



# AGENDA & NOTICE

LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY  
NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2024, 6:30 PM**

**Meeting Location:** County of Los Angeles Hall of Administration  
Sybil Brand Room 372  
500 W. Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**To Provide Public Comment:** You may submit written public comment via email to [contact@lanaic.lacounty.gov](mailto:contact@lanaic.lacounty.gov). Please note "LANAIC Public Comment" in subject line. Please submit your public comment or documentation as soon as possible but no later than 5 p.m. the night before the scheduled meeting. Public comment received after this time will be added to the next regular Commission meeting.

SHAWN IMITATES DOG, Chairperson  
*Lakota*

ANDREA N. GARCIA, M.D., Commissioner  
*Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara*

TED TENORIO, Commissioner  
*Tiguan Nation*

MARK VILLASEÑOR, Vice Chairperson  
*Fernandeño Tataviam*

DAWN JACKSON, Commissioner  
*Saginaw Chippewa*

RICH TOYON, Commissioner  
*Acjachemen*

DENISE ESCOTO, Treasurer  
*Northern Cheyenne*

MONA MORALES RECALDE, Commissioner  
*Gabrieleno Tongva*

RENE' WILLIAMS, Commissioner  
*Colville Tribes*

CAROLINE BHALLA, Commissioner  
*Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin*

JOHN ONLY A CHIEF, Commissioner  
*Pawnee Nation*

CHRISSIE CASTRO, Commissioner  
*Navajo*

RUDY ORTEGA JR., Commissioner  
*Fernandeño Tataviam*

ALEXANDRA VALDES  
Executive Director  
*Tlingit/Athabaskan*

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## 1. CALL TO ORDER

## 2. INVOCATION & LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

## 3. ROLL CALL

## 4. COMMISSIONER INTRODUCTIONS

## 5. PUBLIC COMMENT

## 6. ACTION ITEMS

- 6.1. Take action approving the March 19, 2024 Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) Unapproved Meeting Minutes
- 6.2. Take action selecting a 2024 Native American Heritage Month theme

- 6.3. Approve action supporting effort to bring the Traveling Exhibit “100 Years After the Indian Citizenship Act: The Continuing Struggle to Guarantee Voting Rights to Native Americans” curated by the Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress subject to locating a venue and necessary resources to the County of Los Angeles and host an opening reception to inaugurate the time limited exhibition on a date TBD in June of 2024
- 6.4. Request that that the City of LA Department of Cultural Affairs utilize FY24-25 Native American Heritage Month (NAHM) funding in the amount of \$13,000 to,
  1. RFP an event coordinator to produce a 2024 NAHM reception on November 1, 2024 at LA City Hall and to hire and manage a graphic designer to develop the 2024 LA City NAHM Booklet; or
  2. Design and produce a 2024 NAHM Calendar and Cultural Guide between 150-200 pages that features work by LA-based Native American visual and narrative artists and 2024 NAHM community event fliers; or
  3. Design and produce a 2024 NAHM Calendar and Cultural Guide between 150-200 pages that features work by LA-based Native American visual and narrative artists and 2024 NAHM community event fliers and have the LANAIC secure partnerships to support the cost of a November 1, 2024 NAHM reception.
- 6.5 Request that LA City Council District 7 reserve the LA City Hall Forecourt for three hours following the November 1, 2024 in chambers NAHM celebration and provide tables, chairs, table linens, sound equipment and any necessary event permitting including sanitation costs.

## **7. PRESENTATIONS**

- 7.1 *Care First Community Investment Updates*, Tencha Chavez (LANAIC CFCI Alternate Designee)

## **8. CHAIR’S REPORT**

- 8.1 Appoint Commissioner Dr. Andrea Garcia to the Mayoral-Appointed Seat on the Self Governance Board
- 8.2 Appoint Commissioner Rene’ Williams to the Board of Supervisors-Appointed Seat on the Self Governance Board

## **9. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- 9.1. Discuss the process taken by LA City Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department to develop the draft LA City land acknowledgment
- 9.2. Discuss enhancing/strengthening the LANAIC website and roles for commissioners to update the content

**10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- 10.1 Commissioner Audra Wise's Resignation
- 10.2 Office of Management and Budget Statistical Policy Directive No. 15 (SPD-15) Revision Updates
- 10.3 Update on meeting with City of Long Beach staff about proposed Native American Commission and request for commissioner questions for City of Long Beach regarding the proposed commission

**11. COMMITTEE & AD-HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- 11.1 Self Governance Board
- 11.2 Homelessness Committee
- 11.3 2024 Native American Heritage Month Ad Hoc Committee
- 11.4 FY23-24 Annual Report Ad Hoc Committee
- 11.5 Legislative Agenda Ad Hoc Committee
- 11.6 Anniversary of the Indian Citizenship Act, June 2, 1924 Ad Hoc Committee

**12. COMMISSIONER GENERAL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**13. ANNOUNCEMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**14. COMMISSION ADJOURNMENT**

Meetings are held in English. If interpretation in other languages or accommodations for persons with disabilities are needed, please contact the Commission at 213-738-3241 at least 3 business days before the meeting. The meetings of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission are accessible to persons with disabilities.

Contact: [www.lanaic.lacounty.gov](http://www.lanaic.lacounty.gov), [contact@lanaic.lacounty.gov](mailto:contact@lanaic.lacounty.gov), or (213) 738-3241

A handwritten signature in blue ink on a yellow background. The signature appears to read "Shaun Intab" followed by a stylized flourish.



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS  
THE LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION**

The following individual(s) submitted comments on agenda item:		
<b>Agenda #</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
5.0 – Public Comment	Dr. Gary Stickles	<p>Dr. Stickles called the LANAIC on April 3, 2024 and requested that his research paper entitled “WHY THE ORIGINAL INDIAN TRIBE OF THE GREATER LOS ANGELES AREA IS CALLED KIZH NOT TONGVA” be shared with LANAIC commissioners as general public comment at the next meeting.</p> <p><a href="https://gabrielenoindians.org/2022/08/09/kizh-not-tongva/">https://gabrielenoindians.org/2022/08/09/kizh-not-tongva/</a></p>





**CORRESPONDENCE TO  
THE LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION  
APRIL 2024**

On March 26, 2024 a Neighborhood Council Community Impact Statement (CIS) was sent to the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission. Please see attached.

On April 11, 2024 Josh Candelaria submitted a flyer for the *2<sup>ND</sup> Annual 2024 Candlelight Vigil for Missing & Murdered Indigenous People*. Please see attached.



# WEST LA SAWTELLE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

[WWW.WESTLASAWTELLE.ORG](http://WWW.WESTLASAWTELLE.ORG) // ADRIANE RANSOM // ALEX CARYOTAKIS // ALEXANDRA POLIN // DANILO TORRO // DAVID SWARTZ // JAMES ALTUNER // JAY HANDAL // KENT KAISAKI // MONICA MEJIA-LAMBERT // PIERRE TECON // RON BEN-YEHUDA // RON MIGDAL // VIC PACHECO // WALTON CHIU //

Kuruvungna Gabrielino Tongva Springs and Native American Community:

i. Motion: Request that LAUSD expand the area of the Kuruvungna Springs into the adjacent vacant lot and structure, including identifying additional springs, rewilding the land, and advocating for funding and/or funding sources (J.Handal, M.Mejia-Lambert - Approved 13-0-0).

Justification: The Springs comprise an irreplaceable and invaluable ecological, cultural, spiritual, and historical treasure. Our West L.A. Sawtelle community is severely and disparately impacted by the lack of greenspace. Expansion of the Springs's area advances both environmental equity and helps preserve this sacred site for future generations.

ii. Motion: Request that Council District 11 support the Gabrielino Springs Foundation in obtaining funding for a Gabrielino Tongva led and curated museum of the history of the site by allocating official staff time and committing to provide letters of support and other documentation (J.Handal, M.Mejia-Lambert - Approved 13-0-0).

Justification: The Gabrielino Springs Foundation maintains tens of thousands of archeological artifacts and documents that comprise essential history of the peoples and lands of Los Angeles Basin from pre-European encroachment, through Spanish and Mexican occupation, to the present day. These collections represent essential Los Angeles history and must be preserved for generations to come.

iii. Motion: Request that the City of Los Angeles designate areas of West Los Angeles, Sawtelle as Indigenous Cultural Districts that embody the cultures, histories, and values of the American Indian, Native Alaskan, and Indigenous Communities (J.Handal, M.Mejia Lambert - Approved 13-0-0).

Justification: A common value amongst native, indigenous cultures is harmony with the Earth and all of its life. The Sawtelle area suffers from inequitable access to green, open and recreational spaces and the concomitant health hazards. Cultural Districts rooted in access to public, open, biodiverse spaces, serve both to honor the original caretakers of this land as well as to address a critical public health need.

iv. Motion: Request that the West Los Angeles Community Plan Update staff coordinate with the American Indian and Native Community to incorporate among its Community Benefits, culturally-effective community facilities, essential services, ceremonial space, and supportive housing (J.Handal, M.Mejia-Lambert - Approved 13-0-0).

Justification: The Sawtelle area encompasses a substantial share of multi-family housing in West Los Angeles, while suffering from a severe lack of access to open space, health services, and affordable housing. Prioritizing these needs in a culturally specific manner for the AIAN community would advance Environmental Justice, Public Health Equity, and the redressing of historical injustices in the West Los Angeles Community Plan.

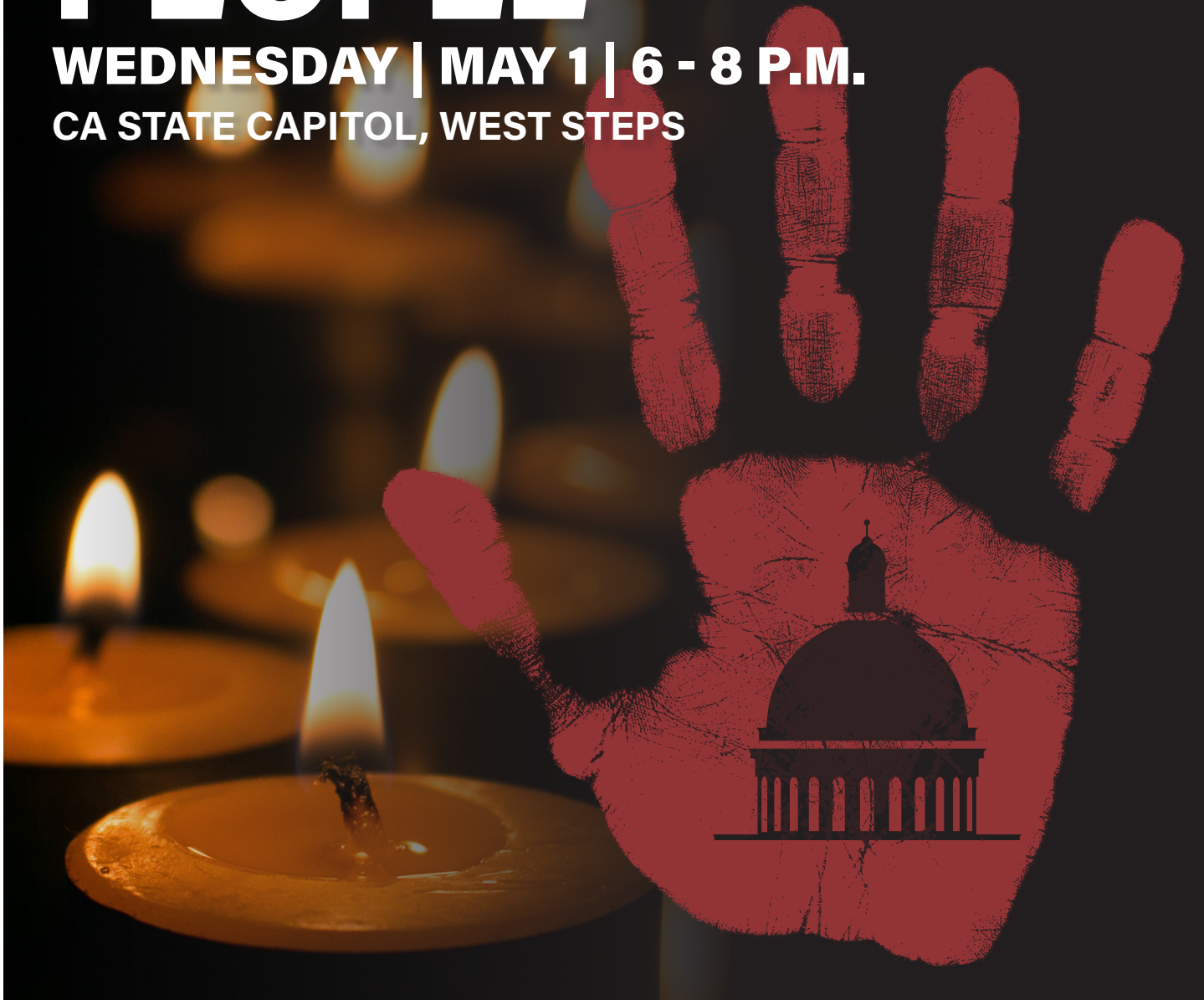
v. Motion: Request that CD11 itemize the above requests in the district's budget plan, in order to allocate sufficient official staff time and resources (J.Handal, M.Mejia-Lambert - Approved 13-0-0).

**2ND ANNUAL 2024**

**CANDLELIGHT VIGIL FOR  
MISSING &  
MURDERED  
INDIGENOUS  
PEOPLE**

**WEDNESDAY | MAY 1 | 6 - 8 P.M.**

**CA STATE CAPITOL, WEST STEPS**





**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION  
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 19, 2024**

The March 19, 2024, meeting Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) was at County of Los Angeles Hall of Administration, Sybil Brand Room 372, 500 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles, California, 90012.

Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and read the Los Angeles County Land Acknowledgment.

Invocation

Commissioner John Only A Chief provided an invocation.

Roll Call

Present: Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor  
Secretary Audra Wise  
Treasurer Denise Escoto  
Chrissie Castro (Virtual; Just Cause)  
Caroline Bhalla  
Andrea Garcia  
John Only A Chief  
Dawn Jackson  
Mona Morales Recalde  
Ted Tenorio  
Rich Toyon (Virtual; Just Cause)  
Mark Villasenor  
Rene' Williams

Absent: Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog (Excused)  
Rudy Ortega Jr. (Excused)

Staff: Alexandra Valdes, Executive Director  
Stephanie Guadron, Administrative Manager

Quorum was met.

Commissioner & Staff Introductions

Commissioners provided brief introductions including their names, appointing office and tribal affiliation.



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION  
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 19, 2024**

Public Comment

Members of Public: Laticia Williams, David Moore, Ronnell Hampton

Latisha Williams and David Moore stated that they are sharing information about their newly opened Wellness Rediscovery Center, Aurora Wellness Rediscovery Center. They shared that their primary focus is to serve Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) from their surrounding communities. They provided a flyer to the commissioners for community dissemination (see attached).

Action Items

**Review and take possible action adopting the February 20, 2024 Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) Unapproved Meeting Minutes**

*A motion was made by Commissioner Andrea Garcia and seconded by Commissioner Rene' Williams to approve the unapproved February 20, 2024 LANAIC Meeting Minutes with corrections made to the General Comments item regarding a NOFA disseminated by Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA) for affordable and multi-family housing; culturally supportive housing for AIAN population. The motion passed.*

<b>YES</b>	Garcia, Williams, Only A Chief, Escoto, Jackson, Villasenor, Castro, Bhalla
<b>NO</b>	
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	Morales Recalde, Tenorio, Wise
<b>ABSENT</b>	Imitates Dog, Ortega Jr.

**Review and take possible action recommending to LA City Council that they adopt the draft land acknowledgement development by the LA City Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department**

Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde stated that she does not feel comfortable with the Chumash being named in LA City's land acknowledgement. Commissioner Andrea Garcia stated that the LANAIC approved the process that Los Angeles County designed and implemented in the development of the Los Angeles County Land Acknowledgement and would like clarification if the current action being taken is to approve the process for LA City. Commissioner Dawn Jackson stated that based on how many commissioners have questions about this item that more discussion is needed before action could be made.

Ronnell Hampton from LA City stated that it is important to understand that LA City followed the guidance that was given by the State. He stated that they followed the protocols to reach out to 14 local tribes that were listed from the State of California's Native American Heritage Committee on multiple occasions and that the tribes that are listed reflect the process that was utilized. Mr. Hampton also stated that LA City recognizes that the development of a land acknowledgement





## LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 19, 2024

may result in potential harm, but they are confident that they followed protocols from the State, local tribal groups and guidance from the LANAIC about the process that was taken for the LA County land acknowledgement.

Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor stated that the LANAIC has pushed this item for 2-3 months and due to the amount of questions that are arising when taking action, he recommends the development of an LA City Land Acknowledgement Ad Hoc Committee.

*Item was tabled by Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor for a future meeting date and added an action item to agenda item 11, Commissioner General Comments on Non-Agenda Items to establish an ad hoc committee to discuss this item with LA City and report back to the full body at the next regular meeting.*

### Presentations

#### **Care First Community Updates, Tencha Chavez (LANAIC CFCI Alternate Designee)**

This item was tabled to the next regular meeting.

#### **Introduction to New United American Indian Involvement, Inc., Charlene Harrison (CEO, United American Indian Involvement, Inc.)**

This item was tabled to the next regular meeting.

### Discussion Items

#### **2024 Native American Heritage Month theme selection process**

Alexandra Valdes stated that the process for the Native American Heritage Month (NAHM) theme will follow the process from years prior. Alexandra stated that she would provide the commissioners with a list of the previous years' themes via email. Alexandra will accept theme nominations from commissioners until the deadline of April 8, 2024 and will submit a final list of theme nominations to the LANAIC Chairperson and the NAHM Ad Hoc Committee Chair. The LANAIC will vote on the final theme nominations at the April 16, 2024 regular meeting of the LANAIC.

Commissioner Dawn Jackson stated that themes have varied in the past, but that the theme should reflect what is top of mind and where we are as a community.

### Executive Director Report

#### **Fiscal Year 2023-24 Quarter Three & Quarter Four Priority Project Updates**

Alexandra Valdes shared that we are currently being monitored for the Community Services Block Grant Native American Set-aside (CSAIBG) program and have been working with our



## **LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 19, 2024**

state analyst for the programmatic and fiscal auditing. Alexandra stated that the Statement of Work for the tribal consent and consultation solicitation is currently being developed. Alexandra also stated that she is providing support to CEO on the report back to the Board of Supervisors regarding the feasibility of an Office of Tribal Affairs.

### **Reminder to Complete Annual Form 700**

Alexandra Valdes stated that she would like to remind all commissioners that annual Form 700 submissions are due on April 2, 2024. Commissioner John Only A Chief stated that he did not like receiving an email from the County saying that he would get fees for not submitting the form.

### **Committee & Ad-hoc Committee Reports**

#### **Self-Governance Board**

Alexandra Valdes shared that staff are working on program monitoring and that there is only one more CSAIBG Organizational Standard to achieve to get to 100% compliance.

#### **Homelessness Committee**

Commissioner Andrea Garcia stated that the committee is working to schedule a meeting with the Los Angeles County Homelessness subcommittee.

#### **2024 Native American Heritage Month Ad Hoc Committee**

Commissioner Audra Wise stated that the committee held one meeting with Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez's Office and that they discussed funding and the Bridge Gallery. She also stated that the committee will be holding a monthly standing meeting with Councilwoman Rodriguez' office through November.

#### **FY23-24 Annual Report Ad Hoc Committee**

Alexandra Valdes stated that the annual report is due on September 30<sup>th</sup> annually.

#### **Legislative Agenda Ad Hoc Committee**

Alexandra Valdes stated that the County has State and Federal Legislative Agendas and that the Board of Supervisors (BOS) have reimagined the report documents requiring recommendations to the BOS to be broad and less specific than in previous years. Alexandra stated that with the new process the Ad Hoc committee would be able to track legislation that they feel are important, bring the information to the LANAIC body for discussion. Following the discussion, the LANAIC may choose to vote as a body to determine if a recommendation to legislative affairs will be developed.





**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION  
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 19, 2024**

**Anniversary of the Indian Citizenship Act, June 2, 1924 Ad Hoc Committee**

Commissioner Ted Tenorio stated that he is researching rental options for the American Bar Association’s traveling exhibit to display at the Hall of Administration. Alexandra Valdes stated that she will connect with Commissioner Tenorio and County Council to see if the rental is feasible to execute. Commissioner Rene’ Williams stated that the date is a commencement and that the LANAIC should be thoughtful about how to acknowledge that fact and how we could use this as a platform to uplift other things. Commissioner Tenorio stated that the mission of California Native Vote Project comes to mind because this may motivate Native people to register and vote. Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde asked Commissioner Tenorio if he has looked into the Mission Indian Federation and how it was established.

Commissioner General Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Commissioner John Only A Chief stated that the City of Redlands is hosting a pow wow on March 23, 2024 at 1:00 PM.

Vice Chair Mark Villasenor proposed the establishment of a LA City Land Acknowledgement Committee.

**Take possible action for the establishment of a LA City Land Acknowledgement Ad Hoc Committee - Commissioners identified for the committee: Rich Toyon, Mona Morales Recalde, Rudy Ortega, Jr., and Mark Villasenor**

<b>YES</b>	Garcia, Williams, Only A Chief, Escoto, Jackson, Villasenor, Morales Recalde, Toyon, Wise, Tenorio, Castro, Bhalla
<b>NO</b>	
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	
<b>ABSENT</b>	Imitates Dog, Ortega Jr.

The LA City Land Acknowledgement Ad Hoc Committee was established.

Announcements/Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde stated that she wanted to know about what the options are for updating the LANAIC website and how resources could be provided to staff to make updates. She also asked what has been done for the calendar. Commissioner Dawn Jackson stated that Commissioner Morales Recalde was supposed to join an ad hoc committee with her to work on the calendar. Commissioner Morales Recalde requested a status update on staff conversation with the City of Long Beach on their possible creation of a Native American Commission.



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION  
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 19, 2024**

Commission Adjournment

Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor adjourned the meeting at 8:01 PM.

DRAFT



**Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission**

**March 19, 2024**

**Public Comment & Correspondence**

# AURORA

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3685 Motor Ave #150

Los Angeles, CA 90034

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310. 425. 8433

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- Anger Management
- Social Media Disorder
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- Career Strategy Guidance
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Embark on a transformative journey with us and delve deeper into our unwavering commitment to a "client-first" holistic practice. Discover how we empower individuals to reclaim their inner strength, knowledge, and untapped potential, propelling them towards enduring mental, emotional, and financial well-being.

We are committed to providing compassionate, personalized care to help our clients achieve lasting transformation. We look forward to serving the community and being a part of your journey towards wellness.

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# NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

**West LA Sawtelle Neighborhood Council  
SPECIAL PLUM Committee Public Meeting**

**Saturday, March 30th**

**1 PM – 4 PM**

**Main Indoor Gym, Stoner Recreation Center**

**1835 Stoner Ave.**

**Los Angeles, CA 90025**

**HEALING HISTORY  
LEARN CONNECT REVITALIZE**



**To:** LANAIC Commissioners

**From:** Alexandra Valdes, LANAIC Executive Director

**Date:** April 11, 2024

**Subject:** 2024 Native American Heritage Month Theme Nominations

On March 19, 2024 at the regular meeting of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) I shared about the body's process to select a Native American Heritage Month (NAHM) theme. On March 20, 2024 I requested via email NAHM theme nominations from all LANAIC commissioners. Below is the list of themes that were submitted by the April 8, 2024 deadlines.

The LANAIC is being asked to select, via vote, one theme to recommend to both LA City and LA County to utilize as the 2024 NAHM Theme (April 16, 2024 LANAIC Meeting – Item 6.2). In the past the theme has been used in various ways including on the LA City NAHM Booklet and reception program book, as inspiration for LA City Hall Bridge Gallery artists and included in the LA City NAHM Resolution and LA County Board Motion.

1. We are here
2. Our land, our relatives
3. Connection of land and people
4. From the mountains to the oceans
5. Celebrating our Heritage, Honoring our Cultures and Arts
6. A Community Rising: Emerging Voices, Stories and Achievement
7. Weaving Together a Community Traditions, Cultures & Respect
8. A NATIVE NEXUS: Traditional and Modern
9. THE STRENGTH OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN: The Core of Our Communities
10. CELEBRATING THE POWER OF NATIVE WOMEN AND NATIVE MOTHERS
11. SONGS OF STRENGTH: Our Native Sisters
12. THE EARLIEST AMERICAN HERITAGE: Native Arts and Crafts



An AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION  
Traveling Exhibition Curated by the  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE LAW LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

# 100 Years After the Indian Citizenship Act

## The Continuing Struggle to Guarantee Voting Rights to Native Americans

Made Possible by Generous Contributions from

### Benefactor

Greenberg Traurig LLP  
Dean Nicholas W. Allard and the Jacksonville University College of Law

### Champion

National Native American Bar Association

### Ambassador

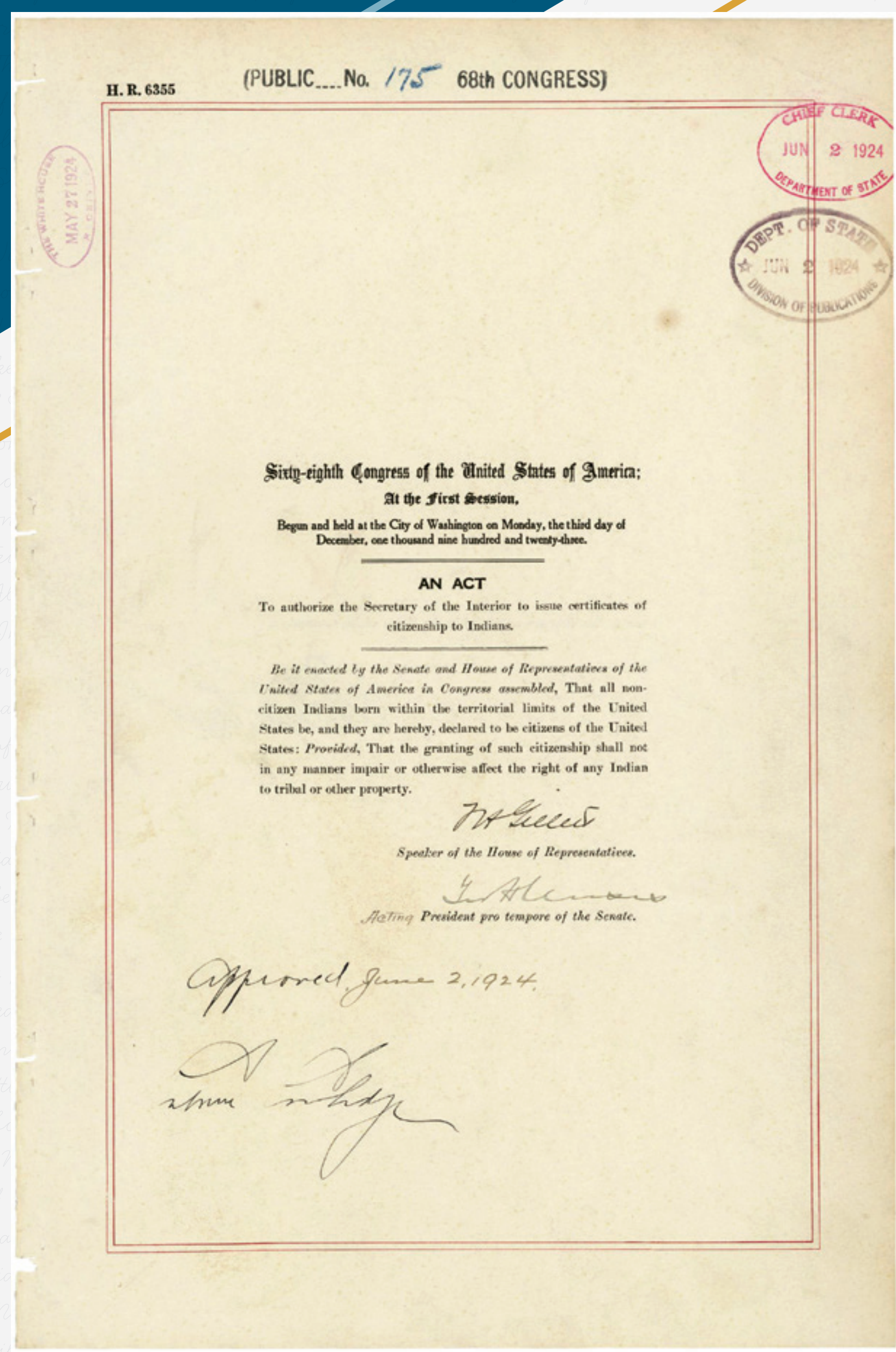
Ruthe Ashley | Sheila Slocum Hollis | Minnesota State Law Library  
Judge Ben C. Green Law Library, Case Western Reserve University School of Law  
Billie Jo Kaufmann and Mercer Walter F. George School of Law  
Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law Indian Legal Program  
Seattle University School of Law, Center for Indian Law & Policy

### Advocate

ABA Center for Public Interest Law | ABA Section of Civil Rights & Social Justice  
ABA Standing Committee on Election Law | ABA Tort Trial Insurance Practice  
Hon. Lisa L. Atkinson | Arlena Barnes | Kathleen J. Hopkins  
Colleen Lamarre & Alexander Kaitz | David Mao | Mary L. Smith

### Ally

ABA Young Lawyers Division | Hon. Judith Boggs  
Anne P. Brown | Crowe & Dunlevy | Lillian Gaskin  
Hon. Eileen A. Kato (ret.) | Judy Perry Martinez  
Steven T. Miano | Amy Horton-Newell  
Colleen Skinner



HR 3655, Indian Citizenship Act of  
June 2, 1924, Public Law 68-175,  
43 STAT 253. Photo courtesy of the  
United States National Archives and  
Records Administration.



Zitkala-Ša (Dakota, Yankton Sioux)  
1876-1938. Photo by Gertrude  
Käsebier, 1898. Courtesy of the  
Smithsonian Institution American  
History Museum.



AMERICAN **BAR** ASSOCIATION

Standing Committee on  
the Law Library of Congress



# We Are Known by Our Tribal Names

The original Indigenous peoples of America, Native Americans and Alaska Natives self-identify as citizens of three sovereigns: their tribe, the United States, and the state in which they reside. While it is often overlooked that Tribal Nations practiced self-governance long before 1492 and 1776, it would be centuries before Native Americans and Alaska Natives (referred collectively throughout this exhibit as Native Americans) secured voting rights protection to fully participate in United States elections.

The Haudenosaunee—the six nations of the Iroquois Confederacy: the Onondaga, Mohawk, Seneca, Cayuga, Oneida, and Tuscarora have a family/governmental structure based on female authority. Haudenosaunee women were respected as equal voices in tribal government. Political power was shared equally among everyone in the Nation, with decisions made by consensus in this pure democracy—the oldest continuing in the world. Suffragist leader Matilda Joslyn Gage remarked about the Haudenosaunee, “Never was justice more perfect; never was civilization higher.”

Native American women played a leading role in advancing voting rights. Laura Cornelius Kellogg—the voice of the Wisconsin Oneidas and the Haudenosaunee people—fought for communal tribal lands, tribal autonomy, and self-government. In 1911, Kellogg founded the Society of American Indians, the first national Native American rights organization run by and for Native Americans. Suffragist Zitkala-Ša (Dakota, Yankton Sioux) served as national secretary beginning in 1916. Zitkala-Ša lobbied the U.S. Congress to allow suffrage for Native American women and citizenship for all Native Americans. Marie Louise Bottineau Baldwin (Métis Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians) participated in the 1913 suffrage parade in Washington, DC and became the first Native American to earn a law degree, graduating from Washington College of Law in 1914.

Upon passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920, Kellogg wrote, “[I]t is a cause of astonishment to us that you white women are only now, in this twentieth century, claiming what has been the Indian woman’s privilege as far back as history traces.” ▶



Laura Cornelius Kellogg  
(Wynnogene, Oneida Nation) 1880–1947.  
Photo taken in 1913. Public domain.



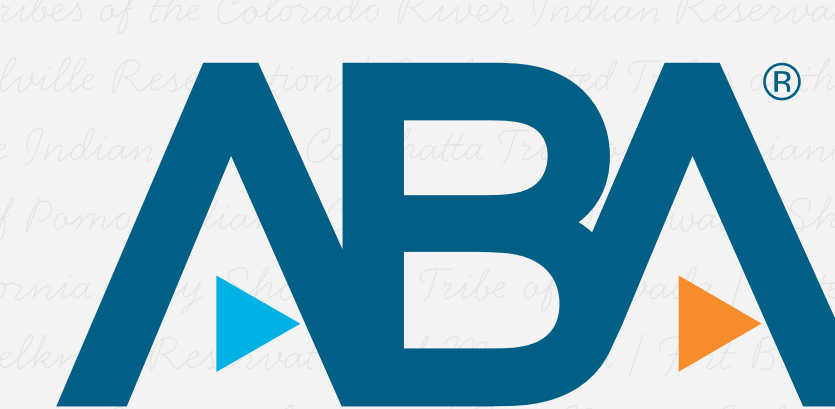
Marie Louise Bottineau Baldwin  
(Métis Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa  
Indians) 1863–1952. Photo courtesy,  
Prints and Photographs Division,  
Library of Congress.



Iroquois passport issued by the  
Haudenosaunee Confederacy, 1923. A form of  
identification and “expression of sovereignty”  
used by the nationals of the Six Nations  
Iroquois Haudenosaunee.



Learn more about  
the Haudenosaunee  
Confederacy from  
the Law Library of  
Congress.

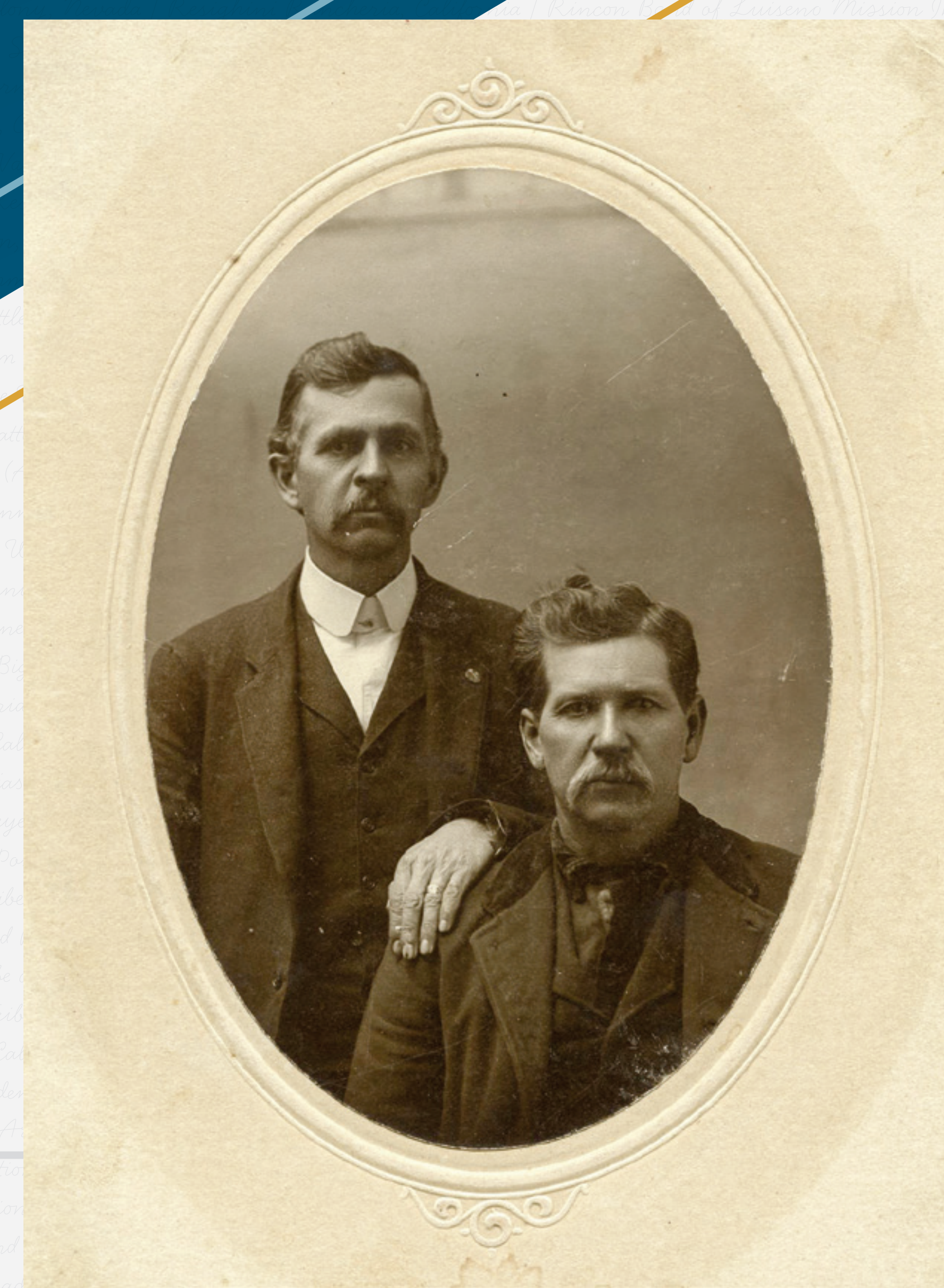


AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

Standing Committee on  
the Law Library of Congress



# Preserving Tribal Culture



Redbird Smith (Keetoowah and Cherokee) 1850–1918 and Dick Scott (standing). Photo courtesy of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Native Americans and Alaska Natives were not recognized as U.S. citizens when the United States ratified its Constitution in 1788. Nor were they granted citizenship with the passage of the 14th Amendment. The Supreme Court ruled in 1884 in *Elk v. Wilkins* that Native Americans, despite being born on U.S. soil, owed “immediate allegiance to an... alien though dependent power” and thus were not born in the U.S. under the meaning of the 14th Amendment.

As a result, Native Americans could only receive citizenship (and thus gain voting rights) through naturalization and Congressional action. Giving this discretion to Congress set the stage for further discrimination. The enactment of the General Allotment Act of 1887 (commonly known as the Dawes Act) required, among other things, Native Americans to “enroll” with the U.S. Office of Indian Affairs and, to gain citizenship, “adopt the habits of civilized life” by abandoning traditional Native rituals like dances, feasts, and medical practices. Failure to abide resulted in penalties ranging from withholding of food rations to imprisonment.

The aim of the legislation was assimilation through breaking up Tribal governments, culture, and communal lands. The U.S. government, through the Dawes Commission determined who was eligible for enrollment and reorganized Native societies around European notions of property ownership and gender roles through a system of land allocation through allotment.

In response to the attack on tribal land and culture, Redbird Smith, a Keetoowah and Cherokee National Council member, formed the Nighthawk Keetoowah Society in the late 1800s. At its height, membership of the Society grew to as many as 5,500 members. In 1902, Redbird Smith was arrested and the U.S. Government enrolled Smith and his defiant followers without their consent. While allotment became a reality, Smith and the Nighthawks continued their fight to preserve the Cherokee culture and way of life. More than a century later, that culture is alive and well thanks in part to the vision of the Nighthawk Keetoowah Society. ▶



J.A. Sequiche: Full-Blood Cherokee, Interpreter for the Dawes Commission. T.M. Buffington: Principal Chief of the Cherokees. March 17, 1901. *The St. Louis Republic* (St. Louis, MO), Image 49. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers.*



United States Citizen Passport, 1923. Photo courtesy of the Plains Indian Museum.



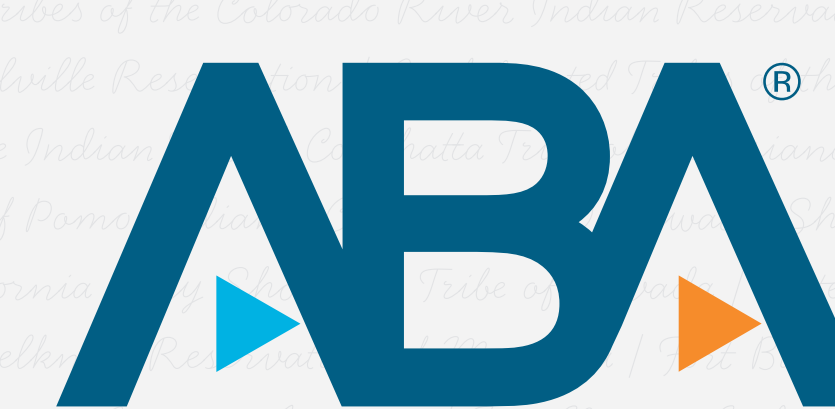
Committee of 100 on Indian Affairs, Calvin Coolidge, Miss Ruth Muskrat (Cherokee) and group, 1923. Photo courtesy of the Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress.



To see a complete list of Tribes recognized by the U.S. Government, please visit here.



A list of organizations that self-identify as Native American tribes can be found here.



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# Indian Citizenship Act of 1924

**T**ribal citizens are the only "naturally born" Americans who are beholden to Congressional statute for U.S. citizenship rather than the Constitution. In 1924, 56 years after the passage of the 14th Amendment bestowed citizenship onto all other naturally born Americans, Congress enacted the Indian Citizenship Act (ICA) declaring citizenship for "all non-citizen Indians born within the territorial limits of the United States."

Many indigenous people had already become citizens before the passage of the ICA through military service or by giving up tribal affiliations; some had done so under provisions of the Dawes Act that required them to first demonstrate that they had "assimilated" into American life. But the ICA did not place any conditions on citizenship. It also stated that citizenship "would not in any manner impair or otherwise affect the right of any Indian to tribal or other property."

While the general grant of citizenship of the ICA did not impose terms required for citizenship as under previous laws, many Natives opposed the law. The Onondaga Nation, one of the Six Nations of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy with homelands in New York State, were one such group. They argued that forcing the Onondaga to become citizens forced the tribe to accept the authority of the United States at the expense of their own tribal sovereignty. The Onondaga argued that the ICA violated the 1784 Treaty of Fort Stanwix, 1789 Treaty of Fort Harmor, and the 1794 Treaty of Canandaigua, all of which recognized the Six Nations tribes "as separate and sovereign" nations entitled to "the free use and enjoyment" of their lands without interference from the U.S. government.

In a December 30, 1924, letter to President Calvin Coolidge, the Grand Council of the Six Nations called the Act a "destructive and injurious weapon in nature and aspect to the Indians ..." and called for the "abandonment and repeal" of the Act. No response to the letter was ever received. ▶



Sioux Indians of Rosebud Reservation, South Dakota, 1925. Photo courtesy of the Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress.

**"They're the only ethnic group in America that had to give up their culture to get the right to vote."**

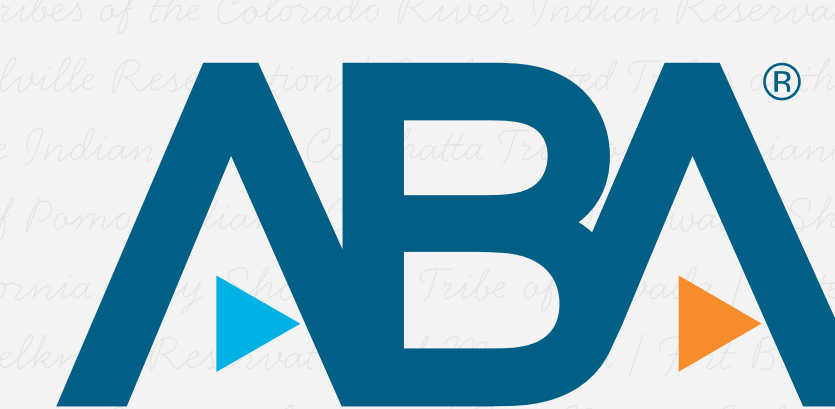
Dan McCool, author, *Native Vote: American Indians, the Voting Rights Act, and the Right to Vote.*



Native American Chiefs Frank Seelatse and Jimmy Noah Saluskin of the Yakima tribe (Washington State), U.S. Capitol, 1927. Photo courtesy of the Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress.



To learn more about the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924, please visit the Law Library of Congress here.



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# Fighting for the Right to Vote in Every State

When asked on the floor of the House of Representatives whether or not the grant of citizenship under the Indian Citizenship Act would mean that Native people would be able to vote, the drafter of the legislation, Homer Snyder of New York, stated, “[I]t is not the intention of the law to have any effect upon suffrage qualifications in any state.” Immediately after the passage of the ICA, some states denied people living on reservations the right to vote in state elections on the grounds that living on a reservation meant they were not citizens of the state. Other mechanisms to withhold voting included literacy tests and the imposition of a requirement to pay state real estate taxes. Native people living on reservations were exempt from such taxes.

The National Council of American Indians was formed in 1926 with Zitkala-Ša (Dakota, Yankton Sioux) serving as president. The purpose of the Council was to advocate for Native American rights and representation before the U.S. government, with a focus on the Legislative Branch and its Congressional bills. The Council promoted voting rights among tribes in every state that included Apache, Assiniboine, Comanche, Chippewa, Crow, Kiowa, Klamath, Miami, Oneida, Osage, Ponca, Sioux, and Utes. More tribes were represented through individual memberships and chapters across the United States.

In the fight to gain Native American voting rights in every state, Frank Harrison (Mohave-Apache Tribe) and Miguel Trujillo, Sr. (Pueblo of Isleta), who served in the U.S. military during World War II, filed separate lawsuits when they were each denied to right to register to vote. In 1948, the Arizona Supreme Court ruled in Harrison’s favor, and a three-judge panel in Albuquerque ruled in Trujillo’s favor—granting voting rights to all Native Americans in Arizona and New Mexico.

For nearly forty years—from 1924 until 1962—Native Americans and voting rights advocates fought state by state for the right to vote until all fifty states allowed it. Three years later, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 finally outlawed exclusionary practices that “deny or abridge the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color.” ▶



President Calvin Coolidge and Osage Indians at the White House, 1925. Photo courtesy of the Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress.



In 1948, Miguel Trujillo Sr., (Pueblo of Isleta), won a court victory affirming the rights of Native Americans to vote in New Mexico. Photo courtesy of David Seibold.



Zitkala-Ša (Dakota, Yankton Sioux) 1876–1938. Photo taken in 1921. Photo courtesy of the Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress.



Learn more about the National Council of American Indians.



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# The Native American Voting Rights Coalition is Born

While the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA) was intended to guarantee any citizen of the United States the right to vote regardless of race or color, subsequent legislation and discriminatory practices continued. Residing on a reservation, tribal enrollment, taxation, and incompetency were all used as reasons for denying Native citizens in some states the right to vote.

The VRA was amended again in 1975 to end discrimination against so-called “language minorities” by mandating the translation of registration materials, further protecting the voting rights of non-English speakers. However, Native voters still faced unique barriers to voting and efforts to diminish the power of their vote, spurring tribal members, lawyers, and advocates to act.

Since its founding in 1970, the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) has advanced the rights of Indians and tribes in hundreds of major cases impacting tens of thousands of Indian people and more than 300 tribes, achieving significant results in tribal sovereignty, treaty rights, natural resource protection, religious freedom, Indian education, and voting rights. In 2015, NARF engaged voting rights advocates, lawyers, civil rights experts, and tribal advocates to address problems with voting in Indian Country and formed the Native American Voting Rights Coalition (NAVRC), a non-partisan alliance committed to equal access to the political process for Native Americans.

NAVRC educates the public about the unique challenges Native voters face, works with policy makers and election officials to address those challenges, and, when necessary, NAVRC members may pursue other legal avenues, including litigation, to stop practices that have a discriminatory purpose or effect on Native voters. In addition to NARF, organizational members of the coalition include: National Congress of American Indians, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law Indian Legal Program, California Native Vote Project, Fair Elections Center, Four Directions, Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, DEMOS, Wisconsin Conservation Voices, Native Organizers Alliance, Advanced Native Political Leadership, North Dakota Native Vote, the American Civil Liberties Union, Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association, New Mexico Native Vote, and Western Native Voice. ▶



Native American Rights Fund executive director John E. Echohawk speaks at the National Congress of American Indians executive council, February 23, 2016. Photo courtesy of Indianz.Com.



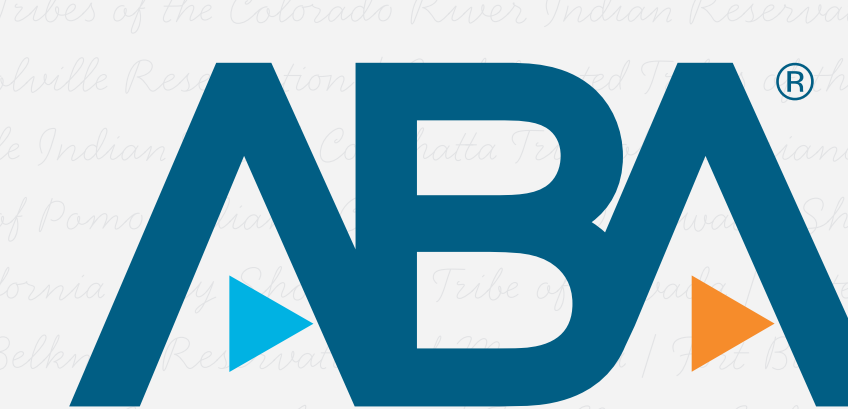
“I am Indian, and I Vote.” 2008. Photo courtesy of Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law Indian Legal Program.



Thousands of tribal citizens and their allies marched through the streets of Washington, D.C., on March 10, 2017, to protest the Dakota Access Pipeline over Indian Country's objections. Photo courtesy of Indianz.Com.



Get involved with NARF's Native American Voting Rights Coalition! Please visit us here.



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# The Fight for Native American Voting Rights Continues

A century after the passage of the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924, the right to vote continues to be challenged through laws and practices that either fail to consider, disregard, or intentionally target Native American voters. These unfair laws and practices galvanize advocates, lawyers, bar associations, and other legal professionals to act.

Following public hearings convened by the Native American Voting Rights Coalition in 2017-2018, the Native American Rights Fund released *Obstacles at Every Turn: Barriers to Political Participation Faced by Native American Voters*. The report documented how Native Americans are systematically disenfranchised throughout the electoral process, particularly through ongoing documented racial discrimination and structural failures that continue to plague Native communities, such as a lack of residential mail delivery and reservation voter services. Updated in 2021, the report underscores these modern-day barriers along with several important legal victories for Native American litigants.

The organized bar—including the American Bar Association (ABA) and the National Native American Bar Association—supports the efforts of legal services organizations and advocates advancing Native American voting rights. Under the leadership of Mary L. Smith (Cherokee Nation), the first Native American woman to serve as ABA President (2023–2024), the ABA continues its commitment to protect voting rights and increase voter participation. Established in 1970, the ABA Section of Civil Rights and Social Justice Native American Concerns Committee advocates for the development of federal Indian law and policy promoting tribal sovereignty and self-governance. The ABA Standing Committee on Election Law, established in 1973, collaborates with election officials to ensure equitable election administration and advocates for the removal of barriers to voting for Native Americans and other marginalized communities.

The bipartisan Frank Harrison, Elizabeth Peratrovich, and Miguel Trujillo Native American Voting Rights Act of 2021 was introduced in both the House and Senate, gaining significant media attention and meaningful traction. Named for Native American and Native Alaskan voting rights advocates, the legislation has yet to become law. The support for the Act underscores how far we have come, and the necessity of the Act shows how far we still must go to ensure Native Americans have full access to political participation and self-determination. ▶



Elizabeth Peratrovich (1911–1958), Tlingit nation and Alaskan Native is an American civil rights advocate “credited as being instrumental in the passing of Alaska’s Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945, the first state or territorial anti-discrimination law enacted in the United States.” Photo courtesy of the Alaska State Archives.



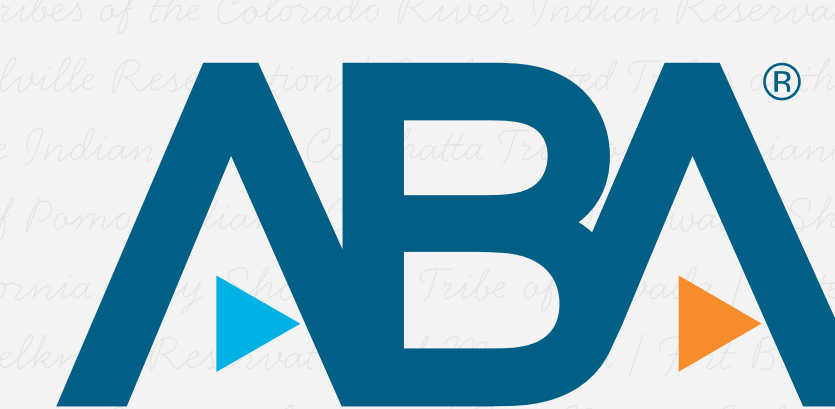
Fredrick “Damien” Scott, John Luke Gensaw and Peter Gensaw, California, 2020. Photo courtesy of the California Native Vote Project.



Gila River Indian Community Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis at a voter registration event on October 10, 2022. Image by Debra Krol / The Republic.



Learn more about the Native American Rights Fund’s report, *Obstacles at Every Turn: Barriers to Political Participation Faced by Native American Voters*.



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**To:** LANAIC Commissioners

**From:** Alexandra Valdes, LANAIC Executive Director

**Date:** April 11, 2024

**Subject:** 2024 Native American Heritage Month Recommended LA City Programming

LA City is seeking guidance from the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) on how the body would like the \$13,000 in FY24-25 Native American Heritage Month (NAHM) funding, administered by the LA City Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA), to be allocated for 2024 NAHM. The LANAIC is being asked to select one of the below 3 funding scenarios as the body's recommendation to DCA.

If scenario 1 or 3 is selected by the LANAIC then the body will need to take action on Item 6.5: *Request that LA City Council District 7 reserve the LA City Hall Forecourt for three hours following the November 1, 2024 in chambers NAHM celebration and provide tables, chairs, table linens, sound equipment and any necessary event permitting including sanitation costs.*

1. RFP an event coordinator to produce a 2024 NAHM reception on November 1, 2024 at LA City Hall and to hire and manage a graphic designer to develop the 2024 LA City NAHM Booklet; or
2. Design and produce a 2024 NAHM Calendar and Cultural Guide between 150-200 pages that features work by LA-based Native American visual and narrative artists and 2024 NAHM community event fliers; or
3. Design and produce a 2024 NAHM Calendar and Cultural Guide between 150-200 pages that features work by LA-based Native American visual and narrative artists and 2024 NAHM community event fliers and have the LANAIC secure partnerships to support the cost of a November 1, 2024 NAHM reception.

Important facts to consider:

- LA City Request for Proposals (RFP) are open competitive solicitations. They can result in the following scenarios:
  - Failed solicitation as a result of no proposals.
  - Failed solicitation as a result of no qualified proposals.
  - Failed solicitation as result of no proposals within defined budget.
  - Successful solicitation awarded to an organization, company or individual without connections to the American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) community.
- Outstanding logistical, operational & legal questions to be answered by LA City:
  - All City heritage months have \$13,000.00 budgets.
    - For the four other heritage months the budget is solely dedicated to the development of the annual Heritage Month Calendar & Cultural Guide. LA City Department of Cultural Affairs has entered into a



contract with Whitley Company for design and production services of these 4 Calendar & Cultural Guides.

- LA City DCA is looking into the contractual feasibility of Whitley Company to design and produce a 2024 NAHM Calendar & Cultural Guide. If feasible it is likely that \$13,000 in funding will be used to design and produce the guide.
- If the Whitley Company's current contract does not allow for the addition of designing and producing a 2024 NAHM Calendar & Cultural Guide then this work would need to be solicited via an RFP released by LA City Department of Cultural Affairs.
  - If this route is pursued it is feasible that the solicitation could result in the below scenarios:
    - Failed solicitation as a result of no proposals.
    - Failed solicitation as a result of no qualified proposals.
    - Failed solicitation as result of no proposals within defined budget.
    - Successful solicitation awarded to an organization, company or designer without connections to the American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) community.