



**ATNI Winter 2025 Convention
Portland, Oregon**

RESOLUTION # 2025 – 06

**“AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION FOR CITIZENS OF TRIBAL
NATIONS IN WASHINGTON STATE”**

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 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 the representatives and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, the ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and Indian tribal governments 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, ATNI recognizes the many systemic barriers that Tribal peoples face within federal, state, and local electoral systems, particularly with regard to voter registration; and

WHEREAS, ATNI recognizes that eradicating barriers to political participation for Native Americans would increase the rate of civic engagement within Tribal communities; and

WHEREAS, ATNI recognizes that increased Native participation in federal, state, and local elections will advance policies that secure and uplift Tribal sovereignty; and


WHEREAS, Washington state’s existing automatic voter registration program is tied to participants who obtain Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) identifications and requires proof of citizenship, either of which conditions can be prohibitive for citizens of Tribal Nations; and

WHEREAS, this bill requires the Secretary of State of Washington to work more closely and intentionally with Tribal Nations to ensure Tribal voters are not excluded from the state’s automatic voter registration process and work to fill the gap of voters; now


THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ATNI supports the expansion of automatic voter registration within Washington state to ensure the Secretary of State works more closely with Tribal Nations ensuring the Native American voting rights are being fully implemented.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing Resolution was adopted at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians 2025 Winter Convention held at the Hilton Portland Downtown in Portland, Oregon on January 26-30, 2025, with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean-Louie, Secretary