

Four Directions, Inc.  *and Nevada Tribal Nations*

NATIVE AMERICAN

PRESIDENTIAL FORUM 2020

January 14 & 15 • Las Vegas, Nevada

Electronic Press Kit

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 9, 2020

CONTACT

NCAIpress@ncai.org

MEDIA ADVISORY - National Tribal Organizations Partner with Tribal Nations in Nevada to Host Presidential Candidate Forum

MISSION, SOUTH DAKOTA | A collective of national tribal organizations and several tribal nations located in Nevada are proud to announce the second Native American Presidential Forum, scheduled to take place in Las Vegas, Nevada at the University of Las Vegas (UNLV) campus on January 14-15, 2020. Four Directions, Inc., a national voting rights organization, is continuing this effort in partnership with the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), Native American Rights Fund, Native Organizers Alliance, and several Nevada tribal nations.

OJ Semans, Co-Executive Director of Four Directions said, “Native American voters can influence election results in seven major swing states in 2020: Arizona, Colorado, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, North Carolina, and Wisconsin. Presidential candidates understand the importance of Native voters and that’s why our first event in Sioux City, Iowa was a success. There were 11 candidates who participated, including four of the current first tier Democratic candidates who have qualified for the December Democratic debate, and a large livestream audience of nearly 200,000 viewers online.”

When asked what separates this event from the August 2019 candidate forum, Semans stated, “We’re adding caucus training to the Las Vegas forum. The training will show our folks what to expect at their local caucus and give them the skills to fully participate and perhaps take on a leadership role in their communities.” Semans also said participating candidates’ campaigns will have an opportunity to make their case for support to the caucus attendees.

NCAI Chief Executive Officer Kevin Allis said his organization did not hesitate to sign on as a returning partner for this event. “The success of the first forum was a great learning experience for candidates and Native voters alike. NCAI and the partner organizations saw the power of collaborating on critical issues and want to continue the momentum of introducing Indian Country as modern communities and a critical voter bloc. Similar to the Sioux City forum, candidates from both parties who attend this forum will face tough questions from Native voters who expect and deserve real world answers and solutions,” said Allis.

Candidates from all major political parties were extended invitations to participate in this event. Discussions

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continue with several campaigns and additional candidates are expected to confirm attendance.

Panel topics are as follows: Climate Change, Environment and Sacred Sites; Education and Economic Development, Nevada Tribal Nations Issues; Native American Political Engagement and more. More information on confirmed panels, candidates, and how to purchase tickets are available now at <https://www.nativevote2020.com>.

MEDIA

Press credentials for the forum are available through this link : <http://bit.ly/2sNOIrf>

The livestream link for the event will be available on Monday, January 13, 2020 at www.NativeVote2020.com . For more information about the event and the press credentialing process, please contact NCAI Press at ncaipress@ncai.org.

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About the National Congress of American Indians:

Founded in 1944, the National Congress of American Indians is the oldest, largest and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native organization in the country. NCAI advocates on behalf of tribal governments and communities, promoting strong tribal-federal government-to-government policies, and promoting a better understanding among the general public regarding American Indian and Alaska Native governments, people and rights. For more information, visit www.ncai.org .

About Four Directions, Inc.

Four Directions, Inc., is a 501(c)4 organization. Contributions to Four Directions, Inc. are not tax-deductible for federal income tax purposes and are not subject to public disclosure. For more information, visit www.fourdirectionsvote.com.

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**January 14, 2020 [Draft Schedule]
All Times Pacific Standard Time**

Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall at University of Nevada Las Vegas

9:00 am	Opening Ceremony Drum Group – Southern Soul Singers Kayenta, Arizona Posting of Colors Blessing Welcome by Las Vegas Paiute Tribe
9:30 am	Wounded Knee Descendants & Guests, a Discussion Ghost Shirt History
10:30 am	Interview of OJ Semans re Census
10:45 am	Interview of Kevin Allis re Broadband
11:00 am	Panel on Nevada Tribal Nations Issues
12:00 – 12:30 pm	Break for lunch
12:00 – 2:00 pm	Caucus Training
1:00 pm	Remarks by distinguished guests
2:00 pm	Independent Candidate Mark Charles
3:00 pm	Panel on Native American political engagement – From denial to full participation
4:00 pm	Vacant
5:00 pm	Panel on Multicultural Opportunities for Full Integration into Political Participation in America

Schedule subject to change - on candidate availability

**January 15, 2020 [Draft Schedule]
All Times Pacific Standard Time**

Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall at University of Nevada Las Vegas

9:00 am	Opening Ceremony Drum Group – Southern Soul Singers Kayenta, Arizona Posting of Colors Blessing Welcome by Las Vegas Paiute Tribe
9:30 am	World Premier of Somebody's Daughter, an important MMIW Documentary
11:00 am	Confirmed Candidate Pete Buttigieg
12:00 – 12:30 pm	Break
12:00 – 2:00 pm	Caucus Training – Boyd Law School -
12:30 – 2:45 pm	Panel on Native American Education – Challenges, Burdens, and links to Economic Development
2:45 pm	Candidate Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard
3:00 pm	Candidate Senator Elizabeth Warren
4:00 pm	Confirmed Candidate Tom Steyer, Democrat
5:00 pm	Panel on Climate Change, Environment, Sacred Sites – What Indian Country can Teach the United States
6:00 pm	Closing Ceremony – Retrieval of Colors – Blessing





What is Native Vote?

Native Vote is a nonpartisan campaign initiated by the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI). It is designed to encourage American Indian and Alaska Native people to exercise their right to vote. With the heightened political participation of Native people, Indian Country has become an increasingly powerful voting bloc. In recent years, the Native vote has been publicly acknowledged as making a pivotal difference in national, state, and local elections.

The Native Vote campaign is working closely with regional organizations, tribal governments, and urban Indian centers to create a strong and permanent infrastructure for election training that highlights voter registration, election protection policies, and voter and candidate education.

The Native Vote campaign is comprised of five key elements:

1. Voter Registration and Get-Out-The-Native-Vote (GOTNV)
2. Youth Outreach
3. Election Protection
4. Education
5. Data Collection

What is Native Vote?

American Indians/Alaska Natives make up about two percent of the United States population. That is about 6 million people per 2018 U.S. Census Bureau population estimates. Existing research suggests that historically, as citizens of our tribes, we as Native voters have turned out to vote in higher rates for tribal elections than in non-tribal elections (Lambert 2007, p. 118).² However, because the U.S. President and Congress as well as state governors, state legislatures, and county and local elected officials make important policy decisions that affect Native peoples, increasing Native participation in non-tribal elections will lead to better responsiveness to the needs of tribal nations and communities.

For example, in 2006, U.S. Senator John Tester (D-Montana) won his Senate seat over the Republican incumbent candidate by only 3,562 votes. In that election, more than 17,000 voters cast ballots on Montana's seven Indian reservations. Again in 2012, Senator Tester was reelected by a narrow margin with the help of the Native Vote. Senator Tester acknowledged before the 2012 election that his success would be built on turnout on Montana's Indian reservations and Native voters supported the Senator because of his close engagement with tribal nations. As one article noted, "Jon regularly visits every Montana Indian Reservation, sits down with tribal leaders and families, and brings their concerns straight back to Washington."³ In 2018, Senator Tester won again with 50.3% of the vote with significant support once again from Montana reservations.

In 2010, U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) became the second person ever to win a U.S. Senate seat through a write-in campaign, having lost the Republican primary to another candidate. Murkowski credits the significant power of the Alaska Native vote with ensuring her victory at the polls. She won by over 10,000 write-in votes in the general election – with over 100,000 people total writing in the name "Murkowski."

For more information on the Native Vote campaign, please visit www.NativeVote.org.



NEVADA TRIBAL NATIONS

Battle Mountain Band (Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians of Nevada)

<http://www.temoaktribe.com/>

Duckwater Shoshone Tribe of the Duckwater Reservation

<http://www.duckwatertribe.org/>

Elko Band Council (Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians of Nevada)

<http://www.elkobandcouncil.com/>

Ely Shoshone Tribe of Nevada

<https://elyshoshonetribe.nsopw.gov/>

Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes

Las Vegas Paiute Tribe

<http://www.lvpaiutetribe.com/>

Lovelock Paiute Tribe

<http://www.lovelockpaiutetribe.com/>

Moapa Band of Paiutes

<http://www.moapapaiutes.com/>

Paiute-Shoshone Tribe of the Fallon Reservation and Colony

<http://www.fpst.org/>

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe

<http://www.plpt.nsn.us/>

Reno-Sparks Indian Colony

<http://www.rsic.org/>

Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation

<http://www.shopaitribes.org/>

South Fork Band Council (Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians of Nevada)

Summit Lake Paiute Tribe of Nevada

<http://www.summitlaketribe.org/>

Te-Moak of Western Shoshone Tribes of Nevada

<http://www.temoaktribe.com/>

Washoe Tribes of Nevada and California

<http://www.washoetribe.us/>

Wells Indian Colony Band Council

Winnemucca Indian Colony Council

Woodfords Community Council

Yerington Paiute Tribe



NATIONAL HOST COMMITTEE

Four Directions Inc.

Website - www.fourdirectionsvote.com

FB - www.facebook.com/fourdirections

Tw - [@4DirectionsVote](https://twitter.com/@4DirectionsVote)

IG - [@4DirectionsVote](https://www.instagram.com/@4DirectionsVote)

Native American Rights Fund

Website - www.narf.org

FB - www.facebook.com/NativeAmericanRightsFund

Tw - [@NDNrights](https://twitter.com/@NDNrights)

National Congress of American Indians

Website - www.ncai.org

FB - www.facebook.com/ncai1944

Tw - [@NCAI1944](https://twitter.com/@NCAI1944)

IG - [@NCAI1944](https://www.instagram.com/@NCAI1944)

Native Organizers Alliance

Website - nativeorganizing.org

FB - www.facebook.com/NativeOrganizersAlliance

Tw - [@NativeOrganizer](https://twitter.com/@NativeOrganizer)

Seeding Sovereignty

Website - seedingsovereignty.org

FB - www.facebook.com/SeedingSovereignty

Tw - [@SeedSovereignty](https://twitter.com/@SeedSovereignty)

IG - [@SeedingSovereignty](https://www.instagram.com/@SeedingSovereignty)

