The turnout rate of American Indian and Alaska Native registered voters is 5 to 14 percentage points lower than the rate of many other racial and ethnic groups.

### Top 10 States with the Highest Populations of Voting-Age Natives

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

**Montana: Building a Base of Power**
- Tribes’ influence leads to the appointment of a tribal member as Chair of Redistricting Commission.
- Montana creates six American Indian-majority districts.
- Nine American Indians serve in the Montana Legislature, reflecting proportion of American Indian state population.

**Alaska: Erosion of Native Districts**
- State population triples between 1959-2009, though no change in the number of state representatives or legislative districts.
- Ballot measure to expand the number of legislative districts fails.
- Alaska Redistricting Board merges two Southeast Districts, diminishing local Native voter impact.
- Election loss of long-serving Alaska Native State Senator Albert Kookesh due to redistricting.

**Voting Population**

66% Registered
- Of American Indians and Alaska Natives eligible to vote, only 66% are registered, compared to 74% of eligible non-Hispanic Whites.

1,000,000 Not Registered
- 34% of the total Native population over 18 — or 1,000,000 eligible voters — is not registered to vote.

Lower Turnout
- The turnout rate of American Indian and Alaska Native registered voters is 5 to 14 percentage points lower than the rate of many other racial and ethnic groups.

Source: Demos, 2012.
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
- Water
- Energy
- Gaming
- Environmental Impact Issues
- Federal Budget & Spending

Elected Representation in US Government

2 Native US Representatives

If representation in Congress was proportional to the US Native population, we would have 2 Native Senators and 7 Native Members of the House.

Actual
Proportional

Senate: 0
2
House: 2
7

64 Native State Legislators

Oklahoma: 22 Native Legislators
New Mexico: 9 Native Legislators
Montana: 8 Native Legislators
Arizona: 5 Native Legislators

Maine: 3 Native Legislators
South Dakota: 3 Native Legislators
Illinois: 3 Native Legislators
Arkansas: 2 Native Legislators

Minnesota: 1 Native Legislator
North Carolina: 1 Native Legislator
North Dakota: 1 Native Legislator
Wyoming: 1 Native Legislator

2 Native US Representatives

Source: US Census

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Fast Facts