Increase in American Indian and Alaska Native US Populations

1990: 1.9 million
2000: 4.1 million
2010: 5.2 million

Key Issues that Bring Native People to the Ballot Box
- Tribal Government Sovereignty
- Indian Child Welfare
- Education
- Energy
- Water
- Gaming
- Environmental Impact Issues
- Federal Budget & Spending

Elected Representation in US Government

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4 Native US Representatives</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Proportional</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senate</td>
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<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If representation in Congress was proportional to the US Native population, we would have 2 Native Senators and 8 Native members of the House.

74 Native State Legislators

Elected Representation in Tribal Governments

Tribal Government Sovereignty
- Tribal Government
- State Government
- Federal Government

Indian Child Welfare
- Indian Child Protection
- Child Welfare

Education
- Native Education
- Elementary School
- Secondary School

Energy
- Renewable Energy
- Nuclear Energy

Water
- Water Rights
- Water Conservation

Gaming
- Tribal Gaming
- Casino Gaming

Environmental Impact Issues
- Environmental Impact
- Pollution

Federal Budget & Spending
- Federal Budget
- Spending

Source: NCSL (2019)

FAST FACTS

- Oregon: 1 Native Legislators
- Oklahoma: 13 Native Legislators
- New Mexico: 8 Native Legislators
- Montana: 12 Native Legislators
- Alaska: 8 Native Legislators
- Arizona: 6 Native Legislators
- Tennessee: 1 Native Legislator
- Maine: 1 Native Legislator
- South Dakota: 5 Native Legislators
- Washington: 4 Native Legislators
- Kansas: 1 Native Legislator
- California: 2 Native Legislators
- Utah: 1 Native Legislator
- Kentucky: 1 Native Legislator
- Maryland: 1 Native Legislator
- Minnesota: 3 Native Legislators
- North Carolina: 2 Native Legislators
- North Dakota: 1 Native Legislator
- Wyoming: 2 Native Legislators
- Idaho: 1 Native Legislator
- West Virginia: 1 Native Legislator

Source: NCSL (2019)
In 2018, Senator John Tester (D-MT) won his close re-election race with less than 20,000 votes, with difference-making support coming from citizens of tribal nations.

Senator Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND) won her 2012 election by a 1% margin. Heitkamp noted that her only road to Washington, DC was through Indian Country.

Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD) was re-elected by 500 votes in 2002, with the pivotal final votes counted coming from the Pine Ridge Reservation.

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Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) credits her victory in the 2010 election to the significant power of the Alaska Native vote. With over 100,000 write-in votes, she was only the 2nd successful US Senate write-in candidate.

Montana creates six American Indian-majority districts.

Nine American Indians serve in the Montana Legislature, reflecting proportion of American Indian state population.

The power of the Native Vote has been significant in state, local, and important national races.

Top 15 States with the Highest Populations of Voting-Age Natives

The turnout rate among American Indian and Alaska Native registered voters is 1 to 10 percentage points lower than the rate of other racial and ethnic groups.

Every Native Vote Counts

Montana tribal nations challenge 1990 redistricting and file case in federal court.

With endorsements from 12 tribal nations, Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) was narrowly elected in 2000, creating a 50-50 tie in the US Senate.

Montana tribal nations’ influence leads to the appointment of a tribal member as Chair of Redistricting Commission.

In 2004, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act granted American Indians and Alaska Natives the right to vote as individuals in the 2006 general election.

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American Indians and Alaska Natives reported a higher not registered to vote rate as compared to 26.5% of not registered to vote non-Hispanic Whites.

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