

**THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF  
AMERICAN INDIANS**

**RESOLUTION #SPO-01-053**

**Title: Support for Increasing Voter Participation and Strengthening the Indian Voice**

**WHEREAS**, we, the members of the National Congress of American 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 the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, educational systems are governed or influenced by policy/law/budgets established by governmental bodies including school boards, county commissioners, state legislatures, state leadership and national leadership; and

it is important that American Indian people of the United States have a “voice” in the governmental leadership at the local, county, state and national levels; and

to have this voice and be pro-active participants in the political process it is voter that American Indian people be registered to vote, encourage to vote in all elections, and encourage to participate as candidates for leadership positions.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, NCAI does hereby advocate for and support non-partisan voter-registration, voter education projects and other non-partisan strategies that will strengthen the participation of American Indian people in the political leadership arena and give a stronger voice to the issues of American Indian education in the United States; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,**  
ians and Alaska Natives participating in the national political  
process; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED,**  
withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Spokane Convention Center, in Spokane, Washington on November 25-30, 2001 with a quorum present.

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Tex Hall, President

**ATTEST:**

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Colleen Cawston, Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Spokane Convention Center, in Spokane, Washington on November 25-30, 2001.