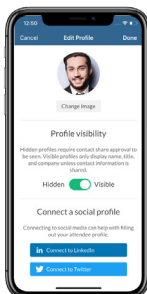
[View the How-To Guide >](#)



Logging in via Invitation

On the device you're using to access the 78th Annual Convention portal, open the invitation in your inbox and tap Download the App. You'll be taken directly to the app in the App Store or Google Play Store, depending on your device type.

[View the How-To Guide >](#)



Managing your Privacy

If you want to appear on the attendee list but still have control over who can see your profile, you can set it to visible. After logging in, tap the icon in the top left, then tap your name at the top of the screen to update your settings. Otherwise, you can hide your profile entirely by removing yourself from the list.

[View the How-To Guide >](#)



NCAI Communications

Following a year which saw a global pandemic and widespread social unrest, 2021 saw NCAI continue to elevate issues important to Indian Country on a national scale. Virtual forms of communications continued to be the primary method of outreach and NCAI engaged and informed the public, media, and policymakers on the latest information affecting Tribal Nations and Native people. From sharing the updates on the coronavirus pandemic and vaccination rates on tribal lands and communities, to the development of the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative, NCAI was a constant presence. NCAI hosted online Town Halls, webinars, livestream broadcasts, op-eds, expanded social media activity, released case studies and informative toolkits, and re-branded email newsletters to support breaking news and issues of interest throughout the year.

FOLLOWERS
82.4K



NCAI
SOCIAL MEDIA
BY THE NUMBERS

FOLLOWERS
61.5K



FOLLOWERS
9.6K



FOLLOWERS
10.6K



NCAI's communications team and the NCAI Policy Research Center joined forces with civil rights partners to elevate the public's understanding of the outcomes of the 2020 Census, document the increase of the American Indian and Alaska Native population, and translate the implications of a more diverse United States. Additionally, the momentum and awareness of the harms caused by "Indian" mascots in sports and popular culture continued in 2021 as Indian Country saw Native-themed mascots dwindle across the nation from local schools to professional sports teams as NCAI released the National School Mascot Tracking Database. NCAI also participated in the Red Road to DC Totem Pole Journey in which a totem pole made its way from Washington



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state to Washington, D.C. stopping at various Tribal Nations along the way to advocate for free, prior, and informed consent and to bring awareness to the need for protecting sacred sites.

Whether informing the public or NCAI membership on recent developments, NCAI Communications strives to provide premiere access to the quality and timely information that Tribal Nations need most and to elevate the unified voice of Indian Country.



INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL INITIATIVE

In June 2021, U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland established the [Indian Boarding School Initiative](#) to investigate the loss of human life and lasting consequences of residential Indian boarding schools.

\$13.7M

Within six days of the announcement, NCAI's communications efforts garnered \$13.7 million dollars-worth of Advertising Value Equivalency through social media engagement and traditional media coverage to elevate the boarding school issue to a national audience.

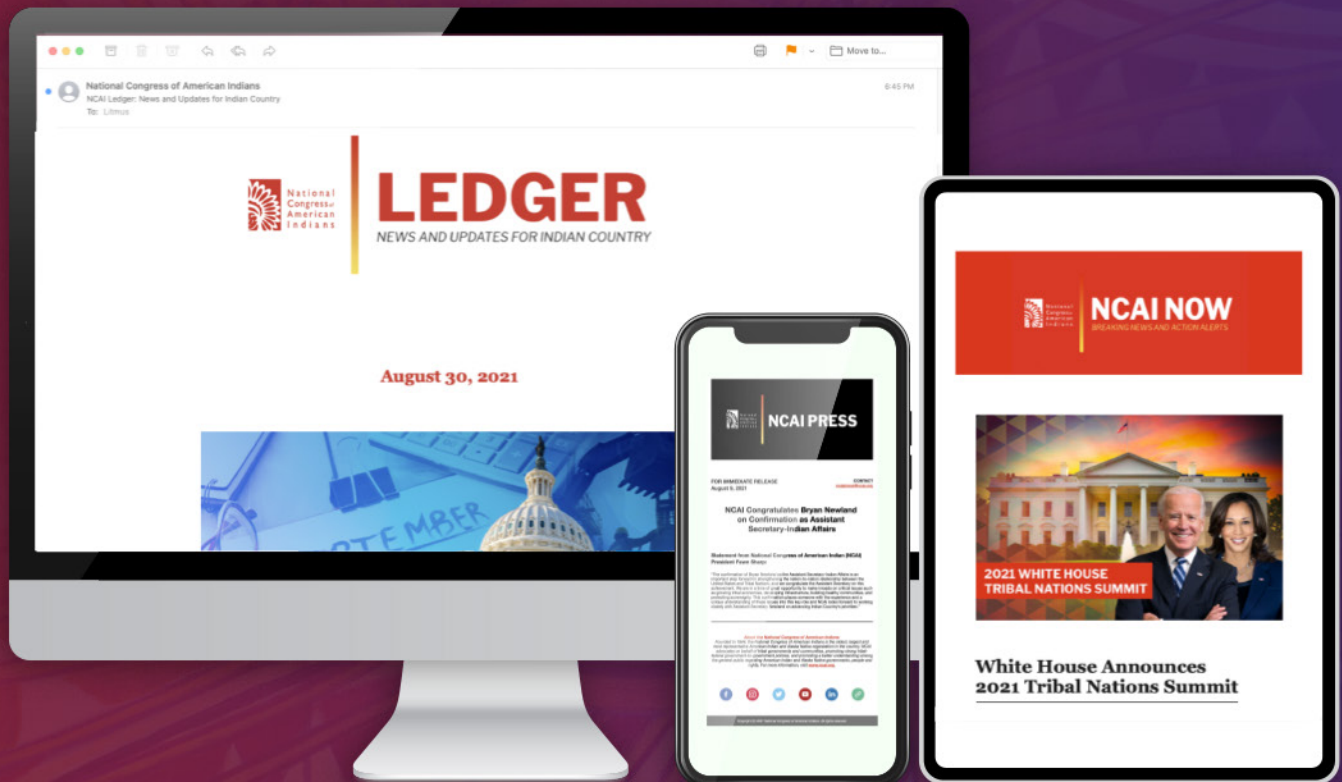
NCAI NOW Broadcast

Throughout the last year, the NCAI Communications team closely monitored outreach and email communication strategies, ultimately focusing on the need for a new plan to relay information to Indian Country. Through the "NCAI NOW" and overall improved email newsletter strategy, NCAI's goal is to keep Indian Country informed, engaged, and up-to-date on the latest news, legislation, and events benefiting our Tribal Nations, communities, and culture.



THE LATEST NEWS & UPDATES *FOR INDIAN COUNTRY.*

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

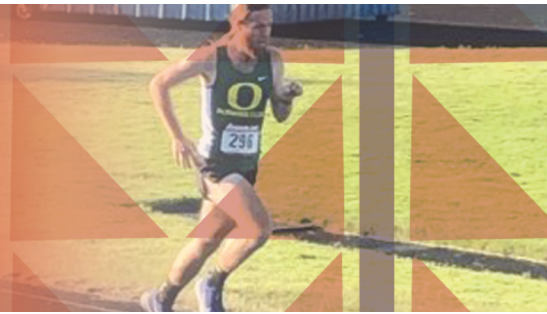


By signing up for NCAI newsletters, stay up-to-date on the latest news, legislation, and events benefiting tribal governments and communities. See our work in action!



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LEAD



Meet the 2021 NCAI Youth Commission

NCAI seeks to support Native youth and create the future leaders of Indian Country and holds in high regard the accomplishments, potential, and impact they bring to tribal communities.

The NCAI Youth Commission is designed specifically for college and high school students interested in political science, tribal government, and Native American legislative and governmental affairs and gives tribal youth opportunities to gain knowledge about the organizational processes of NCAI and the structure of tribal politics. Meet the 2021-2022 NCAI Youth Commission!



Jessica Lambert,
Co-President

Tribal Affiliation:

Choctaw Nation/Eastern Band
of Cherokee Indians

University:

Princeton University

Areas of Study:

Political Anthropology, Indigenous
Studies, and Environmental Science



Jonathan Arakawa,
Co-Vice President

Tribal Affiliation:

Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe

University:

The Evergreen State College
and Peninsula College

Areas of Study:

Tribal Governance and Teaching



Simon Friday,
Co-President

Tribal Affiliation:

Tlingit and Haida Tribe

University:

University of Alaska, Fairbanks

Areas of Study:

Psychology



MakanaLani Pike,
PR Representative

Tribal Affiliation:

White Mountain Apache Tribe and San
Carlos Apache Tribe

Areas of Interest:

Youth Advocacy, Encouraging and
Enhancing Leadership Development
among Native Youth.



Yanenowi Logan,
Co-Vice President

Tribal Affiliation:

Deer Clan, Enrolled Seneca from the
Cattaraugus Territory

University:

Cornell University

Areas of Study:

Environment and Sustainability



Ben Schoonover,
Secretary

Tribal Affiliation:

Cherokee Nation

University:

University of Oregon

Areas of Study:

Human Physiology





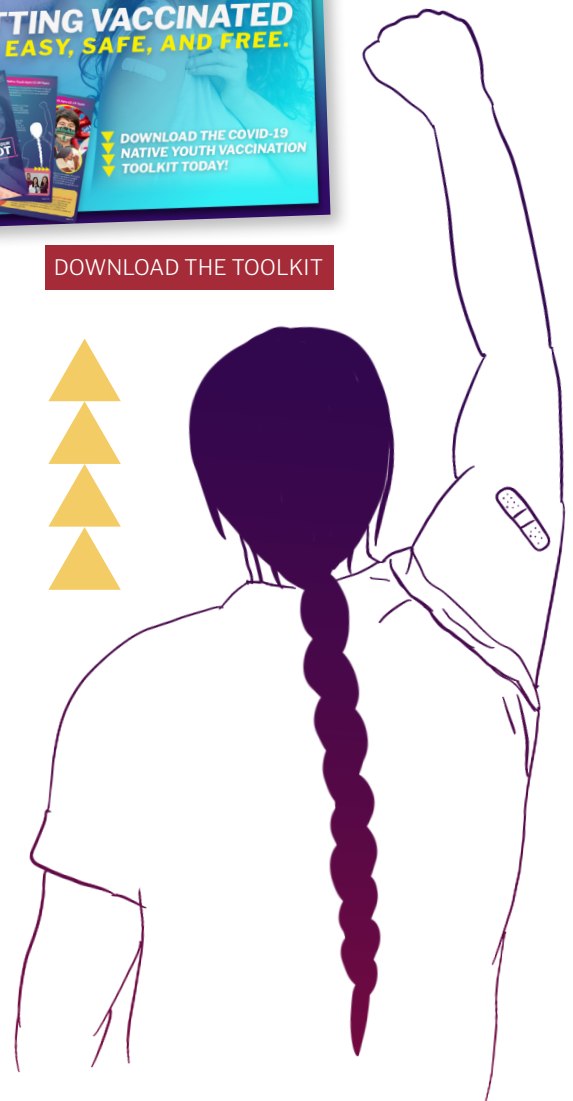
DOWNLOAD THE TOOLKIT

A Voice for Native Youth

This year, the NCAI Youth Commission had the opportunity to make vital contributions to NCAI's COVID-19 Native Youth Vaccination Toolkit. The officers were an active voice in the process of reaching out to and connecting with Native youth and parents across Indian Country by providing photos and videos to promote the toolkit through social media.

Developed by NCAI using information gathered from Indian Health Service (IHS) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the COVID-19 Native Youth Vaccination Toolkit provides American Indians and Alaska Natives access to resources and factual information surrounding COVID-19 vaccines. This toolkit also includes social media graphics and sample posts that may be used to share with families, friends, schools, communities, organizations, Tribal Nations, and other networks.

Throughout the pandemic, Tribal Nations across the U.S. have relied on Native youth to step up as the next generation and become the future leaders of Indian Country - to preserve histories, cultures, and beliefs. By participating in the #ThisIsYourShot campaign, the NCAI Youth Commission had the opportunity to tell their own stories concerning the hardships of COVID-19, becoming leaders and sources of wisdom within their own communities.





FUTURE DATES

2022 Executive Council Winter Session

February 13, 2022 – February 17, 2022

Hilton National Mall

Washington, DC

2022 Mid Year Conference

June 12, 2022 – June 16, 2022

Dena'ina Civic & Convention Center

Anchorage, AK

79th Annual Convention

October 30, 2022 – November 4, 2022

SAFE Credit Union Convention Center

Sacramento, California



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WE ALL RISE.**

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NCAI's 78th Annual Convention.

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NCAI for protecting tribal
sovereignty since 1944*



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American Indians and its
78th Annual Convention.**

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