

# REPORTING VOTER INTIMIDATION



## No one should feel unsafe when exercising their right to vote.

Voter intimidation is not common and is prohibited under federal and state law. Knowing your rights and having a voting plan can help combat any attempt at voter intimidation.

If you suspect or witness voter intimidation, contact [vote@narf.org](mailto:vote@narf.org) and **866-OUR-VOTE**.

## Voter intimidation is illegal

Multiple federal statutes prohibit voter intimidation. Under federal law, it is a crime to intimidate, threaten, or coerce a person, or attempt to do so, for the purpose of interfering with their right to vote or vote as they may choose.

State laws also provide additional protection against voter intimidation.

## What is voter intimidation?

Voter intimidation takes many forms. It may be subtle or context-specific, making it more difficult to identify. It also does not have to occur within a certain distance of a polling place to be illegal. Examples of voter intimidation include:

- Spreading false or misleading information intended to disenfranchise voters
- Confronting or questioning a voter in a harassing or intimidating manner
- Aggressively questioning voters about qualifications to vote
- Violent behavior
- Verbal threats of violence
- Following voters around or invading their physical space
- Brandishing or displaying firearms
- Confronting voters in military-style or official-looking uniforms
- Law enforcement officers, including off-duty officers, loitering around voters and polling places
- Disrupting voting lines or blocking the entrance to a polling place

# WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE OR EXPERIENCE VOTER INTIMIDATION

## Prior to Voting

- Make a voting plan
- If you hear about a possible threat, contact the Native American Rights Fund at [vote@narf.org](mailto:vote@narf.org) and call election protection at 866-OUR-VOTE
- Do not share or amplify threats on social media, as this may deter people from voting

## While Voting

- If it's an emergency situation, where you or anyone else is in immediate danger, call 9-1-1 first. As soon as possible immediately inform an election official
- Document what you experienced, including what happened, who was involved, where, and when, and if any voters were discouraged or prevented from voting. Try to obtain the contact information for any voter discouraged or prevented from voting.
- Call Election Protection at 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683) and contact the Native American Rights Fund at [vote@narf.org](mailto:vote@narf.org)
- Avoid spreading stories about intimidation efforts. Sharing incidents on social media may further deter people from voting

## How to discredit disinformation efforts to intimidate or suppress voters

Online voter disinformation and intimidation efforts are at an all time high in the 2020 Election.

Here's what you can do to correct disinformation online:

- Discredit the falsehood by naming it and the motivations behind the disinformation
- State the falsehood you intend to correct
- Deliver factual information to combat the falsehood and direct people to trusted sources

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