



2023 Winter Convention Portland, Oregon

RESOLUTION #2023 – 11

“SUPPORTING TRIBES HIRING NATIVE ‘GET-OUT-THE-VOTE’ COORDINATORS”

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties, Executive Orders and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and tribes in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of ATNI; and

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of NW Indians Native Vote Committee is non-partisan. All Native Vote activities are conducted in a nonpartisan manner in compliance with IRS rules and regulations and will not constitute prohibited political activity. We do support Native citizens running for public office; and

WHEREAS, the ATNI Native Vote Committee is encouraging all ATNI Tribes to support Get-Out-The-Native-Vote (GOTNV) activities. Following is an outline of educational services to be considered by the Tribe at the local “Get Out the Vote” level; and

WHEREAS, the ATNI recognizes that a strong grassroots effort is needed to register native voters; and encourages all Tribes, regional, and inter-tribal organizations to establish Native Vote services at the local levels. We understand it is very important that communities **mobilize early**, starting with registration, as Native Americans are unregistered at higher rates than other communities. The Native Vote Coordinator is encouraged to develop a toolkit to educate community members on the importance of voting; will develop a local Tribal Native Vote webpage, distributing e-newsletters, creating Public Service Announcements (PSAs), and hosting telephone conferences, webinars, and trainings for community membership on the important of voting; and

WHEREAS, Election Protection is critical for voters to understand their voting rights. In collaboration with Election Protection coordinators, Native Vote Coordinators helps to ensure that every qualified voter has the opportunity to cast a ballot on Election Day. ATNI, NCAI & NARF works with Native lawyers locally and nationally to assist with Election Protection. In addition, NCAI and NARF are planning to distribute materials to assist all Native Americans in knowing their voting rights. This applies especially in response to new voter identification laws; and

WHEREAS, Native voter education is critical for community members to understand the importance of GOTNV. Strategies comprised of three pieces;

1. Educating Native voters on the candidates and ballot measures
2. Educating candidates on issues in Indian Country, support Treaty rights, and encourage candidates to develop Tribal Nation policy platforms
3. Encourage Native citizens to run for public office and attend ATNI Native Vote meetings; and

WHEREAS, Tribes recognize the importance of Data Collection and measuring the Impact of Native Vote. Data on voter registration and voter turnout for American Indian and Alaska Native people has historically been complex and incomplete. During the 2012 election NCAI attempted to measure data on Native voter registration and voting turnout, and uncovered a host of methodological issues. It is NCAI’s intention for the election cycles to gather ideas on how we can accurately collect data on and what sources are available to Indian Country; and

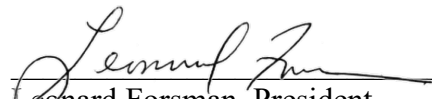
WHEREAS, the Native Vote (GOTNV) Coordinator may create a “Native Vote Strategic Plan” that will identify seven steps to success by outlining (1) Goals (2) Identify Objectives/activities. (3) Staff assignments (4) Time-Frames (5) Budget (6) Reporting/Evaluation of activities and (7) Promotion of services at every level for final approval by the Tribe; now

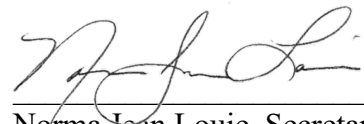
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, a copy of this resolution will be provided to each ATNI Tribal Council for consideration at local Tribal Council meetings; and

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

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2023 Winter Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Portland, Oregon, on January 22-26, 2023 with a quorum approving.


Leonard Forsman, President


Norma Jean Louie, Secretary