



Alaska Federation of Natives

NATIVE VOTE INITIATIVE AND GOTNV: NEWSLETTER UPDATES & PROGRAM INFORMATION

JULY 2026

Important Election Dates

Stay Tuned

AUG 18
Primary Election

NOV 3
General Election

Learn more about the 2026 Elections here:
<https://www.elections.alaska.gov/calendar/>

Regional Voting Toolkits are LIVE!

We are excited to announce that the AFN Native Vote Initiative Regional Voter Toolkits are now live on our website!

These toolkits are designed to support and empower our communities by providing clear, accessible information about upcoming elections and the importance of civic participation. Whether you are a first-time voter or looking to stay informed, these resources are here to help.

A heartfelt thank you goes to our Initiative Director, Autumn Cantu, for her leadership and dedication in developing this project, as well as to the continued support of our Native Vote Initiative team.

The toolkits are free and available to the public. We encourage individuals and organizations to download and use them widely. If you would like to customize the materials, you are welcome to add your own logo to the graphics and toolkit resources after downloading.

To explore the toolkits and access additional outreach materials for this year's election, please visit <https://nativefederation.org/> and click on the "Voting" tab at the top of the page. There, you can also learn more about the Native Vote Initiative and our ongoing efforts.

We look forward to seeing these resources in action across our communities!

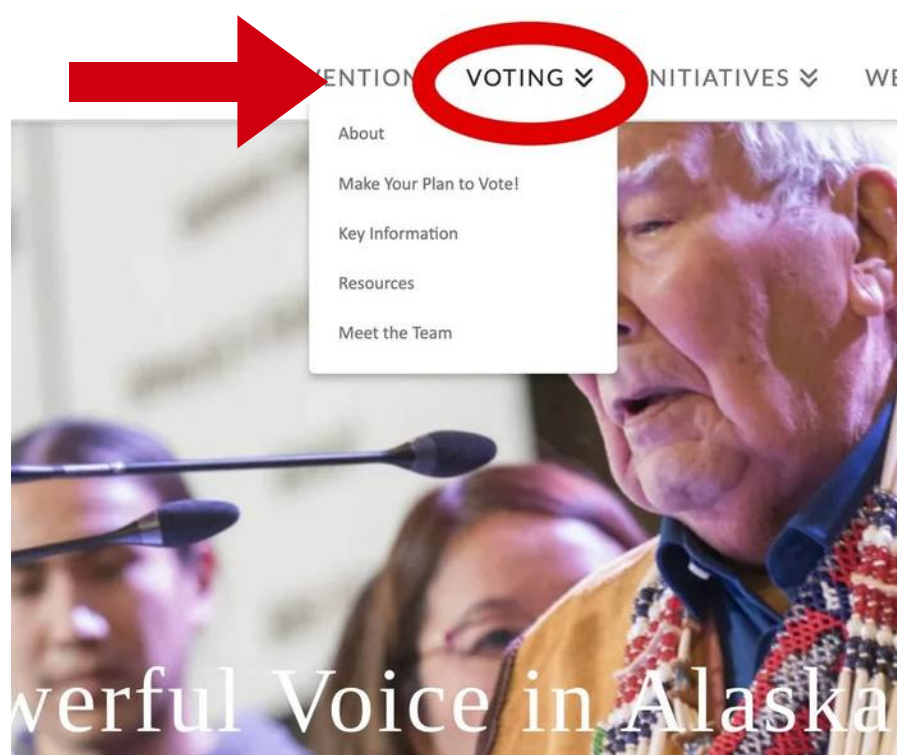
Native Vote Initiative

The Native Vote Initiative (NVI) is collaboration of Alaska Native Non-Profits, Alaska Native Regional and Village Corporations, Regional Non-Profits, and Tribes with the purpose to address voting disparities, decreasing institutional and chronic problems to voting in rural Alaskan communities, and create meaningful communications, education, and dialogue through a robust year-round get out the vote initiative.

To learn more about our partners, goals, and purposes, please visit: <https://nativefederation.org/about-the-native-vote-initiative/>

Now available online

- Regional voter toolkits are live!
- Check out AFN's new voting site!
- Social media graphics to use!
- Key voter information and dates!



AFN Navigators

The AFN Navigators have been diligently engaging with communities across the state to make sure that every community has designated poll workers ready for the upcoming election. Their efforts include providing valuable information about involving youth at the polling booths, as well as highlighting opportunities for bilingual poll workers to support voters who speak different languages.

AFN's New Voting Website

We invite you to explore our website and take advantage of the many resources available through the AFN Native Vote Initiative to help you stay informed this election season.

Our site offers a wide range of tools and information designed to support voters and strengthen civic engagement across our communities:

Learn more about the Native Vote Initiative and our mission: <https://nativefederation.org/about-the-native-vote-initiative/>

Access important election updates and key information: <https://nativefederation.org/key-information/>

Explore downloadable materials and helpful voting resources: <https://nativefederation.org/voting-resources/>

Get to know the dedicated team behind this work: <https://nativefederation.org/meet-the-team/>

Whether you're looking for guidance, educational materials, or ways to get involved, our website serves as a central hub for this year's election outreach.

We encourage everyone to visit, explore, and share these resources to help ensure our communities are informed, prepared, and engaged.

Additionally, they have been actively sharing detailed updates and resources related to the upcoming elections to keep everyone informed and prepared. If you have any questions or require assistance regarding election processes or poll worker involvement, please don't hesitate to get in touch with your regional AFN Navigator. For further details and helpful resources, you can visit their official website at <https://afnnavigatorprogram.org/>.

Get Out the Native Vote

We kicked off our summer voter outreach and engagement with visits to the Sitka Tribe of Alaska and the Ketchikan Indian Community on our way to attend the Funders Committee for Civic Participation (FCCP) Conference in Philadelphia.

We met with Interim General Manager Ron Allen on Friday, June 5, before giving a presentation at the Sitka Public Library. Following the presentation, we were invited to return for the Tribe's annual picnic on July 11. On Saturday, June 6, Ketchikan Indian Community CEO Emily Edenshaw hosted us for a community meeting at KIC headquarters. Staff, community members, and the Saxman City Clerk attended, while the presentation was livestreamed for Tribal members. KIC also provided refreshments and door prizes for attendees.

Michelle joined fellow members of the Native Civic Power Initiative (NCPI) to present at the FCCP Conference during a session titled "Let Freedom Ring in Indian Country: Grassroots Power, Sovereignty, and the Future of Democracy." She was joined by Jackie Boyer and Emily Leak-Michie of the Alaska Voter Hub, who provided audience support during the presentation.

We presented an update on this year's election cycle to Calista's Public Advocacy & Engagement Committee (PAEC) at its quarterly meeting and spoke with KYUK about the potential impacts of changes to mail-in voting in rural Alaska. Their article, "How a change to mail-in voting could impact Alaska's most rural voters," was published on June 12.

The Division of Elections has filled the Region IV Supervisor position with Nome resident Tierra Rana, who has assisted with election night processing for the past ten years. Her appointment should strengthen relationships throughout the region and help build a larger volunteer network to improve election staffing, voter outreach, and public awareness. Since the Division was hosting R4 training in Anchorage this year, they invited GOTNV to meet the chairs on June 24 and 25.

We were able to explain the arc of turnout in a hopeful way to encourage them to step outside Division norms and do their part to recruit help at the polls and create more awareness of how important it is for the community to know an election is approaching.

With the assistance of Nancy Qutacungaq Andrew (Yup'ik, St. Mary's), we are developing a civic engagement component for Camp Fire Alaska's rural youth program in seven villages this summer. GOTNV has provided community voting history statistics and Youth at the Booth materials for campers in Alakanuk, Chevak, Chuathbaluk, Newhalen, Saint Michael, Tununak, and Tyonek.

We have renewed our relationship with Veterans for All Voters and the League of Women Voters to host Democracy Days in the Mat-Su and Ahtna regions before the November midterm election. We also presented to Calista's summer interns and tabled at the annual AHTNA Convention in Glennallen. In addition, we have established regular coordination meetings with our GOTNV partners at CITC and FAI.

Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat requested we participate in the Wainwright Jamboree in July, where we will host a voter education table. We also met with the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation Communications and Public Relations team to discuss future collaboration, modeled after their successful campaign to educate the public on the merits of Medicaid expansion for Tribal Health.

Get Out the Native Vote (Continued)

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) proposed a rule for nonprofits that receive federal funding to “expressly” forbid groups from “funding any voter registration campaigns, drives, or related activities.”

This proposed OMB rule seeks to restrict non-profit use of federal funds for voter registration and issue advocacy, while increasing oversight of grantmaking. AFN and GOTNV are concerned this measure could politicize federal awards and restrict much of our nonpartisan voter education and outreach. We have submitted comments for the record and we are not alone in formally requesting that the OMB withdraw the sweeping proposal that is without due process.

TCC had us present at their summer Youth Summit at the Nankat Center outside Fairbanks. Alaskans for Better Elections and Native Movement joined us in providing voter education. We are also helping facilitate a leadership development pipeline connecting Alaska youth with opportunities through the First Alaskans Institute with the support of the Center for Native American Youth.

We were relieved the U.S. Supreme Court decided not to rule out grace periods after Election Day for mailed ballots in *Watson v. RNC*. It would have significantly affected Alaska’s ability to count absentee ballots received after Election Day.



Michelle Sparck with Nicholai Joekay, Director of Public Relations, and Mary Horgan, VP of Communications, at the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation

We are planning a series of voter education webinars for when the Division of Elections release the official sample ballots for both the August Primary and November General Election. These webinars remain one of our most effective tools for walking voters through Alaska's open primary system, where voters select one candidate per office, and the ranked choice voting process used in the general election.

GOTNV is working with Kawerak to hire a contractor to run their region's GOTNV campaign.

We are also scheduling a Zoom briefing of the House Districts 1-3 Ballot Sample training with Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska's Community Navigator that will cover 21 communities in the Southeast.

GOTNV recently tabled at the Sitka Tribe of Alaska's annual picnic, finished tabling at WEIO in Fairbanks, and is headed to Utqiagvik and Wainwright, where we will join forces with the North Slope Borough in a civic campaign.



GOTNV was invited to see a portion of the Division of Elections Election Worker Training for Region IV workers in Anchorage on June 24 -25

2026

Youth at the Booth!

**YOUR COMMUNITY
NEEDS YOU!**

The Youth at the Booth Program is designed to enliven your interest in the political process and help you learn your rights and responsibilities as a citizen.

WHAT YOU'LL DO:

- ✓ Work at polling places on Election Day
- ✓ Check-in voters & confirm registration status
- ✓ Activate voting machines
- ✓ Gain real-life experience for school projects!

\$20/Hour

Your Generation. Your Future. Your Move.

Apply Today



<https://www.elections.alaska.gov/election-workers/>

Qualifications:

**MUST BE 16/17
YEARS OLD
A U.S. CITIZEN &
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT
IN GOOD STANDING**

For More Information



gotnv@nativefederation.org
907-263-1306

It Takes a Village to Run an Election

**GET PAID TO SERVE
YOUR COMMUNITY!**

POLL WORKER POSITIONS

Chair — \$20.50/hour

Co Chair — \$20.50/hour

Bilingual Poll Worker — \$20/hour

*Bilingual Outreach Worker —
\$20/hour*

*2 Youth at the Booth (ages 16/17) —
\$20/hour*

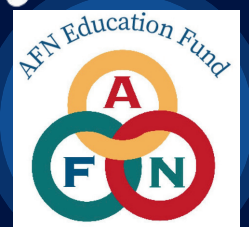
For more information please contact
gotnv@nativefederation.org
907-263-1306

**Your community needs you!
Alaska must recruit and train
hundreds of poll workers
around the state.**



**Apply Today at Division
of Elections State of
Alaska Website**

**[https://www.elections.
alaska.gov/election-
workers/](https://www.elections.alaska.gov/election-workers/)**



AFN Education Fund



gotnv@nativefederation.org

907-263-1306

BILINGUAL OUTREACH & POLL WORKERS NEEDED

Help provide language assistance to voters in your community.

Bilingual Outreach Worker \$20/hr

- Help voters with voter registration and absentee ballot applications
- Provide election information and language support before Election Day
- Share updates through VHF/radio announcements (if available)
- Be available up to six weeks prior to and on Election Day to assist your community

Bilingual Poll Worker \$20/hr

- Work a full Election Day shift (~16 hours)
- Assist voters through each step of the voting process
- Provide language support and help translate ballot information
- Record the type of assistance provided

Do not have to be fluent

Can serve in one or both rolls

Apply Here



<https://www.elections.alaska.gov/election-workers/>

YOUR LANGUAGE. YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR VOICE