78th Annual Convention

Virtual Event | NCAI Pacific Region
Pre-Congress Dates: Oct. 7-8, 2021
Congress Dates: Oct. 11-14, 2021

AGENDA

All times listed in Eastern Daylight Time
Thursday, October 7

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  EDUCATION SESSION

**Holding Space: A Guide for Partners in Tribal Research Training**

Given the history of negative experiences with research, Tribal Nations are now increasingly building research oversight and actively engaging in research. However, challenges and conflicts with academic researchers can still disrupt or slow this work. This training is for anyone interested in learning how to strengthen tribal-academic research partnerships. Participants will play the interactive Tribal Research Future Game and learn how governance, trust, and culture can help strengthen research partnerships that lead to more tribally-driven and culturally relevant research that benefits the community. There are limited spots for this training, [reserve your spot](#) to attend this training!

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  TASK FORCES: MORNING SESSIONS

**Federal Recognition Task Force**  closed to press

The Federal Recognition Task Force works to address the unique interests of non-federally recognized Tribal Nations, including: the federal acknowledgment process, how non-federally recognized Tribal Nations work with state and local entities, and other issues. The Federal Recognition Task Force invites all interested Tribal Nations and citizens to participate.

**Large Land Base Tribal Nations Caucus**

The purpose of the Large Land Base Tribal Nations Task Force is to strengthen the ability of NCAI to advocate for the unique issues of tribal nations with large land bases, and to foster unity and cooperation among all tribal nations to preserve tribal sovereignty, lands, cultures, and quality of life for all. The Task Force will govern its own proceedings consistent with this purpose.

**NCAI Budget Task Force**

Recent historic investments have underscored the importance of how federal funds are distributed, implemented, and reported for the tribal programs in Indian Country. Billions of dollars are flowing through new and existing processes, including millions in federal oversight and investigative authority. Active and ongoing engagement with the Executive branch is critical to affect strong budgetary policy, including future funding and negotiation with the federal government. Join the Budget Task Force to discuss emerging issues and to develop policy recommendations for NCAI to consider.

**NCAI Tax and Finance Task Force**

Tax revenue is essential to help build healthy rural and regional economies. Join the NCAI Tax and Finance Task Force for an open meeting to discuss work in the fields of tax and finance in Indian Country. This Task Force has been charged with: advancing tribal priorities on legislative and administrative tax and finance policy; developing solutions to dual taxation; facilitating tribal engagement with the U.S. Treasury Tribal Advisory Committee (TTAC); and sharing information regarding tribal-state tax agreements.

**NCAI Technology Task Force**

Tribal access to modern communications networks supports economic development, tribal governance, healthcare, education, and public safety in tribal and surrounding communities. The NCAI Technology Task Force will hold an open meeting to discuss ongoing advocacy in the fields of technology and telecommunications in Indian Country. The Task Force is comprised of tribal leadership, tribal telecommunications companies, Information Technology (IT) experts, entrepreneurs, and representatives from tribal organizations. Conference attendees are encouraged to attend this meeting.

*Please note times listed in the agenda are Eastern Daylight Time. NCAI Task Forces are open and do not require paid registration for NCAI’s Annual Convention.*
NCAI Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Task Force
The general welfare of American Indian and Alaska Native families is fundamental to sustaining self-sufficiency, investing in a sustainable economy, and preparing a ready and willing workforce. The NCAI Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Task Force will discuss current Administrative and legislative initiatives impacting Tribal TANF nationally. This includes working towards continued reauthorization of Tribal TANF and finding solutions to overcoming barriers to the delivery of programs and discovering best practices for strengthening Tribal TANF programs.

3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. TASK FORCES: AFTERNOON SESSIONS

Climate Action Task Force
The working mission of the Climate Action Task Force is to “document, inform, and support the climate action efforts of tribal nations and Native organizations, and identify and advocate for policies and funding designed to empower their ability to engage in effective, sustainable climate action.” This task force meeting will provide an overview of administrative and congressional updates to improve and expand federal support for tribal climate actions and will be led by the Task Force’s three Co-Chairs.

Lands Working Group
Join the Lands Working Group to address infrastructure permitting issues, review issues associated with converting trust land into restricted fee land, and to address other land based issues facing NCAI’s membership.

NCAI Addiction Taskforce
Join the NCAI Addiction Task Force to discuss administrative and legislative priorities to increase access and improve the function of behavioral health and addiction programs at the tribal level. The Addiction Task Force continues to support efforts to advance education, treatment, preventative services, and public safety in tribal communities.

NCAI-ITA Joint Transportation Task Force
Join the NCAI -ITA Joint Transportation Task Force for a conversation focused on building a unified advocacy approach to tribal transportation development and legislative reauthorization to promote safety and prosperity in tribal communities and to ensure the United States upholds its government-to-government relationship with Tribal Nations.

NCAI Native Languages Task Force
Resolution AK-21-026 declared a state of emergency for Native languages at NCAI’s 2021 Mid Year Conference. Join the Native Languages Task Force for an open session to discuss strategies to advocate for an Executive Order on Native Language preservation from the Biden Administration, and tribal leader perspectives on developments in Native languages at the tribal, state, and federal policy levels.

NCAI Task Force on Violence Against Women closed to press
The NCAI Task Force on Violence Against Women serves as a unified tribal voice opposed to violent crimes perpetrated against American Indian and Alaska Native women. During this meeting, task force members will highlight tribal programs that prevent and address violence against women in Indian Country, examine national and international violence against women policy work, and coordinate efforts to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act with strong tribal provisions in the 117th Congress.

*Please note times listed in the agenda are Eastern Daylight Time. NCAI Task Forces are open and do not require paid registration for NCAI’s Annual Convention.
Tribal Border Caucus  
Tribal citizen crossings of the U.S.-Canada and U.S.-Mexico borders for traditional, cultural, or religious purposes has been a paramount concern for Tribal Nations split by the invisible lines that divided their homelands and relatives. The Tribal Border Caucus invites all northern, southern, and Alaska border Tribal Nations to provide updates and discuss ongoing issues such as navigating the opening of the borders during the COVID-19 pandemic, travel visas, treaty rights, and searches of tribal regalia or cultural items.

Climate Change - What You Need to Know and What Indian Country is Doing  
The cultures and lifeways of Tribal Nations and their citizens are place-based and closely tied to subsistence practices. Because of dramatic shifts in weather and climate, resources are disappearing faster than we can restore them, and Tribal Nations are being left disproportionately vulnerable to climate change. At the tribal, national, and international levels, NCAI is leading the response to dramatic climate shifts. This session will provide an insight into climate change actions within tribal and international communities.

Defining the Treasury Relationship - Discretionary Funding, Compliance, and General Welfare  
In recent years, the U.S. Department of the Treasury has moved quickly to occupy a central role in federal funding, compliance, and reporting for tribal governments. By making decisions on the allocation of historical investments and how tribal governments can spend those resources, Treasury is moving to establish rules for general welfare payments and other sovereignty issues through the Treasury Tribal Advisory Committee (TTAC). Join the session to hear directly from Treasury on funding and compliance expectations, leadership on compliance concerns, and the TTAC on critical issues.

2020 Census Data and Redistricting - What's New? What's Next?  
Throughout Indian Country, Tribal Nations will use the 2020 Census results in funding formulas, policy development, local tribal governance, American Indian and Alaska Native research, and public health surveillance. In addition to providing an update on the latest results from the 2020 Census data release of the P.L. 94-171 Redistricting File, during this session, speakers will review the latest on state redistricting efforts and define fair representation for tribal communities in the redistricting process.

Sovereign Technology: Achieving Digital Justice in Tribal Communities  
Sovereignty and self-determination are critical aspects of broadband and telecommunication investments in tribal communities. As the United States makes historic investments to uphold its trust responsibility to Tribal Nations, telecommunications funding must be tailored to the unique needs of each Tribal Nation to promote flexibility and self-determination. Join NCAI for an in-depth discussion on current broadband funding opportunities available to Tribal Nations and how to utilize federal funding to achieve digital equity and build robust broadband telecommunications networks and infrastructure on tribal land.

*Please note times listed in the agenda are Eastern Daylight Time. NCAI Task Forces are open and do not require paid registration for NCAI’s Annual Convention.
Where Does the Money Go? Impacts of the 2020 Census and Federal Funding for Tribal Nations
Significant growth of the American Indian and Alaska Native population in the 2020 Census has implications for policy and federal funding. Tribal Nations understand that having accurate data for funding formulas is critical to ensure resources are allocated appropriately. However, due to COVID-19 and privacy measures, some Tribal Nations were impacted by delays in counting 2020 Census data. In this session, speakers will discuss the potential impacts of the 2020 Census results on federal funding formulas from the perspectives of the U.S. Census Bureau, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and a Tribal Nation.

Water holds a sacred importance to many Tribal Nations and is vital to tribal subsistence, cultural practices, and more. Water rights secured and upheld through arduous settlement processes are often referred to as “paper water rights.” Similar to other infrastructure needs, water delivery systems have been severely underdeveloped and underfunded throughout Indian Country. After years of negotiations and environmental turmoil, turning the “paper water” secured in tribal water rights settlements into “wet water” remains a challenge for many. Join NCAI for a conversation on the current state of tribal water rights policy and panel discussion with tribal leaders and water policy professionals.

NCAI Committee and Subcommittee Chairs Meeting with Resolutions Committee
The NCAI Resolutions Committee will provide an overview of the NCAI committee structure, the 78th Annual Convention agenda, and resolutions process.

Sunday, October 10

11:00 - 4:00  Registration/Rules & Credentials Open
11:00 - 12:30  NCAI Fund Board Meeting
1:00 - 4:00  NCAI Executive Committee Board Meeting

*Please note times listed in the agenda are Eastern Daylight Time.
Congress Agenda

Monday, October 11

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  SUPPORT OFFICES OPEN

Registration/Rules & Credentials Open
Tech Support Open
Resolutions Open

11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.  FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

11:30  Call to Order and Welcome
Fawn Sharp, President, National Congress of American Indians

Presentation of the Colors
Invocation
Welcome from Local Official

11:55  Cultural Welcome from Local Planning Committee

12:15  Rules of the Convention
Yvonne Oberly, Co-Chair, NCAI Rules and Credentials

12:20  Resolutions Process Report
Leslie Wheelock, Co-Chair, NCAI Resolutions Committee
W. Ron Allen, Co-Chair, NCAI Resolutions Committee

12:25  President’s Report
Fawn Sharp, President, National Congress of American Indians

12:40  Chief Executive Officer’s Report and Overview for the Week
Dante Desiderio, Chief Executive Officer, NCAI

Break

1:15  Strengthening Our Voices: An Update on Native American Voting Rights

1:25  White House Administration Update
Julie Chavez Rodriguez, Director, White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

1:45  Boarding School: Our Truth, Our Reconciliation

*Please note times listed in the agenda are Eastern Daylight Time.*
### Congress Agenda

#### 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
**FULL COMMITTEE MEETINGS closed to press**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic, Finance &amp; Community Development</th>
<th>Litigation &amp; Governance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human Resources</td>
<td>Veterans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land &amp; Natural Resources</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.</th>
<th><strong>REGIONAL CAUCUS MEETINGS closed to press</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alaska Region</td>
<td>Pacific Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Oklahoma Region</td>
<td>Rocky Mountain Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Plains Region</td>
<td>Southeast Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwest Region</td>
<td>Southern Plains Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast Region</td>
<td>Southwest Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest Region</td>
<td>Western Region</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Tuesday, October 12

**Native Prayer Sunrise**
We encourage everyone to recognize prayer sunrise in your own way.

#### 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
**SUPPORT OFFICES OPEN**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tech Support Open</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration/Rules &amp; Credentials Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resolutions Open</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
**SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>11:30</th>
<th><strong>Call to Order and Welcome</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aaron Payment, 1st Vice President, National Congress of American Indians</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>11:35</th>
<th><strong>Invocation</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>11:35</th>
<th><strong>Mobilizing to Reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act Today</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>11:50</th>
<th><strong>U.S. Department of Commerce Update</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Secretary Gina M. Raimondo, U.S. Department of Commerce</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>12:05</th>
<th><strong>U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Update</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Secretary Marcia L. Fudge, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>12:20</th>
<th><strong>U.S. Department of the Treasury Update</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deputy Secretary Wally Adeyemo, U.S. Department of the Treasury</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>12:20</th>
<th><strong>Administration Updates</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

*Please note times listed in the agenda are Eastern Daylight Time.*
Congress Agenda

1:05  Tribal Leader Discussion

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS  closed to press

*Some subcommittees are meeting in the same Zoom room

Health
Human, Religious & Cultural Concerns
Technology & Telecommunications
*Room 1
Disabilities
Education
Elders
*Room 3
Taxation
Tribal Gaming

*Room 5
Economic Development, Finance & Employment
Housing

Transportation & Infrastructure
Veterans
*Room 2
Jurisdiction & Tribal Government
Indian Child & Family Welfare
Public Safety & Justice
*Room 4
Energy & Mineral Policy
Environmental Protection & Land Use
Trust Lands, Natural Resources & Agriculture

5:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.  REGIONAL CAUCUS MEETINGS  closed to press

Alaska Region
Eastern Oklahoma Region
Great Plains Region
Midwest Region
Northeast Region
Northwest Region

Pacific Region
Rocky Mountain Region
Southeast Region
Southern Plains Region
Southwest Region
Western Region

*Please note times listed in the agenda are Eastern Daylight Time.
NCAI Executive Board Elections
In order to vote in NCAI Elections, Tribal and Indian Individual Memberships as well as Convention Registration must be current by 2:00 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, October 13 to vote in the NCAI elections.

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  SUPPORT OFFICES OPEN

Tech Support Open
Registration/Rules & Credentials Open (closes at 2:00 p.m.)
Resolutions Open

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

11:30  Call to Order and Welcome
Juana Majel-Dixon, Secretary, National Congress of American Indians

Invocation

11:35  Climate Change Administration Update

11:50  White House Administration Update
Brenda Mallory, Chair, Council on Environmental Quality

12:05  Tribal Leaders Discussion

12:30  White House Administration Update
Katherine Tai, Ambassador, United States Trade Representative

12:35  Rules and Credentials Report

Nominations and Speeches for NCAI Board Administrative Offices
Standing Rules of Order, Section V. A. 3. Nomination speeches shall be no longer than two minutes. Individuals making nominations must state their name, the tribes they represent, and indicate that they are a member in good standing with NCAI. Nominations do not have to be seconded, and no seconding speeches shall be allowed. Campaign speeches by candidates shall be no longer than five minutes

NCAI Executive Board Elections
Voting will take place between 2:30 p.m. EDT Wednesday, October 13 - 10:00 a.m. Thursday, October 14 EDT. Information on how to vote will be emailed to members in good standing with NCAI.

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  FULL COMMITTEE MEETINGS  closed to press

Economic, Finance & Community Development
Land & Natural Resources
Litigation & Governance
Human Resources
Veterans

*Please note times listed in the agenda are Eastern Daylight Time.
Thursday, October 14

11:30 Call to Order and Welcome
Shannon Holsey, Treasurer, National Congress of American Indians

Invocation

11:35 Memorials

Treasurers Report
Shannon Holsey, Treasurer, National Congress of American Indians

12:00 Tribal Supreme Court Project Update
formed in 2001 in response to a series of U.S. Supreme Court cases that negatively affected tribal sovereignty, the Tribal Supreme Court Project promotes coordination and improves strategy on litigation that may affect the rights of all Tribal Nations. Staff from the National Congress of American Indians and the Native American Rights Fund will provide an update on recent cases.

Joel West Williams, Senior Staff Attorney, Native American Rights Fund
Esther Labrador, Staff Attorney, National Congress of American Indians

12:25 Resolutions Committee Report Full Committee Reports and Consideration of Resolutions
Economic, Finance & Community Development Committee
Human Resources Committee
Litigation & Governance Committee
Land & Natural Resources Committee
Veterans Committee

1:25 Swearing In of NCAI Executive Board Members

2:25 Closing Invocation

2:30 Adjourn 78th Annual Convention

*Please note times listed in the agenda are Eastern Daylight Time.