

National Congress of American Indians

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# MEMBERSHIP TOOLKIT

1516 P St NW | Washington, D.C. 20005 | P: (202) 466-7767

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# LEGACY OF SOVEREIGNTY

PROTECTING TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY SINCE 1944



Founded in 1944, the National Congress of American Indians is the oldest, largest and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native organization representing the broad interests of tribal communities and governments. We reside in the Embassy of Tribal Nations in Washington DC.

NCAI advocates on behalf of tribal governments, promoting strong tribal-federal government-to-government policies, and promoting a better understanding among the general public regarding American Indian and Alaska Native governments, people, and rights.

The founding members of NCAI stressed the need for unity and cooperation among Indian governments and people for the security and protection of treaty and sovereign rights and for the betterment of the quality of life of Indian people. NCAI has grown to become the leading Indian membership organization, now serving a diverse network of Indian nations, tribal citizens, and Native organizations.

## NCAI FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

- To secure and preserve American Indian and Alaska Native sovereign rights under treaties and agreements with the United States, as well as under federal statutes, case law, and administration decisions and rulings.
- To protect American Indian and Alaska Native traditional, cultural, and religious rights.
- To seek appropriate, equitable, and beneficial services and programs for American Indian and Alaska Native governments and people.
- To promote the common welfare and enhance the quality of life of American Indian and Alaska Native people.
- To educate the general public regarding American Indian and Alaska Native governments, people and rights.

For further membership information, visit [www.ncai.org/get-involved/membership](http://www.ncai.org/get-involved/membership), or contact Keona Royal, NCAI Membership Coordinator, at [kroyal@ncai.org](mailto:kroyal@ncai.org) or (202)466-7767

# EMBASSY OF TRIBAL NATIONS

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The National Congress of American Indians has long had a presence in the Capital of the United States. In 2009, when the Embassy of Tribal Nations opened its doors in Washington, DC, NCAI and Indian Country saw a dream of Tribal leaders past and present come true.

The Embassy benefits tribes and tribal organizations in many ways, including: solidifying the presence of tribal sovereign nations in Washington, DC; increasing public awareness of tribal governments and NCAI; improving the efficiency and work environment of NCAI operations and activities; housing for and better coordination with our sister organizations; increasing the value, long-term equity, and stability of NCAI assets; and solidifying long-term investment and savings for NCAI.

## POLICY RESEARCH CENTER

Established in 2003, the NCAI Policy Research Center is a tribally-driven think tank that supports Native communities in shaping their own future by gathering credible data, building tribal research capacity, providing research support, and convening forums addressing critical policy questions. Go to [www.ncaiprc.org](http://www.ncaiprc.org) for more information.

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## ACTIVITIES & ISSUES

- NCAI has worked to ensure a bright future for generations to come by convening tribal leaders to gain consensus on a constructive and promising vision for Indian Country. Supporting and leveraging the efforts of our partners, NCAI promotes strong tribal governments and addresses the many human, economic, and safety needs of Native communities.
- **Protection of programs and services to benefit Indian families, specifically targeting Indian youth and elders.**
- **Promotion and support of Indian education, including Head Start, elementary, post-secondary, and adult education.**
- **Enhancement of Indian health care, including prevention of juvenile substance abuse, diabetes prevention, and other major diseases.**
- **Support of environmental protection and natural resources management.**
- **Protection of Indian cultural resources and religious freedom rights.**
- **Promotion of the rights of Indian economic opportunity both on and off reservations, including securing programs to provide incentives for economic development and the attraction of private capital to Indian Country.**
- **Protection of the rights of all Indian people to decent, safe, and affordable housing.**

# MEMBERSHIP



For over 75 years NCAI has served Indian Country because of the partnerships that we have created with tribal nations, villages, individuals, and organizations.



NCAI's membership is made up of tribes, individuals, and organizations that enrich our unified national voice, enhances our engagement in educational outreach, and enables legal, legislative, and administrative activism.



Our membership is representative of the strength and resilience of Indian Country. NCAI strives to ensure that all tribal communities and people are well-informed about all issues affecting the welfare of tribal nations. Collectively, we work to strengthen tribal sovereignty for the prosperity of tribal communities and nations.



NCAI's voting membership is comprised of tribes and individuals who have met the eligibility criteria and paid dues as outlined in the Article III of the NCAI Bylaws. Members are determined to be in good standing upon having fulfilled the requirements of the Credentials Committee.

## MEMBERSHIP TYPES & BENEFITS

### TRIBAL MEMBERSHIP

- Each member tribe is entitled to 100-180 votes, depending upon the enrollment of the Tribe.

*Any tribe, band or identifiable group of American Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts shall be eligible for tribal membership provided it shall fulfill all of the requirements. Please visit the NCAI website page on Membership for the full terms of eligibility.*

### INDIAN INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

- Receive NCAI Broadcasts, Alerts, and Publications to one email.
- Reduced conference rates for the Membership Year.
- One vote during elections.

*Any person of Indian and/or Alaska Native ancestry in the United States or a Native of Alaska is eligible for individual membership. For the purpose of membership an Indian is a person recognized as a member by an Indian tribe, or combination of tribes and bands recognized by the U.S. Department of the Interior, the Indian Claims Commission, Court of Claims, or a State.*

### INDIVIDUAL ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

- Receive NCAI Broadcasts, Alerts, and Publications to one email.
- Reduced conference rates for the Membership Year.

*Non-Indian applicants may be admitted to non-voting associate membership upon the payment of annual dues as fixed by the Bylaws.*

### ORGANIZATION ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

- Receive NCAI Broadcasts, Alerts, and Publications to one email.
- Reduced conference rates for two people for the Membership Year.

*Organizations may be admitted to non-voting associate membership upon the payment of annual dues as fixed by the Bylaws.*



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# National Congress of American Indians

## 2019 - 2020 TRIBAL MEMBERSHIP CREDENTIAL PROCESS

NCAI Membership is made up of Tribes and Individuals who have met the eligibility criteria and the payment of dues as outlined in Article III of the NCAI By-Laws. Annual membership dues shall be due and payable at the Annual Convention of each year.

All members are determined to be in good standing upon full payment of tribal dues. To become a Member Tribe in good standing, please complete these important steps:

1. Submit the attached Tribal Membership Application.
2. Submit a current year Tribal Resolution for membership by re-typing the attached template on your Tribal letterhead.
3. Submit the attached Individual membership Application.
4. Mail all of the above-referenced documents along with your payment to:

National Congress of American Indians  
1516 P Street NW  
Washington, DC 20005

Articles from the National Congress of American Indians  
Constitution and By-Laws applicable to the Membership Process:

### Article III: MEMBERS

#### Section B: Tribal Membership

Any Tribe, band or identifiable group of American Indians or Alaska Natives shall be eligible for tribal membership provided it shall fulfill all the following requirements:

1. A substantial number of its members reside upon the same reservation or, in the absence of a reservation in the same general locality;
2. It maintains a tribal organization, with regular officers and the means of transacting business and arriving at a reasonably accurate count of its membership;
3. It is not a mere offshoot or fraction of an organized Tribe, itself eligible for membership; and
4. It is recognized as a Tribe or other identifiable group of American Indians or Alaska Natives by the Department of the Interior, Court of Claims, the Indian Claims Commission, or a State.

### Article III: MEMBERS

Section C: Dues - In accordance with the following table:

Income	Dues
\$30 million or over	\$30,000
\$20 million to \$30 million	\$20,000
\$10 million to \$20 million	\$12,000
\$5 million to \$10 million	\$6,500
\$1 million to \$5 million	\$1,300
\$500,000 to \$1 million	\$650
\$0 to \$500,000	\$150

If revenue exceeds \$60 million please consider increasing your dues as a contribution to NCAI.

### Article III: MEMBERS

#### Section B 1d: Votes

Each individual member is entitled to one vote. Each member tribe is entitled to 100-180 votes, depending upon the enrollment of the Tribe. Each member Tribe shall vote in accordance with the following table:

Tribal Enrollment	Number of Votes
Up to & including 500	100
501 to 1500	110
1501 to 2500	120
2501 to 3500	130
3501 to 4500	140
4501 to 5500	150
5501 to 6500	160
6501 to 7500	170
over 7500	180

For more information contact NCAI at 202-466-7767 or [membership@ncai.org](mailto:membership@ncai.org).



# National Congress of American Indians

## 2019 - 2020 TRIBAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NEW MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

TRIBAL DUES AMOUNT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TRIBE: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE/TRIBAL LEADER: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

GENERAL TRIBAL E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

WEBSITE: \_\_\_\_\_

Tribal Membership provides Broadcasts and Alerts to two [2] E-Mail Addresses: [Please print clearly]

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Please configure your spam filter to allow for NCAI electronic broadcasts and alerts]

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CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check or money order payable to the National Congress of American Indians

TO PAY BY CREDIT CARD PLEASE SCAN PAPERWORK TO MEMBERSHIP@NCAI.ORG AND CALL (202) 466-7767.

NCAI STAFF USE ONLY [Please do not write in this area]

Payment Received: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Received By: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Authorization Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

# NCAI TEMPLATE: TRIBAL MEMBERSHIP RESOLUTION

[RE-TYPE THIS ON YOUR TRIBAL LETTERHEAD]

WHEREAS, the \_\_\_\_\_ wishes to become a Member Indian/Native Government in Good Standing with the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI); and,

WHEREAS, the \_\_\_\_\_ Tribe/Nation meets all requirements for Tribal Membership, pursuant to Article III - Members, Section B of the Constitution and By-Laws of NCAI.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the \_\_\_\_\_, which is the official governing body of the above- named Tribe/Nation, hereby authorizes \_\_\_\_\_ who is the official principal tribal official, to take the necessary action to place the Tribe/Nation in Membership with NCAI; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Tribal funds in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_, based on the Tribal Membership dues schedule in the NCAI By-Laws, Article III - Members, Section C 2 are authorized to be paid for NCAI membership; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that based on the tribal enrollment of \_\_\_\_\_ persons, the Tribe/Nation shall have \_\_\_\_\_ votes, in accordance with Article III - Members, Section B 1d; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that, pursuant to Article III - Members, Section B 1(b) of the NCAI Constitution and By-Laws, the Tribe/Nation designates the following persons as Delegate and Alternate Delegate(s) and instructs them to become Individual Members in Good Standing with NCAI in order to fulfill their responsibilities as Official Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the National Congress of Americans Indians Annual Convention, Executive Council Winter Session and Mid Year Conference.

(Please provide expiration date for term of office)

Delegate: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Term Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Term Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Term Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

[Number of Alternate Delegates is determined by Tribe]

Process a current year Resolution in accordance with your procedures and mail your Tribal Resolution along with the Tribal Membership Application and Membership Dues to:

National Congress of American Indians  
1516 P Street NW  
Washington, DC 20005

For more information contact NCAI at 202-466-7767.