



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

POLICY RESEARCH CENTER

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Research Policy Update

Native Vote Report: 2020 Decennial Census Redistricting Data File and the AI/AN Voting Age Population

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Native Vote initiative is a nonpartisan effort to promote American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) voter engagement throughout Indian Country. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the voting age population counts for American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) in the 2020 Decennial Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data File.



The U.S. Census Bureau conducts a complete count of the total population of the United States every 10 years as required by the U.S. Constitution. The P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data File is the first 2020 Census data product to include race and age data. The U.S. Census Bureau released the P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data File on August 12, 2021. This file is currently being used by states across the country in their redistricting efforts. The AI/AN voting age population is critical to this redistricting work for the fair and equitable drawing of new district lines.

This report reviews national, state, Congressional district, and state legislative AI/AN voting age population counts, top AI/AN voting age population percentages in states and Congressional and state legislative districts, and information on key AI/AN voting districts throughout the country. This report uses the IPUMS (formerly known as Integrated Public Use Microdata Series) National Historical Geographic Information System (NHGIS) tabulations of the 2020 Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data File derived from the Legacy Format. The data for this report includes 2010 and 2020 Census Summary Files, Table P3, which includes population counts by race for adults over the age of 18 years.

The AI/AN voting age population has the potential to impact the outcomes of competitive national, Congressional district, and state legislative races where the margin of victory is smaller than the AI/AN voting age population percentage of the total voting age population counts in the state. The 2020 Census data on AI/AN voting age population counts can help prepare for Native Vote efforts in selected races in 2021 and the 2022 midterm elections.

2020 Decennial Census Redistricting File

National and State AI/AN Voting Age Population Counts

The AI/AN population counts in the 2020 Census increased significantly compared to the 2010 Census, with a significant increase in the AI/AN Alone and in Combination population counts nationally and at the state level. The total voting age AI/AN Alone and in Combination population count in the 2020 Census is 6,982,636, which is almost twice as large the 2010 voting age AI/AN population count of 3,569,355. In the 2020 Census, the AI/AN Alone and in Combination voting age population count is 2.7 percent of the total voting age population count in the United States. In the 2010 Census, the AI/AN Alone and in Combination voting age population count was 1.5 percent of the total voting age population count.

While many of the top 20 key states with high AI/AN voting age population percentages of the total state voting age population counts remain the same from 2010, some states have moved in this list. **Table 1** shows the top 20 states with AI/AN Alone and in Combination voting age population counts as a percentage of the state total voting age population count. The table includes for each state the total voting age population count, the AI/AN Alone and in Combination voting age population count, and the AI/AN voting age population count in as a percentage of the total voting age population count in both 2020 and 2010. The states are listed from highest to lowest 2020 AI/AN Alone and in Combination voting age population percentage of the state total voting age population count, and the bolded states are in the top 10.

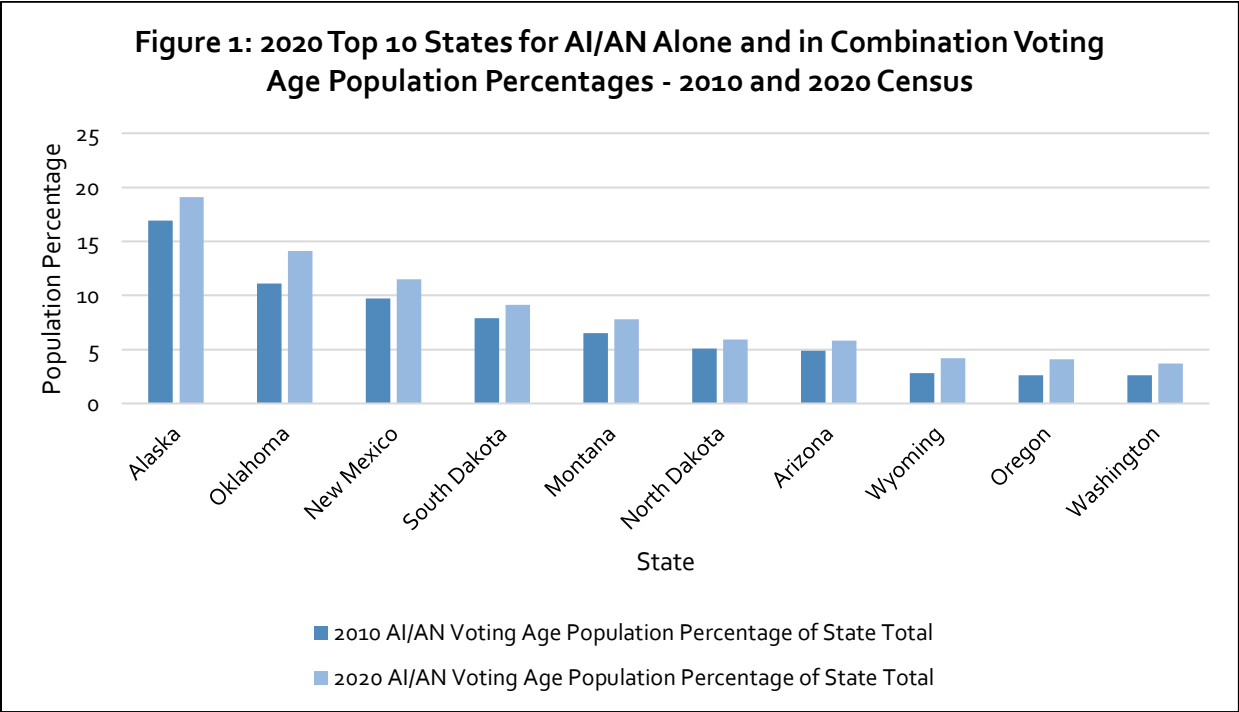
Table 1: Top 20 States with AI/AN Alone and in Combination Voting Age Population as a Percentage of the State Total Voting Age Population, 2020 and 2010

State	2020 Total State Voting Age Population Count	2020 AI/AN Alone and in Combination Voting Age Population Count	2020 AI/AN Alone and in Combination Voting Age Population Percentage of State Total	2010 AI/AN Alone and in Combination Voting Age Population Percentage of State Total
Alaska	554,003	105,737	19.1%	16.9%
Oklahoma	3,010,698	423,192	14.1%	11.1%
New Mexico	1,638,989	188,477	11.5%	9.7%
South Dakota	669,255	60,618	9.1%	7.9%
Montana	850,123	66,134	7.8%	6.5%
North Dakota	596,093	35,031	5.9%	5.1%
Arizona	5,541,976	319,230	5.8%	4.9%
Wyoming	441,337	18,433	4.2%	2.8%
Oregon	3,370,652	136,731	4.1%	2.6%

Washington	6,024,689	224,554	3.7%	2.6%
Arkansas	2,312,273	84,912	3.7%	1.5%
Kansas	2,229,316	77,897	3.5%	1.8%
California	30,827,105	1,044,783	3.4%	1.8%
Colorado	4,509,576	151,224	3.4%	2.0%
Idaho	1,376,400	45,525	3.3%	2.1%
Nevada	2,413,326	78,079	3.2%	1.9%
Missouri	4,775,612	135,751	2.8%	1.1%
North Carolina	8,155,099	231,359	2.8%	1.8%
Texas	21,866,700	584,904	2.7%	1.2%
Utah	23,24,051	58,774	2.5%	1.6%

Source: Steven Manson, Jonathan Schroeder, David Van Riper, Tracy Kugler, and Steven Ruggles. IPUMS National Historical Geographic Information System: Version 16.0 [U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table PL3; and 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table P3]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS. 2021. <http://doi.org/10.18128/Do50.V16.0>

This data includes both similarities and differences from the 2010 Decennial Census top state AI/AN voting age population percentages. While the top five states for AI/AN voting age population percentages (**Alaska, Oklahoma, New Mexico, South Dakota, and Montana**) remain the same, the next top five also remain the same (**North Dakota, Arizona, Wyoming, Oregon, and Washington**) with the exception of **Oregon** surpassing **Washington** as the ninth highest AI/AN voting age population percentage. In terms of the top 11 through 20 highest states, **Arkansas, Kansas, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, North Carolina, and Utah** all remain in the top 20 from 2010 to 2020, and **Missouri** and **Texas** newly entered the top 20 rankings in 2020. While **Hawaii** and **Minnesota** ranked in the top 20 in 2010, they no longer rank in the top 20 in 2020. **Figure 1** depicts some these changes in the AI/AN voting age population percentages for the top 10 states from 2010 and 2020.



2020 Decennial Census Redistricting File

Congressional District AI/AN Voting Age Population Counts

The U.S. Census Bureau first released data from the 2020 Census in the Apportionment File in April 2020, which contained the total population counts for each state to inform the process of distributing seats in the House of Representatives to the 50 states. The second data release for the 2020 Census, the P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data file, now reveals that some of the states that had changes in the number of House seats in 2020 were also states with higher percentages of voting age AI/ANs in their total voting age population counts. Six states gained a seat, or seats in the case of **Texas**, in the House of Representatives, of which five are in the top 20 states for AI/AN voting age population percentages.

Specifically, **Colorado, Montana, North Carolina, and Oregon** all gained a single seat, while **Texas** gained two. Of the seven states losing one seat in the House of Representatives, only one state, **California**, is among the top 20 states for AI/AN voting age population percentage. **Figure 2** shows the U.S. Census Bureau’s depiction of these apportionment changes.

A Congressional district is considered “majority minority” when more than half of the district population is comprised of primarily a single or multiple racial or ethnic minority groups. While at present no Congressional districts are majority AI/AN, some Congressional districts throughout the county contain a significant percent of AI/AN voting age population counts that could impact close elections. **Table 2** shows the Congressional districts with AI/AN Alone or in Combination voting age populations over 5 percent of their district total voting age population and compares the 2020 and 2010 results.

Figure 2: Apportionment of Seats in the U.S. House of Representatives Based on the 2020 Census

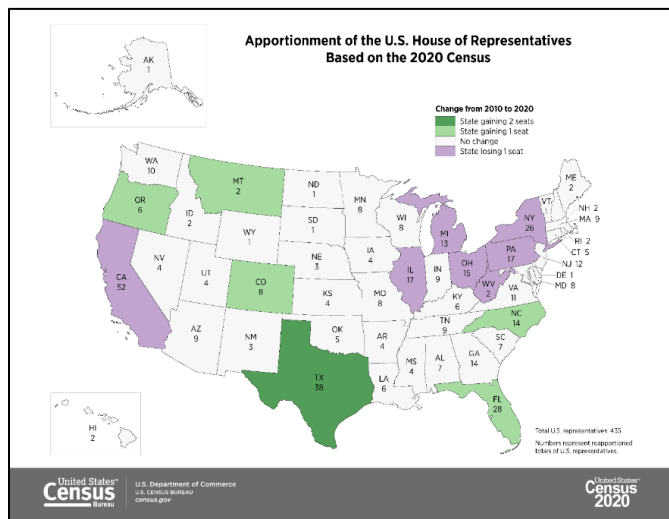


Image Source: U.S. Census Bureau

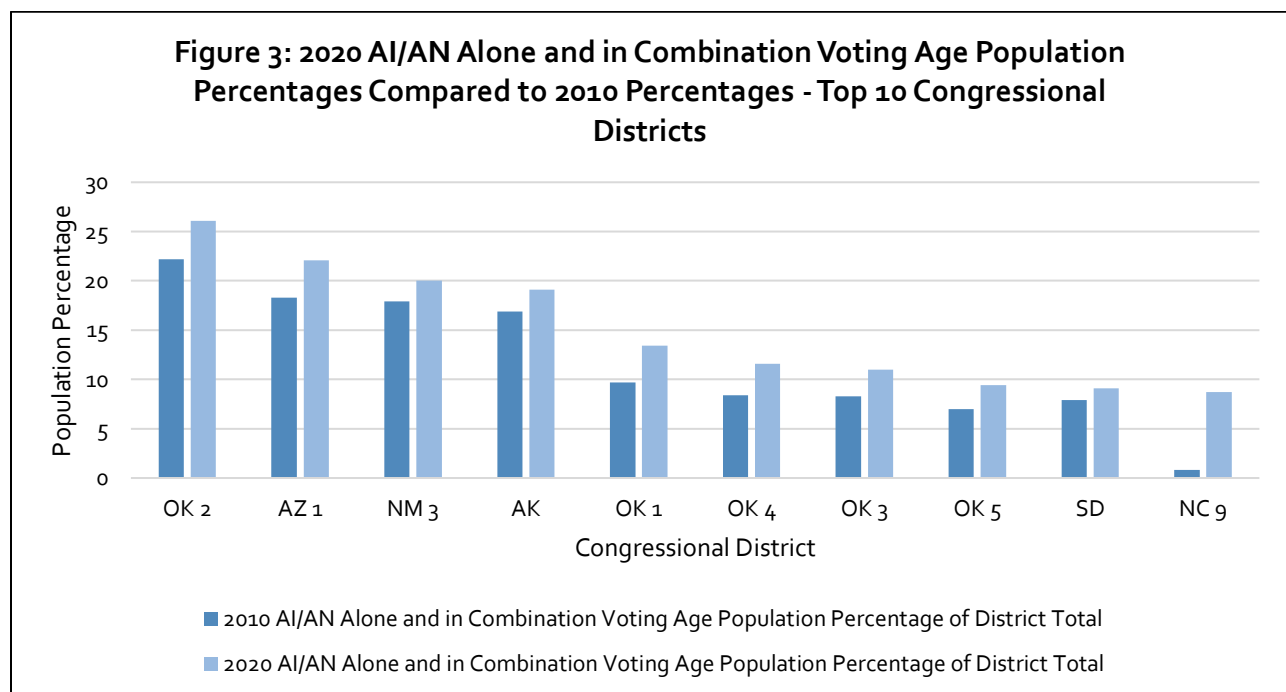
Table 2: Congressional Districts with AI/AN Alone or in Combination Voting Age Population over 5 Percent of Their Total Voting Age Population in 2020 and 2010.

State	Congressional District	2020 Total District Voting Age Population Count	2020 AI/AN Alone and in Combination Voting Age Population Count	2020 AI/AN Alone and in Combination Voting Age Population Percentage of District Total	2010 AI/AN Alone and in Combination Voting Age Population Percentage of District Total
Oklahoma	House District 2	555,636	144,780	26.1%	22.2%
Arizona	House District 1	585,309	129,447	22.1%	18.3%
New Mexico	House District 3	546,095	109,161	20.0%	17.9%
Alaska	House At-Large District	554,003	105,737	19.1%	16.9%
Oklahoma	House District 1	626,029	83,865	13.4%	9.7%
Oklahoma	House District 4	610,641	70,700	11.6%	8.4%
Oklahoma	House District 3	594,632	65,536	11.0%	8.3%
Oklahoma	House District 5	623,760	58,311	9.4%	7.0%
South Dakota	House At-Large District	669,255	60,618	9.1%	7.9%
North Carolina	House District 9	580,614	50,653	8.7%	0.8%
Montana	House At-Large District	850,123	66,134	7.8%	6.5%
New Mexico	House District 2	542,134	39,389	7.3%	6.1%
New Mexico	House District 1	550,760	39,927	7.3%	5.0%
North Dakota	House At-Large District	596,093	35,031	5.9%	5.1%
California	House District 1	561,379	32,262	5.8%	4.1%
Arizona	House District 3	574,185	32,992	5.8%	2.0%
California	House District 2	577,483	31,426	5.4%	4.0%
Arkansas	House District 3	634,264	34,384	5.4%	2.5%
Washington	House District 4	543,081	28,875	5.3%	2.9%
California	House District 16	529,888	27,891	5.3%	1.8%
Arizona	House District 7	563,046	28,840	5.1%	6.1%
Illinois	House District 4	535,319	26,753	5.0%	1.4%

Source: Steven Manson, Jonathan Schroeder, David Van Riper, Tracy Kugler, and Steven Ruggles. IPUMS National Historical Geographic Information System: Version 16.0 [U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table PL3; and 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table P3]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS. 2021. <http://doi.org/10.18128/Do50.V16.0>. North Carolina 7 is not included in the table above because it had an AI/AN voting age population count below 5 percent for 2020, even though it had over 5 percent in 2010. The 15 congressional districts in 2010 with over 5 percent AI/AN voting age population include the 14 listed in the table above plus North Carolina 7.

In close elections where the margin of victory is smaller than 5 percent, a small population has the potential to sway the outcome of the election depending on voter turnout. As shown in **Table 2**, eight districts have newly reached the 5 percent threshold from 2010, and one district fell below 5 percent in 2020. **Oklahoma 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, Arizona 1 and 7, New Mexico 1, 2, and 3, Alaska At-Large, South Dakota At-Large, Montana At-Large, and North Dakota At-**

Large all continue to have at least 5 percent AI/ANs Alone or in Combination comprising their districts from 2010 to 2020, and one district no longer meets the 5 percent threshold from 2010 (**North Carolina 7**). In addition, the following districts now contain 5 percent or more AI/ANs Alone or in Combination in their total voting age population counts in the 2020 Census, which was not true for them in 2010: **North Carolina 9, California 1, 2 and 16, Arizona 3, Arkansas 3, Washington 4, and Illinois 4**. In the 2020 Census, 22 congressional districts have AI/AN voting age populations over 5 percent of their total voting age population counts. In 2010, only 15 congressional districts had over 5 percent of their total voting age population counts being AI/ANs of voting age. A comparison of the changes among the top 10 districts from 2010 to 2020 is illustrated in **Figure 3**. In all of the top 10 districts in **Figure 3**, the AI/AN voting age population percentage increased from 2010 to 2020.



2020 Decennial Census Redistricting File
State Legislative District AI/AN Voting Age Population Counts

For upper chamber state legislative districts, twelve are majority minority AI/AN districts based on 2020 Census voting age population counts, in comparison to 10 majority minority AI/AN districts in 2010. **New Mexico state senate district 22** and **South Dakota state senate district 26** are newly majority minority AI/AN districts, while **Arizona state senate district 2** is no longer majority minority. The majority minority districts are in bold in **Table 3**. In addition, 35 upper state legislative districts in 2020 have at least 20 percent AI/AN voting age population percentages. In these districts, AI/AN voting age populations have a strong chance to determine the outcome of elections, when the margin of victory is smaller than 20 percent of the total population and voter turnout is high.

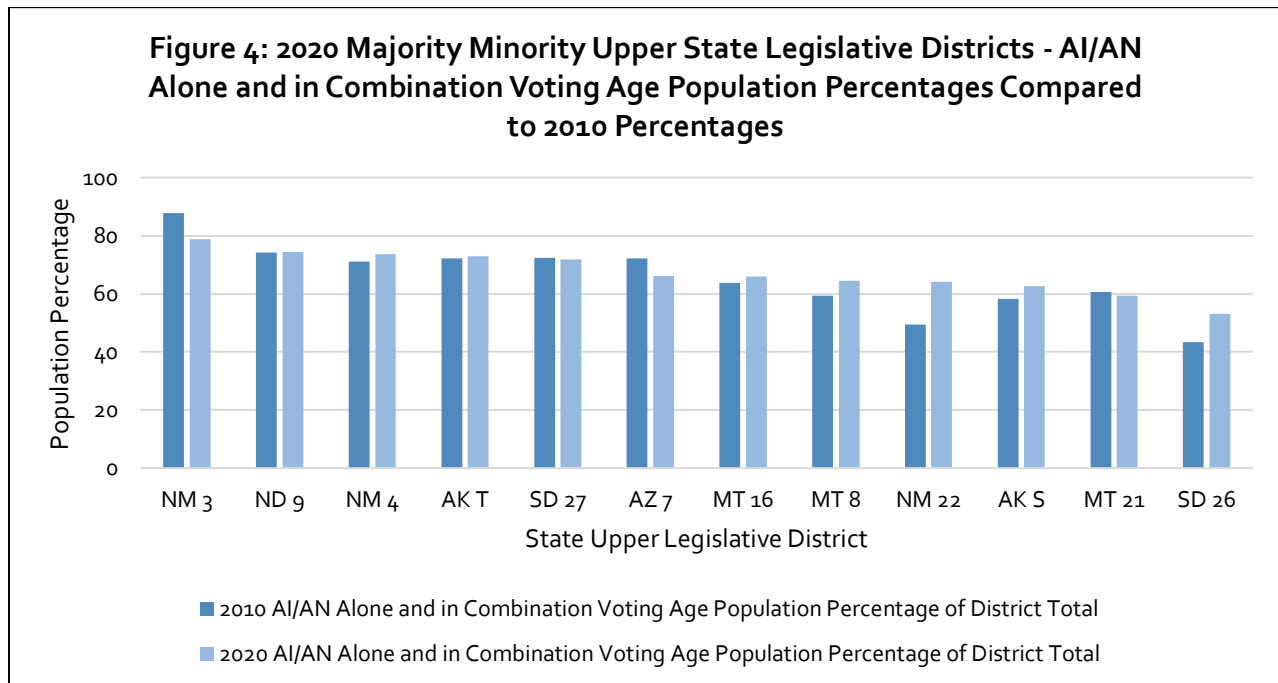
Table 3: Upper State Legislative Districts with AI/AN Alone and in Combination Voting Age Population over 20 Percent of Their Total Voting Age Population in 2020 and 2010.

State	Legislative District	2020 Total District Voting Age Population Counts	2020 AI/AN Alone and in Combination Voting Age Population Counts	2020 AI/AN Alone and in Combination Voting Age Population Percentage of District Total	2010 AI/AN Alone and in Combination Voting Age Population Percentage of District Total
New Mexico	Senate District 3	32,811	25,903	78.9%	87.9%
North Dakota	Senate District 9	8,161	6,072	74.4%	74.3%
New Mexico	Senate District 4	36,679	26,985	73.6%	71.1%
Alaska	Senate District T	25,606	18,703	73.0%	72.2%
South Dakota	Senate District 27	14,661	10,531	71.8%	72.4%
Arizona	Senate District 7	142,386	94,260	66.2%	72.2%
Montana	Senate District 16	13,955	9,204	66.0%	63.8%
Montana	Senate District 8	13,384	8,628	64.5%	59.4%
New Mexico	Senate District 22	35,821	22,988	64.2%	49.4%
Alaska	Senate District S	26,161	16,364	62.6%	58.3%
Montana	Senate District 21	12,796	7,587	59.3%	60.7%
South Dakota	Senate District 26	15,423	8,210	53.2%	43.4%
Oklahoma	Senate District 3	55,690	20,339	36.5%	39.7%
South Dakota	Senate District 28	17,120	6,132	35.8%	40.2%
North Dakota	Senate District 4	12,056	4,093	33.9%	31.2%
New Mexico	Senate District 1	34,333	11,642	33.9%	26.9%
Wyoming	Senate District 25	14,173	4,486	31.7%	31.4%
Oklahoma	Senate District 9	58,702	17,770	30.3%	20.5%
North Carolina	Senate District 13	128,799	37,539	29.1%	31.2%
New Mexico	Senate District 30	38,080	10,671	28.0%	22.7%
Oklahoma	Senate District 1	57,687	16,048	27.8%	24.1%
Alaska	Senate District R	27,578	7,434	27.0%	14.9%
Oklahoma	Senate District 4	56,647	14,371	25.4%	17.5%
Oklahoma	Senate District 8	55,708	13,544	24.3%	20.4%
Oklahoma	Senate District 7	56,117	13,184	23.5%	18.9%
Oklahoma	Senate District 18	61,408	14,052	22.9%	17.5%
Oklahoma	Senate District 5	55,207	12,194	22.1%	18.0%
Oklahoma	Senate District 2	64,406	13,937	21.6%	19.8%
North Dakota	Senate District 31	11,817	2,553	21.6%	22.8%
Oklahoma	Senate District 13	58,658	12,627	21.5%	17.0%
South Dakota	Senate District 21	16,919	3,477	20.6%	25.9%

Oklahoma	Senate District 29	59,813	12,256	20.5%	16.3%
Oklahoma	Senate District 6	62,129	12,535	20.2%	16.0%

Source: Steven Manson, Jonathan Schroeder, David Van Riper, Tracy Kugler, and Steven Ruggles. IPUMS National Historical Geographic Information System: Version 16.0 [U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table PL3; and 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table P3]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS. 2021. <http://doi.org/10.18128/Do50.V16.0>

A comparison of the changes in AI/AN Alone or in Combination Voting Age Population percentages among the majority minority upper state legislative districts between 2010 and 2020 is illustrated in **Figure 4**. For three districts, **New Mexico 3**, **Arizona 7**, and **Montana 21**, the AI/AN voting age population count decreased between 2010 and 2020, while the rest of the state districts listed had increases in their counts over the past ten years.



For 2020 lower chamber state legislative districts, there was a decrease in the number of majority minority districts, with 21 majority minority AI/AN districts in 2020 compared to 23 majority minority AI/AN districts in 2010. **Arizona state house district 7** is newly majority minority, while **Arizona state house district 2** and **North Carolina state house district 47** no longer are majority minority for AI/ANs. In addition, 60 lower state legislative districts in 2020 have at least 20 percent of their total voting age population counts as the AI/AN voting age population, as show in **Table 4**. The majority minority districts in 2020 are in bold in the table.

Table 4: Lower State Legislative Districts with AI/AN Alone and in Combination Voting Age Population over 20 Percent of Their Total Voting Age Population in 2020 and 2010.

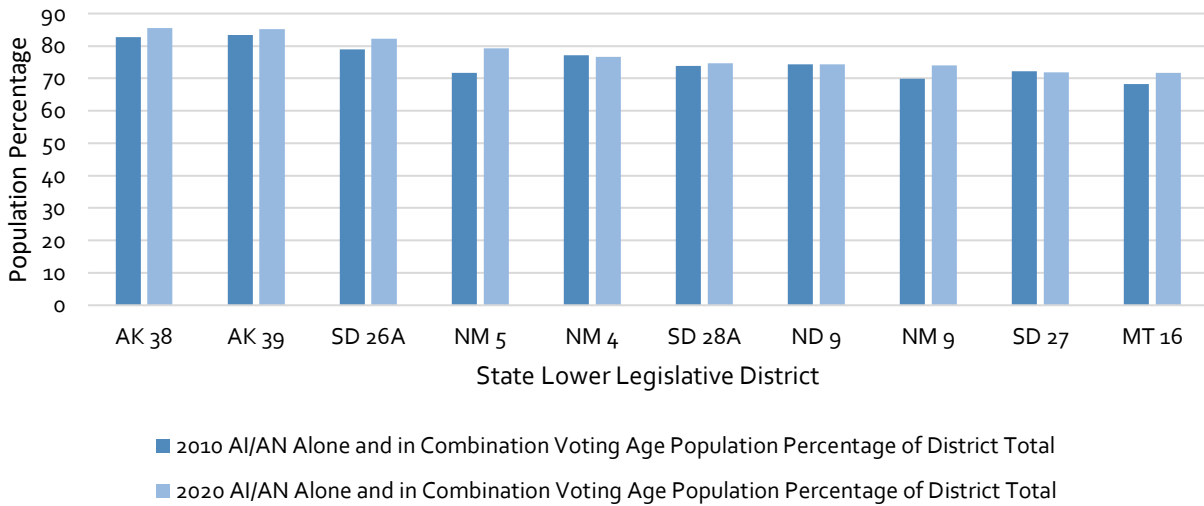
State	Legislative District	2020 Total District Voting Age Population Count	2020 AI/AN Alone and in Combination Voting Age Population Count	2020 AI/AN Alone and in Combination Voting Age Population Percentage of District Total	2010 AI/AN Alone and in Combination Voting Age Population Percentage of District Total
Alaska	House District 38	12,553	10,733	85.5%	82.7%
Alaska	House District 39	12,154	10,353	85.2%	83.4%
South Dakota	House District 26A	6,900	5,680	82.3%	78.9%
New Mexico	House District 5	21,122	16,752	79.3%	71.7%
New Mexico	House District 4	20,235	15,510	76.7%	77.2%
South Dakota	House District 28A	7,716	5,758	74.6%	73.9%
North Dakota	House District 9	8,161	6,072	74.4%	74.3%
New Mexico	House District 9	20,026	14,819	74.0%	69.9%
South Dakota	House District 27	14,661	10,531	71.8%	72.2%
Montana	House District 16	6,929	4,965	71.7%	68.3%
New Mexico	House District 6	21,925	15,368	70.1%	60.9%
New Mexico	House District 65	19,987	13,751	68.8%	63.0%
Montana	House District 32	7,120	4,749	66.7%	61.3%
Arizona	House District 7	142,386	94,260	66.2%	1.1%
New Mexico	House District 69	22,095	14,555	65.9%	65.5%
Montana	House District 31	6,835	4,455	65.2%	66.3%
Alaska	House District 40	13,452	8,350	62.1%	63.6%
Wyoming	House District 33	6,555	3,977	60.7%	59.0%
Montana	House District 41	6,161	3,718	60.4%	63.3%
Montana	House District 42	6,635	3,869	58.3%	58.1%
Montana	House District 15	6,455	3,663	56.8%	50.9%
North Carolina	House District 47	54,456	26,963	49.5%	52.1%
Oklahoma	House District 86	24,955	11,741	47.1%	44.0%
Oklahoma	House District 4	28,678	12,676	44.2%	37.4%
Alaska	House District 37	13,608	5,631	41.4%	37.8%
North Dakota	House District 4	12,056	4,093	34.0%	31.2%
New Mexico	House District 2	19,939	6,423	32.2%	22.9%
Oklahoma	House District 2	26,191	8,276	31.6%	25.5%
South Dakota	House District 26B	8,523	2,530	29.7%	10.0%
Alaska	House District 36	14,030	4,036	28.8%	19.7%
Oklahoma	House District 14	26,947	7,555	28.0%	23.0%

Oklahoma	House District 5	28,570	7,986	28.0%	25.0%
Montana	House District 93	8,028	2,213	27.6%	3.00%
Oklahoma	House District 6	28,083	7,558	26.9%	23.5%
Oklahoma	House District 8	27,843	7,483	26.9%	23.0%
Oklahoma	House District 25	28,970	7,512	25.9%	19.6%
Oklahoma	House District 17	26,442	6,644	25.1%	19.3%
Alaska	House District 35	13,548	3,398	25.1%	11.3%
Oklahoma	House District 7	27,405	6,641	24.2%	21.8%
Oklahoma	House District 24	27,084	6,555	24.2%	20.7%
Oklahoma	House District 15	26,325	6,269	23.8%	20.8%
Oklahoma	House District 16	26,612	6,264	23.5%	19.6%
Oklahoma	House District 13	27,235	6,321	23.2%	18.6%
Alaska	House District 6	12,409	2,879	23.2%	50.0%
Oklahoma	House District 9	31,473	7,047	22.4%	18.1%
Oklahoma	House District 19	27,404	6,120	22.3%	20.3%
Oklahoma	House District 18	26,740	5,952	22.3%	18.2%
Oklahoma	House District 28	27,919	6,177	22.1%	18.2%
Oklahoma	House District 10	27,472	5,961	21.7%	18.5%
Alaska	House District 1	13,424	2,911	21.7%	17.6%
Oklahoma	House District 36	30,916	6,684	21.6%	21.2%
North Dakota	House District 31	11,817	2,553	21.6%	22.8%
Oklahoma	House District 1	26,106	5,609	21.5%	17.3%
Utah	House District 73	27,261	5,762	21.1%	1.90%
Oklahoma	House District 21	31,506	6,633	21.1%	16.3%
Oklahoma	House District 56	25,724	5,300	20.6%	20.4%
South Dakota	House District 21	16,919	3,477	20.6%	25.9%
Alaska	House District 32	13,464	2,753	20.5%	5.80%
Oklahoma	House District 12	28,515	5,760	20.2%	16.1%
Oklahoma	House District 22	28,115	5,629	20.0%	11.9%

Source: Steven Manson, Jonathan Schroeder, David Van Riper, Tracy Kugler, and Steven Ruggles. IPUMS National Historical Geographic Information System: Version 16.0 [U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table PL3; and 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table P3]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS. 2021. <http://doi.org/10.18128/Do50.V16.0>

A comparison of the changes among the top ten majority minority lower state legislative districts from 2010 to 2020 from 2010 is below in **Figure 5**. In two districts, **New Mexico state house district 4** and **South Dakota state house district 27**, the 2010 population is higher than the 2020 population.

Figure 5: 2020 Top 10 Majority Minority Lower State Legislative Districts - AI/AN Alone and in Combination Voting Age Population Percentages, 2010 and 2020



2020 Decennial Census Redistricting File *Majority Minority AI/AN Voting Districts*

Seven hundred seventy-nine (779) voting districts in 35 states are majority minority for AI/ANs, which means they have a majority of their district’s voting age population count totals that are AI/ANs. **Table 5** shows the 35 states with majority AI/AN voting districts, the total number of voting districts in the state, the total voting districts in the state with majority AI/AN population counts, and the percentage of AI/AN majority minority voting districts out of the total voting districts.

Table 5: Number of AI/AN Majority Minority Voting Districts as a percentage of State Total Voting Districts

State	Total Number of Voting Districts in the State	Number of Voting Districts with Majority AI/AN Population Counts	AI/AN Majority Minority Voting Districts as a Percent of the Total Number of State Voting Districts
Alaska	456	140	30.7%
Arizona	1,538	111	7.2%
Arkansas	2,747	2	0.1%
Colorado	3,108	1	0.0%

Florida	7,211	9	0.1%
Georgia	2,698	3	0.1%
Idaho	931	4	0.4%
Indiana	5,159	2	0.0%
Iowa	2,536	2	0.1%
Kansas	4,240	22	0.5%
Kentucky	3,693	2	0.1%
Louisiana	3,540	3	0.1%
Maryland	2,042	1	0.0%
Michigan	4,805	1	0.0%
Minnesota	4,110	32	0.8%
Mississippi	1,834	4	0.2%
Missouri	4,604	6	0.1%
Montana	666	34	5.1%
Nebraska	1,402	4	0.3%
Nevada	2,102	23	1.1%
New Hampshire	326	1	0.3%
New Mexico	1,977	122	6.2%
New York	14,191	10	0.1%
North Carolina	4,934	20	0.4%
North Dakota	1,206	18	1.5%
Ohio	8,941	1	0.0%
Oklahoma	1,947	24	1.2%
South Dakota	785	63	8.0%
Texas	9,007	6	0.1%
Utah	2,745	19	0.7%
Vermont	285	1	0.4%
Virginia	3,529	2	0.1%
Washington	7,434	42	0.6%
Wisconsin	7,059	44	0.6%
Wyoming	512	3	0.6%

Source: Steven Manson, Jonathan Schroeder, David Van Riper, Tracy Kugler, and Steven Ruggles. IPUMS National Historical Geographic Information System: Version 16.0 [U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table PL3; and 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table P3]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS. 2021. <http://doi.org/10.18128/Do50.V16.0>

States and districts where the AI/AN voting age population counts are a sizable portion of the electorate are key to current redistricting efforts and upcoming elections. Protecting voting rights and ensuring the drawing of equitable districts are central to free and fair elections and representation for tribal nations and AI/ANs. NCAI continues to advocate on behalf of the voting rights of tribal nations and AI/ANs. On September 24, NCAI, alongside partner organizations sent a [letter](#) to Congressional leadership urging them to pass legislation to protect the voting rights of AI/ANs.

NCAI is also a part of the Coalition Hub Advancing Redistricting and Grassroots Engagement (C.H.A.R.G.E.) initiative and their work on community-centered redistricting can be found [here](#). NCAI's civic engagement team currently is conducting trainings on redistricting for tribal nations and AI/AN communities to increase their participation in state and local redistricting efforts and three of those trainings are listed below:

- *Redistricting 101 for Tribal Nations*, which contains information on getting involved with local redistricting efforts and can be viewed [here](#);
- *Introduction to Redistricting* as part of the C.H.A.R.G.E. initiative's Redistricting Community College series, which can be viewed [here](#); and
- *Behind the Scenes: Redistricting Advocacy* with organization partners Common Cause and Asian & Pacific Islander American Vote (APIAVote), which can be viewed [here](#).

These resources provide a helpful starting point to Tribal Nations and AI/ANs interested in getting involved in current efforts to impact the redistricting process. Tribal nations can get involved now in the redistricting process at the state and local levels by defining local communities of interest, testifying at local hearings on redistricting, and talking about the importance of fair elections, accurate redistricting, and the need for all communities to get the representation and resources they deserve.

For more information, email research@ncai.org.

Citation: NCAI Policy Research Center (2020). *Research Policy Update – Native Vote Report: 2020 Decennial Census Redistricting Data File and the AI/AN Voting Age Population*. Washington DC: National Congress of American Indians, October 8, 2021.