



National Congress of American Indians

2021 Mid Year Conference

Virtual Event - NCAI Alaska Region | June 20 - 24, 2021

DRAFT MID YEAR AGENDA

Sunday, June 20

- 11:00 - 12:30 **NCAI Fund Board Meeting**
- 1:00 - 4:00 **NCAI Executive Committee Board Meeting**
- 12:00 - 5:00 **Registration/Rules & Credentials Open**

Monday, June 21

- 12:00 - 5:00 **Registration/Rules & Credentials Open**
- 12:00 - 4:00 **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 Native women. The Task Force will hear updates from key federal partners, discuss the strategy to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act and other important legislation, and share information related to the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.
- 11:00 - 1:00 **NCAI Federal Recognition Task Force**
The Federal Recognition Task Force was established to address the interests of all Tribal Nations, both federally and non-federally recognized, on changes and challenges in the tribal acknowledgement process. This session will continue the work of the Task Force.
- 11:00 - 1:00 **Technology Task Force**
The NCAI Technology Task Force will hold an open meeting to discuss work in the fields of technology and communications in Indian Country. The Task Force is comprised of tribal leadership, tribal telecommunications companies, Information Technology (IT) experts, entrepreneurs, and representatives from tribal organizations.
- 11:00 - 1:00 **NCAI Task Force on Tax and Finance**
The Task Force on Tax and Finance will facilitate Indian Country's input on issues within the Treasury Tribal Advisory Committee's purview, organize tribal priorities on legislative tax policy, facilitate Indian Country consensus on developing and proposing solutions to address dual taxation, and share information regarding tribal-state tax agreements.
- 11:00 - 1:00 **NCAI Tribal TANF Task Force**
The NCAI Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Task Force will discuss current Administrative and legislative initiatives impacting Tribal TANF nationally, with the goal of highlighting solutions and discovering best practices in order to overcome barriers to the delivery of programs.
- 2:00 - 4:00 **NCAI Addiction Task Force**
The NCAI Addiction Task Force will 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 has consistently supported efforts to advance education, treatment, preventative services, and public safety in tribal communities.

*Please note NCAI Task Forces and Federal Government Consultations are open and do not require registration for NCAI's Mid Year Conference.

- 2:00 - 4:00 **NCAI Climate Action Task Force**
 The working mission of the Climate Action Task Force (CATF) 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.”
- 2:00 - 4:00 **Joint NCAI-ITA Transportation Task Force**
 The NCAI Transportation Task Force is 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.
- 2:00 - 4:00 **NCAI Budget Task Force**
 The NCAI Budget Task Force will discuss the recently released FY 2022 President’s Budget Request to Congress, FY 2022 regular appropriations, and supplemental physical and human infrastructure appropriations with the goal of developing consensus strategies to overcome barriers to funding increases for tribal programs and the implementation of federally funded programs in tribal communities.
- 4:30 - 5:30 **NCAI Committee and Subcommittee Chairs Meeting with Resolutions Committee**
 NCAI requests that all committee and subcommittee chairs attend this important meeting.
- 4:30 - 7:00 **[*Consultation- Implementing recommendations from the 2015 Coordinated Environmental Review Process for tribal housing and related infrastructure](#)** *closed to press*
 The Tribal Housing and Related Infrastructure Interagency Task Force is drafting an implementation plan to execute the recommendations from the 2015 Coordinated Environmental Review Process: Final Report and is seeking input and feedback on the plan. Comments and input will be considered before the implementation plan is finalized. The Final Report and draft implementation plan can be found on [CodeTalk](#).

Tuesday, June 22

11:00 - 5:00 **Registration/Rules & Credentials Open**

Tech Support Open

1:00 - 8:00 **Resolutions Open**

12:00 - 4:00 **First General Assembly**

12:00 **Call to Order and Welcome**

Fawn Sharp, President, National Congress of American Indians

Presentation of the Colors

Alaska Native Veterans Association

Land Acknowledgement

Aaron Leggett, President and Chair, Native Village of Eklutna

Invocation

Meda Dewitt, Tlingit

12:20 **Welcome from Local Official**

Senator Lisa Murkowski (AK)

Senator Dan Sullivan (AK) *invited*

Congressman Don Young (AK)

Governor Mike Dunleavy (AK) *video*

12:40 **Rules of the Convention**

Yvonne Oberly, Co-Chair, NCAI Rules and Credentials

Resolutions Process Report

Leslie Wheelock, Co-Chair, NCAI Resolutions Committee

W. Ron Allen, Co-Chair, NCAI Resolutions Committee

12:45 - 1:00 **President's Report**

Fawn Sharp, President, National Congress of American Indians

1:05 - 1:15 **Chief Executive Officer's Report and Overview for the Week**

Dante Desiderio, Chief Executive Officer, NCAI

Break

1:25 - 2:40 **Historic Tribal Inclusion: What is Next?**

Vice President Kamala Harris *invited*

Secretary Pete Buttigieg, U.S. Department of Transportation *video*

Secretary Jennifer Granholm, U.S. Department of Energy

Secretary Marty Walsh, U.S. Department of Labor *video*

Secretary Gina Raimondo, U.S. Department of Commerce *invited*

Secretary Xavier Becerra, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services *invited*

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Break

2:50 – 3:35 **Department of the Interior Update**
Secretary Deb Haaland, U.S. Department of the Interior
Anthony Morgan Rodman, Executive Director, White House Council on Native American Affairs
Bryan Newland, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior

5:00 - 6:00 **Regional Caucus Meetings** *closed to press*

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Alaska Region | Pacific Region |
| Eastern Oklahoma Region | Rocky Mountain Region |
| Great Plains Region | Southeast Region |
| Midwest Region | Southern Plains Region |
| Northeast Region | Southwest Region |
| Northwest Region | Western Region |

6:30 - 8:00 **Subcommittee Meetings** *closed to press*
**Some subcommittees are meeting in the same Zoom room*

Health
Human, Religious & Cultural Concerns
Public Safety & Justice
Technology & Telecommunications
Transportation & Infrastructure
Veterans

***Room 1**
Disabilities
Education
Elders

***Room 2**
Economic Development, Finance &
Employment
Housing

***Room 3**
Energy & Mineral Policy
Environmental Protection & Land Use
Trust Lands, Natural Resources & Agriculture

***Room 4**
Jurisdiction & Tribal Government
Indian Child & Family Welfare

***Room 5**
Taxation
Tribal Gaming

Wednesday, June 23

Native Prayer Sunrise

We encourage everyone to recognize prayer sunrise in your own way.

10:00 - 5:00 **Tech Support Open**

11:00 - 5:00 **Registration/Rules & Credentials Open**

1:00 - 8:00 **Resolutions Open**

12:00 - 3:30 **Second General Assembly**

12:00 **Call to Order and Welcome**

Aaron Payment, 1st Vice President, National Congress of American Indians

Invocation

Gregory Nothstine, Inupiaq

16th Annual Tribal Leader/Scholar Forum

Governance, Trust, and Culture in Research

The purpose of the Tribal Leader/Scholar Forum is to provide an opportunity for researchers, practitioners, community members, and others to present their data and research to tribal leaders, policymakers, and community members.

12:15 **NCAI Policy Research Center Director Update**

Yvette Roubideaux, MD, MPH, Director, Vice President for Research and Policy Research Center, National Congress of American Indians

12:30 **Tribal Leader Perspective**

Marilynn "Lynn" Malerba, DNP, MPA, Chief, Mohegan Tribe

12:50 **Discussion**

1:00 **Engaging Native Youth in the COVID-19 Response: Findings from the Arizona Youth Identity Project**

Angela Gonzales, PhD, Associate Professor and Associate Director, School of Social Transformation, Arizona State University

Nathan D. Martin, PhD, Associate Professor, School of Social Transformation, Arizona State University

1:20 **Discussion**

1:30 **Indian Health Service National IRB Update**

Rachael L. Tracy, MPH, Research Director, National Institutional Review Board, Chair, Indian Health Service

1:50 **Discussion**

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- 2:00 **Native Mascot Database Update**
 Ian Record, PhD, Vice President, Tribal Governance and Special Projects, National Congress of American Indians
- Coby Klar, Research Associate, Tribal Governance and Special Projects, National Congress of American Indians
- 2:20 **Discussion**
- 2:30 **Southcentral Foundation Research Department Update**
 Denise A. Dillard, PhD, Director of Research, Southcentral Foundation
- 2:50 **Discussion**
 Announcements
- 3:00 - 3:30 **Tribal Leader Discussion**
- 4:00 - 5:15 **Concurrent Breakout Sessions**
- AI/AN Juvenile Justice Data**
 This session will focus on recent NCAI work on AI/AN Juvenile Justice Data including case studies of innovation in Tribal Nation Juvenile Justice Systems and a landscape analysis of state policies related to over-, under-, and equal representation of AI/AN juveniles in the arrest and confinement stages in selected states.
- Moderator: Gwynne Evans-Lomayesva, MPP, Researcher, Policy Research Center, National Congress of American Indians
- Innovation in Tribal Nation Juvenile Justice Systems
 Ryan Seelau, JD, LL.M, SJD, Senior Researcher, Partnership for Tribal Governance, National Congress of American Indians
- Landscape Analysis of State Policies Regarding AI/AN Youth in the Justice System
 Gwynne Evans-Lomayesva, MPP, Researcher, Policy Research Center, National Congress of American Indians
- COVID-19 Data**
 During this session, presenters will provide data related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including tribal college enrollment data and behavioral health consequences of the pandemic.
- Moderator: Yvette Roubideaux, MD MPH, Vice President for Research and Director, Policy Research Center, National Congress of American Indians
- AIHEC – Tribal College Enrollment Data during COVID-19 Pandemic
 Carrie L. Billy, President & CEO, American Indian Higher Education Consortium
- COVID-19 and American Indians and Alaska Natives: Behavioral Health Consequences of the Pandemic
 Dedra Buchwald, MD, Professor, Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine, Director, Institute for Research and Education to Advance Community Health (IREACH), Washington State University

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Community Partnership Data

This session will highlight results from community-academic partnerships that worked on intellectual property management in agricultural collaborations and reducing violence and substance abuse.

Moderator: Sierra Watt, Research Associate, Policy Research Center, National Congress of American Indians

Gaps in Intellectual Property Management in Tribal-University Agricultural Collaborations

Kathryn Hilburn, Student Researcher, Montana State University (MSU) Food Product Development Lab
Wan-Yuan Kuo, PhD, Assistant Professor of Food Science, Director of MSU Food Product Development Lab, Department Health and Human Development, Montana State University

The Weaving Healthy Families Program: Promoting Resilience, Reducing Violence and Substance Use – Development and Preliminary Findings

Catherine E. McKinley, PhD, LMSW, Associate Professor, Tulane University School of Social Work
Katherine P. Theall, PhD, Professor, Tulane University School of Public Health

Brackeen v. Haaland: Breaking Down the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals En Banc ICWA Decision and the Next Steps to Protect Indian Children and Tribal Sovereignty

closed to press

Over the past two years National Congress of American Indians, National Indian Child Welfare Association, Native American Rights Fund, and the Association on American Indian Affairs have worked together to create the Protect ICWA Campaign to help coordinate policy, legal, and communications efforts to protect Indian children and uphold the Indian Child Welfare Act. This panel will focus on the outcomes of the April 5, 2021, 5th Circuit En Banc ruling, what does the ruling mean for Tribal Nations today, and how you can join in the efforts to protect Indian children in the next steps of the case.

Moderator: Shannon O’Loughlin, Chief Executive and Attorney, Associations of American Indian Affairs

Panelists:

- Erin Dougherty Lynch, Senior Staff Attorney, Native American Rights Fund
- Dan Lewerenz, Staff Attorney, Native American Rights Fund
- Sarah Kastelic, Executive Director, National Indian Child Welfare Association
- Amory Zschach, Strategic Communications Manager, National Indian Child Welfare Association

Building Climate Resiliency: Highlighting Tribal Innovations from Across Indian Country

This session will showcase the breadth and depth of tribal climate action efforts across Indian Country and identify strategic considerations of tribal climate action plan design and implementation. This session will feature representatives from three geographically diverse Tribal Nations who are leading cutting-edge climate resiliency efforts, as well as key voices who will speak to tribal climate action pathways and challenges nationally.

Moderator: Melanie Bahnke, President, Kawerak, Inc., Co-Chair of NCAI’s Climate Action Task Force

Panelists:

- Jeffrey Crawford, President, FCPC Renewable Generation, LLC, Forest County Potawatomi Community
- Jackie Qatalina Schaeffer, Senior Project Manager, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

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Concurrent Breakout Sessions**Building Civic Power in Indian Country***closed to press*

This session will introduce civic engagement as a means of building civic power within Indian Country and highlight the current stage of the civic engagement cycle. The session will include a recap of the outcome of the 2020 Census and a review of Native Vote 2020 to demonstrate the importance of data and how it can show impact. Next, a short presentation will showcase the current stage of the civic engagement cycle with an introduction to redistricting, followed by a panel who will discuss their redistricting work with Tribal Nations or as a part of their state's redistricting boards before closing with a question and answer segment.

Moderator: Yanenowi Logan (Deer Clan, Seneca Nation), Co-Vice President, NCAI Youth Commission

Speakers:

- Yawna Allen (Quapaw, Cherokee, Yuchi), Director of Civic Engagement and Special Projects, National Congress of American Indians
- Sandra Mitrovich (Tyme/Yahmonee Maidu), Civic Engagement Associate, National Congress of American Indians
- Dr. Yvette Roubideaux (Rosebud Sioux/Standing Rock Sioux), Vice President for Research and Director of the Policy Research Center, National Congress of American Indians
- Gwynne Evans-Lomayesva (Snow Clan, Hopi) Researcher, Policy Research Center

Panelists:

- Ahtza Chavez (Dine) Executive Director, NM Native Vote
- Tammi Tiger (Chahta, Mvskoke, Euro American) Vice Chair, United Natives
- Nicole Borromeo (Yup'ik) Executive Vice President, Alaska Federation of Natives
- Travis Lane (Navajo/Southern Ute) Assistant Director, Intertribal Council of Arizona

Building Tribal Economies: Framing the Strategic Considerations

This breakout session explores the key strategic considerations that tribal leaders, key decision-makers, and citizens must address as they work together to build thriving, resilient tribal economies. Featuring a panel of insightful voices sharing the innovative economy-building approaches of the Tribal Nations they represent, the session will also provide attendees a "sneak peek" preview of NCAI's forthcoming "Building Tribal Economies" decision-framing toolkit, which NCAI will be distributing to Tribal Nations later this year. The toolkit will equip Tribal Nations with the knowledge, tools, best-practice approaches, and proven strategies they need to develop and sustain strategic approaches to building economies that meet their needs and priorities.

Moderator: Sherry Salway Black, Chairperson, First Peoples Fund

Panelists:

- Raeann Adams, Project Director and Community Planner, "One Akwesasne" Tourism Initiative, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe
- Dennis Johnson, CEO, Ho-Chunk Capital, Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska
- Tyrel Stevenson, Legislative Director, Coeur d'Alene Tribe

Juvenile Justice: Innovative Approaches Across Indian Country

This breakout session showcases three innovative approaches taken by Tribal Nations to address juvenile justice issues within their communities. It features a panel of legal experts and on-the-ground practitioners sharing the institutions, policies, and programs their Tribal Nations have developed to address issues of substance abuse, mental trauma, truancy, and crime that so often tear communities apart. Attendees will hear strategies for engaging Native youth and helping them stay connected to their families, cultures, and communities. The session will also preview NCAI's release of three juvenile justice case studies produced in full collaboration with the Tribal Nations they feature, and which will provide additional transferable lessons for tribal leaders, practitioners, and key decision-makers trying to heal and strengthen their youth and their communities at-large.

Moderator: Ryan Seelau, Senior Researcher, Partnership for Tribal Governance, National Congress of American Indians

Panelists:

- Addie Rolnick, Professor of Law, William S. Boyd School of Law, UNLV
- Kami Hart, Children's Court Judge, Gila River Indian Community
- Chaniel Grant, Coordinator, Healing to Wellness Court, Blackfeet Nation

Mitigating, Responding, and Recovering from the COVID-19 Pandemic: Accessing FEMA Resources to Protect Tribal Citizens Today (session will go until 7:00 p.m.)

On March 13, 2020, the past administration issued a Presidential Nationwide Emergency Declaration to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. The Emergency Declaration covered all 574 Tribal Nations and provided an avenue for those Nations to directly access Public Assistance resources from FEMA. Despite over a year passing only 15 percent of all Tribal Nations, 91 of the 574, have been able to access FEMA resources either as a direct or sub recipient under the Nationwide Emergency Declaration or under a Tribal Major Disaster Declaration. On April 2, 2021, FEMA leadership committed to supply every Tribal Nation that is interested in accessing FEMA Public Assistance COVID-19 resources with a dedicated FEMA program delivery manager to help the Nation navigate the complex FEMA process. During this breakout FEMA will discuss how it is working to ensure that one hundred percent of Tribal Nations are able to directly access and utilize FEMA COVID-19 resources on the ground in Indian Country. Tribal emergency managers will also provide insights into the process to access FEMA resources through the Nationwide Emergency Declaration and a Tribal Major Disaster Declarations.

Moderator: Councilmember Paul Downing, Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indian Township, Maine

Panelists:

- Ana Montero, Division Director, Public Assistance Division, Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Todd Wells, Deputy Division Director, Public Assistance Division, Federal Emergency Management Agency
- April Sells, Emergency Management Fire Director, Poarch Band of Creek Indians
- Tim Zientek, Director, Emergency Management, Emergency Communications, and Fire, Citizen Potawatomi Nation

7:00 - 8:30

Full Committee Meetings

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

closed to press

Thursday, June 24

10:30 - 4:00 **Tech Support Open**

11:00 - 3:00 **Registration/Rules & Credentials Open**

11:00 - 12:00 **Regional Caucus Meetings ***Optional*****

closed to press

Alaska Region

Pacific Region

Eastern Oklahoma Region

Rocky Mountain Region

Great Plains Region

Southeast Region

Midwest Region

Southern Plains Region

Northeast Region

Southwest Region

Northwest Region

Western Region

1:00 - 4:30 **Third General Assembly**

1:00 **Call to Order and Welcome**

Juana Majel-Dixon, Secretary, National Congress of American Indians

Invocation

Chief Michael Williams, Sr., Akiak Native Community

1:10 - 1:40 **Tribal Supreme Court Project Update**

John Echohawk, Executive Director, Native American Rights Fund

Joel West Williams, Senior Staff Attorney, Native American Rights Fund

Dan Lewerenz, Staff Attorney, Native American Rights Fund

1:40 - 1:50 **Treasurers Report**

Shannon Holsey, Treasurer, NCAI

Break

2:00 - 2:35 **Congressional Update: Infrastructure and Native American Caucus**

Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer (NY)

Congressman Tom Cole (OK) *invited*

Congresswoman Sharice Davids (KS)

2:35 - 2:50 **Treasury Update**

Jacob Leibenluft, Chief Recovery Officer, Department of Treasury

2:50 - 3:30 **Tribal Leader Discussion: Community and Economic Recovery**

President Rodney Bordeaux, Rosebud Sioux Tribe

President Shelley Buck, Prairie Island Indian Community Chief Cyrus

Ben, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Chairman W. Ron Allen,

Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

Break

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- 3:40 **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
- 4:20 **Closing Invocation**
Shirley Kendall, Tlingit
- 4:30 **Adjourn 2021 Mid Year Conference**

Friday, June 25

- 1:00 - 3:00 [Tribal Consultation on Tribal General Welfare Exclusion \(TGWE\) Act](#) *closed to press*
We invite you to attend a tribal consultation relative to the [Presidential Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships](#) dated January 26, 2021. The Social Security Administration and the United States Department of the Treasury are seeking your recommendations and feedback on the Tribal General Welfare Exclusions Act. [Register in advance for this meeting](#)
Here is the direct link to the [SSA Video Hearings - Introduction Process](#)