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<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/blogs/national-museum-american-indian/2020/08/14/returning-school-indian-country-during-pandemic/>

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[Bill McKibben | In Alaska, Trump Doubles Down on Environmental Vandalism](#)

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- I don't know who wrote this, but it's
beautiful.. 🍷

We fell asleep in one world, and woke up in
another.

Suddenly Disney is out of magic,
Paris is no longer romantic,
New York doesn't stand up anymore,
the Chinese wall is no longer a fortress, and
Mecca is empty.

Hugs & kisses suddenly become weapons, and not
visiting parents & friends becomes an act of
love.

Suddenly you realise that power, beauty & money
are worthless, and can't get you the oxygen
you're fighting for.

The world continues its life and it is
beautiful. It only puts humans in cages. I think
it's sending us a message:

'You are not necessary. The air, earth, water
and sky without you are fine. When you come
back, remember that you are my guests. Not my
masters.'
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Auntie.

We address our Aunties by calling them Auntie and not by their name - as a sign of respect.

The honour is that our Aunties are like our Mothers - they are here to guide and never give up on their neices and nephews.



In our culture, when you don't have a Mom, you will never be an orphan because your Auntie steps in and honours the role. She accepts a relative's child as her own.

Our people didn't let each other suffer. It's an honour to care for and take in a family member with or without parents - no questions asked, it was just done.

Author unknown and respected.



lehstóselanon:ha (She Keeps the Feathers)



### [Officials Ignored Warnings About Trump Wall Threat to Endangered Species](#)

*The nations may be divided in everything else, but they all share a single body of science.*  
— Isaac Asimov



Banner encouraging voters to get to the polls in 2018.(Photo courtesy PLAN Nevada)

Native Americans weren't guaranteed the right to vote in the U.S. until 1924, but the struggle for voting rights has stretched on much longer, and the pandemic has only created additional barriers for tribes and worsened older ones in Nevada.

"It's definitely exacerbated the issues much more than anybody had anticipated," said Brian Melendez, Chair of the Nevada Statewide Native American Caucus.

As the coronavirus spread throughout the state, killing more than 1,000 Nevadans, a statewide initiative to vote by mail has been launched as a safer alternative to in-person voting. However, it isn't a universal solution.

Tribal nations could be left behind in efforts to expand vote-by-mail, warn organizers for indigenous communities and Native American leaders.

Many reservations don't assign traditional addresses, with named streets and numbered homes, which makes it difficult for tribal members to receive and return mailed ballots. These nontraditional addresses mean that most tribal citizens do not receive mail directly to their houses but instead get it from a P.O. box often located in post offices several miles from their homes.

“A lot of times people think if you have a home you have a mailbox but that’s not the case for a lot of reservations,” said Teresa Melendez, who is married to Brian Melendez and vice chair of the Nevada Statewide Native American Caucus. “A lot of reservations you have to drive to get to a mailbox, so if you don’t have a car or you’re elderly and don’t drive it becomes difficult to get the mail. You have to rely on other people to help you get the mail or send mail.”

Lack of reliable public and private transportation on reservations means the significant distance Native American voters must travel to drop off a ballot is a huge barrier.

One solution pushed by advocates and included in AB4, the voting-by-mail legislation passed in early August by the Nevada Legislature, allows some voters, particularly the elderly or people with disabilities, to request that someone else fill out and deliver their ballot, a practice Republicans repeatedly decry as “ballot harvesting.”

The Nevada Statewide Native American Caucus flatly dismisses those concerns, adding that the provision is more important than ever in order to protect Native voters.

“If you have a house full of eight or nine people living in one place it makes more sense for those individuals to vote together and then have one representative drop off ballots on behalf of all the people living in that space to reduce the risk of infection,” Brian Melendez said.

Multiple Nevada tribes have extended shelter-in-place orders because of climbing infection rates. Recent outbreaks have been reported to tribal health centers on the Fort Mojave Indian Reservation, which currently has 60 active cases and three deaths, and the Fort McDermitt Paiute Shoshone Tribe, which currently has 49 active cases.

“Right now it’s more important than ever to have that option just to keep our people safe,” said Amber Torres, chair of the Walker River Paiute Tribe which has had just one case of COVID-19 after instilling strict shelter-in-place measures. “Our biggest task at hand is protecting our people and making sure the exposure is eliminated.”

Torres said on the Walker River Paiute Tribe reservation some residents have to drive up to 40 miles one way to place a ballot in the mail.

The ability to request that someone else fill out and hand in someone else’s ballot comes with heavy restrictions. Those who assist a voter in marking or signing a ballot must submit a written statement to the county clerk. Those who fail to do so, or who don’t hand in a ballot on time, may be subject to criminal penalties.

“It feels like we keep being given hurdles” and officials are “waiting for us to do something wrong,” Teresa Melendez said. “You can have a polling location but fill out this form. The Secretary of State’s and the Registrar’s Office aren’t actively going out to the reservations and holding presentations and workshops or meeting with the tribal council about these policies.”

The caucus is launching an effort to inform tribal communities of their voting options in the upcoming election, hoping to make early voting locations available to all Nevada tribes, but the pandemic has complicated their efforts.

“The obvious obstacle in this particular moment is COVID,” Brian Melendez said. “It changed the ground game we would have had. Prior to COVID we would have been out in the community, we would have been knocking on doors and meeting with people face to face.”

Major obstacles to voting on reservations, including lack of direct mail service to residences, distant rural post offices, a lack of polling locations and ballot drop-off locations, and language and technological barriers have only increased during the pandemic.

Lack of access to polling locations on reservations has been a long-standing issue even before the pandemic. AB4 extended the deadline by which tribal governments can request separate early voting locations on reservations to Sept. 1 in light of the pandemic, but the Nevada Statewide Native American Caucus argues the state’s failure to establish satellite offices free of a request has a significant impact on Native Americans voting power, and denies those living on reservations voting rights.

“It is not a standard practice across the United States for tribes to have to request a polling location. Nevada is 30 to 40 years behind on tribal rights compared to other states,” Teresa Melendez said. “We’d like to get to a point where there’s a collaboration and a partnership between tribes and election officials so that tribes are not constantly asking and asking to be seen and heard.”

Early voting locations on reservations in Nevada appeared for the first time only in 2016 after members of the Pyramid Lake Paiute and Walker River Paiute tribes filed suit against Nevada, and Washoe and Mineral counties for failing to provide adequate polling locations on their reservations.

A U.S district judge found that the lawsuit would likely succeed under the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and ordered additional early voting locations.

“The fact that we’re just having these conversations in 2020 is ridiculous,” Brian Melendez said.

Those clashes and other historical events have led many tribal members to distrust state and local government, he said, adding that bureaucratic hurdles have alienated tribes. Of the 27 federally recognized Indian tribes in Nevada only seven have requested a polling location on their reservation so far this year.

Torres, chair of the Walker River Paiute Tribe, said despite additional hurdles brought on by COVID-19, tribes in Nevada have long overcome voting suppression in many forms.

“We have fought hard for our rights and we will continue to fight for our people,” Torres said.

## Jeniffer Solis

**Reporter** | Jeniffer was born and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada where she attended the University of Nevada, Las Vegas before graduating in 2017 with a B.A in Journalism and Media Studies. While at UNLV she was a senior staff writer for the student newspaper, the UNLV Scarlet and Gray Free Press, and a news reporter for KUNV 91.5 FM, covering everything from the Route 91 shooting to UNLV housing. She has also contributed to the UNLV News Center and worked as a production engineer for several KUNV broadcasts before joining the Nevada Current. She's an Aries.

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- President Trump's reelection campaign has [sued the state of New Jersey](#) after its Democratic governor Phil Murphy announced he would mail a ballot to every voter in the state as well as hold in-person voting for November's elections. The suit, filed late Tuesday in the US District Court for New Jersey, describes the governor's action as "illegal," first, because he is attempting to change the state's election laws — a power that belongs to the state legislature — and second, because the changes "will violate eligible citizens' right to vote."
- The complaint seeks "declaratory and injunctive relief." Murphy said the state will use methods similar to what it employed for its primary vote in July, and that residents who opt to go to their local voting places on November 3 will use paper ballots instead of voting machines, so officials can guard against duplicate voting.
- Trump continues to insist, without evidence, that mail-in voting is subject to large-scale fraud. His reelection campaign and the National Republican Party also sued Nevada this month to block a law that will send a mail-in ballot to every voter before November's election, on the grounds it will result in "inevitable" voter fraud. (Reuters)



Stunning image by Long Bach Nguyen Photography  
Living in the Pacific Northwest has its benefits!

"Mt Bachelor, Broken Top, Three Sisters, Belknap Crater, Mt Washington, Three Fingerted Jack, Mt Jefferson, Mt Hood, Mt Adams, Mt St Helens, Mt Rainier. Possibly Mt Baker at the top over the far right of Rainier. Cascade Mountains Range, Oregon and Washington Ring of Fire at 43,000 ft."

***The world is now too small for anything but brotherhood.***

— A. Powell Davies

## **'NASA Endeavor STEM Teaching Certificate Project** ·

We are distance learning experts. Enter to win a \$25 gift certificate by attending one of our information sessions. Earn an ivy-league STEM Leadership Certificate or Master's Degree, live, online. Find out how at one of our information sessions. <https://goo.gl/WhTTKM>  
Classes start end of August.



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## **Americans Will Step Up to Lead Democrats' "Roll Call Across ...**

[www.demconvention.com](http://www.demconvention.com) > [press-releases](#) > [americans-...](#)

### **ALASKA**

Veteran, fisherman, and party activist Chuck Degnan will discuss the impact of climate change on tribal waters.

### **NEW MEXICO**

Tribal member and state Rep. Derrick Lente will celebrate his state's diversity and commitment to preserving natural and cultural resources.

### **SOUTH DAKOTA**

Tribal activist Kellen Returns From Scout will issue a plea for forward-looking leadership.

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FOX 10 Phoenix Today (8.14) is National Navajo Code Talkers Day. We thank you for all your service. : Leo Bounds / Navajo Code Talkers Memorial in Window Rock, Arizona







## Newe Cannabis Commission

2020 Scholarship Opportunity



**DEADLINE: September 11, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.**

The Newe Cannabis Commission is pleased to announce a \$5,000.00 Scholarship Opportunity. This Scholarship is **only** available for Enrolled Members of the Elko Band Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone who are attending a College/ University.

**Requirements:** All applicants must complete a Newe Cannabis Funds Request Policy Application and *must* submit an Essay.

**Essay Topic:** What does the word "Newe" mean to you, and how will your education benefit the Tribe? Please ensure that your name is included in the Essay, and is turned in with your application.

For further information, please contact Thalia Marin,  
Newe Cannabis Commission Secretary at: (775) 385-3609  
or by Email: [newecannabiscommission@yahoo.com](mailto:newecannabiscommission@yahoo.com)

**Lives Lived:** The Senate is an exclusive club in its own right, but Slade Gorton of Washington State belonged to an even more rarefied one: senators who were returned to the chamber after a re-election loss. [He died at 92.](#)

Extract...Mr. Gorton feuded with Native American tribes for many years over treaty rights that allowed Indians to take up to half the annual runs of salmon and steelhead trout in Puget Sound and the Columbia River. He sought cuts in the Bureau of Indian Affairs budget and fought tribal immunity from some civil suits. His public hearings in Seattle attracted people waving American flags and shouting anti-Indian slogans.

*And here's to the unsung heroes of those days...who prevailed...so many also gone...sdc*  
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[American Indians, Alaska Natives hit harder by COVID-19, U.S. CDC says](#)  
(Reuters)

Cat thinks about pouncing on Eagle... 🐱



[Watch video >](#) [Share this video](#)

