



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your role in making history as a member of the news media covering the first presidential forum ever to focus entirely on issues of concern to Native Americans.

All Democratic and Republican candidates were invited to appear during the Forum, and we are pleased nine candidates were able to make their schedules work and are participating in this historic event.

Originated by the Native American voter engagement organization Four Directions and hosted by Four Directions and Native Organizers Alliance, the Frank LaMere Native American Presidential Forum is named to honor a well-respected civil rights leader in Indian County who passed in June. We're honored that members of Frank's family are attending the forum.

Several major organizations from Indian County and representing Tribes and advocacy organizations across the United States are co-hosting or sponsoring the Forum, which is indicative of the broad support behind this event. Candidates speaking from our stage will be talking to all of Indian Country.

Each candidate will appear individually to be interviewed by a panel of tribal leaders and advocacy group representatives. Native American youth will also be represented at the forum. Each panel will be moderated by Mark Trahant, editor of *Indian Country Today*, a digital news platform based in Washington, DC. Trahant is a member of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe.

After they appear with the panel, candidates will be available to you for questions.

In addition to the panelists, Marcella LeBeau, a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and a 99-year-old veteran of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps will be on hand to ask each candidate their views on H.R. 3467. Titled the "Remove the Stain Act," this legislation seeks to rescind the 20 Medals of Honor given to 7th Cavalry troopers who killed Native American women and children at the Wounded Knee Massacre.

Several other issues critical to Native Americans will be presented to the candidates. We seek answers but we also seek to enlighten. The Native vote is growing in American and in 2020 Four Directions will work to increase that vote to record numbers in seven key swing states with 77 electoral votes.

As I have said before, no candidate should take the Native American vote for granted. But when candidates demonstrate they understand the issues and will work for the betterment of our people and our communities, they can earn our votes.

On behalf of my wife Barb and I, and the millions of Native American voters around the country, we thank you for covering this important event.

Pila maya pelo (Thank you), Mitakuye Oyasin (We are all related)

O.J.
Co-Executive Director
Four Directions