

## ***Journal #4800      from sdc      10.02.20***

*Young Nevada Tribal Members Speak Up About Indigenous Issues*

*Paulette Jordan is running to become the first Native American woman in the U.S. Senate*

*Two Nevada towns among those betting on 'new nuclear'*

*To Prevent Future Pandemics, Protect Nature*

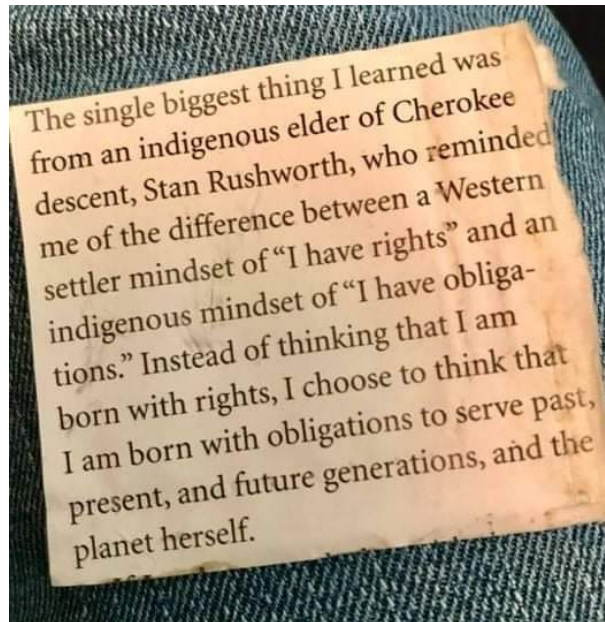
*Trump's Environment Agency Seems to Be at War With the Environment, Say Ex-Officials*

*Democracy is Indigenous Newsletter*

*'Falling on deaf ears': Tohono O'odham Nation reacts to use of force at Indigenous protest*

*Rethinking How We Celebrate American History*

*Peruvian Indigenous Groups Thwart Oil Drilling in Their Territory - for Now*



*Here we are at another "00" issue.....your chance to get off the email list, add others to it and comment on content, etc. Please let know what is helpful, what is not; what is interesting, what is not; and about what you'd like to read that is not there.*

*Thank you to those that send an occasional note...sometimes one wonders if the Journals just go somewhere in cyberspace, especially after those wee hour postings!*

*Particular thanks go to MM, EN, IZ and CS who consistently provide articles of interest from different geographical locations in the US.*

*And of course, to Ernie Salgado and Gary Ballard of the American Reporter who have made a **searchable archive** of this Journal (going back to 2012). Try it at [www.shaynedel.com](http://www.shaynedel.com)*

*I hope, through constant reading, you realize most pics can be enlarged by click/pull and that if a direct link doesn't work, simply copy into your search engine.*

*Needless to say, this has been a unique year and tomorrow probably the most unique day. Hope this finds you all hale and hearty and ready to rededicate yourself to your vision of the future. I hope you realize this Journal is my way of saying hi to you each day.    sdc*

**Young Nevada Tribal Members Speak Up About Indigenous Issues** Oct 30, 2020 With just a few days ahead of the 2020 general election, young Native Americans in Nevada took the time to speak with Patricia Ackerman, Nevada Congressional candidate for District 2, about the different issues Indigenous Peoples are facing around the state. [Click here to read more](#)

**Paulette Jordan is running to become the first Native American woman in the U.S. Senate**

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/10/28/paulette-jordan-is-running-to-become-idahos-first-female-senator.html>

fbclid=IwAR3bKfOIHghQUmY45mYEqBXfoFPrGa\_usDnFyqi3rKEgGRGnkt4ABcqJbU4

**Two Nevada towns among those betting on ‘new nuclear’**

By [https://www.nevadacurrent.com/2020/10/29/two-nevada-towns-among-those-betting-on-](https://www.nevadacurrent.com/2020/10/29/two-nevada-towns-among-those-betting-on-new-nuclear/)



new-nuclear/-

**David Sirota and Andrew Perez | The Fossil Fuel Industry's Dark Money Is Getting Even Darker** *David Sirota and Andrew Perez, Jacobin*

Excerpt: "A fossil fuel company admitted it made \$9.5 million worth of political expenditures to advance its corporate interests - and a Delaware court is helping hide the details." [READ MORE](#)

*"In reality, there is no such thing as not voting: you either vote by voting, or you vote by staying home and tacitly doubling the value of some Diehard's vote."* — [David Foster Wallace](#)

*"No passion so effectually robs the mind of all its powers of acting and reasoning as fear."* — [Edmund Burke](#)



#### Ecological Consciousness :

This is a photo of the sacred Tsitakakantsa, (*Adansonia Grandidieri*), the largest baobab in Madagascar. The "Tree of Life" baobab or reniala is a prehistoric species dated back to over 200 million years ago. Reniala means "mother of the forest" in Malagasy. *Adansonia grandidieri* are the biggest and most famous of Madagascar's six species of baobabs. Endemic to the island of Madagascar, it is an endangered species threatened by the encroachment of agricultural land.

#### **To Prevent Future Pandemics, Protect Nature**

All six of the most recent pandemics have been linked to destructive human activities like deforestation, climate change and the wildlife trade

[https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/protecting-nature-will-protect-us-how-prevent-next-pandemic-180976177/?](https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/protecting-nature-will-protect-us-how-prevent-next-pandemic-180976177/?utm_source=smithsoniandaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20201030-daily-responsive&spMailingID=43804585&spUserID=OTYyNTc5MzkyMTQyS0&spJobID=1862514339&spReportId=MTg2MjUxNDMzOQS2)

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#### **Trump's Environment Agency Seems to Be at War With the Environment, Say Ex-Officials By Emily Holden, Guardian UK**

<https://readersupportednews.org/news-section2/318-66/65952-trumps-environment-agency-seems-to-be-at-war-with-the-environment-say-ex-officials>



## The Final Push in Albuquerque, Bismarck, Houston, Rapid City, and Detroit



For the sixth issue of the ***Democracy is Indigenous Newsletter***, the NUIFC wants to highlight the closing efforts of five amazing centers in New Mexico, North and South Dakota, Texas, and Michigan. Each of these centers are focused on maximizing the final days before the election and making sure every Native vote is counted.

As hard as it is to believe, this will be the final issue profiling our center's GOTV effort. Starting next week, we will be focusing more on the results of this work, what we learned from this effort, and what comes next with our civic engagements endeavors.

### **Talking to Every Native Voter - [Americans for Indian Opportunity](#)**

For Americans for Indian Opportunity (AIO), the secret ingredient to their Get Out the Vote Effort is accurate data. Information that can help guide and connect them with the huge Native American population that calls New Mexico home.

"10 percent of the population in New Mexico is Native American," says Laura Harris, AIO's Executive Director. "And two-thirds of that population lives here in Albuquerque, so we need to ensure that population is activated around the election."

Normal GOTV services, like the popular political database NGP VAN, often fails to categorize Native American voters. This means AIO needs to track down that information for themselves. While this work may be tedious, it's critical to build upon the electoral success of the Indian community in New Mexico which sent the first ever Native American woman to congress in Deb Haaland, a longtime friend of AIO in 2018.





To build out this civic engagement infrastructure, AIO has been collecting phone numbers and information with their COVID-19 work. They've also used their membership rolls and overlaid it with Census data to identify neighborhoods to reach out to.

After tracking down their audience, AIO has been doing phone banking, calling individuals to do a wellness check during these difficult times. After establishing their community members are secure, they make sure they're registered to vote and work with them to create a voting plan. One of the reasons this outreach has been so effective is that AIO is making sure to have Natives call other Natives, so they can build a level of trust with the potential voter that traditional GOTV efforts can't match.



AIO has also handed out hundreds of GOTV kits, which include personal protective equipment, hand sanitizers, informational handouts, t-shirts, and more. They've also worked with the local County Clerk's office to get information about who has already voted, so they can do follow-up work to make sure every Native Vote is casted and counted.

"We know that national efforts aren't reaching out to this community, so it's up to us to do that work," said Harris. "We're committed to finding these people, building out this database of Native voters, and making sure that we are connecting with them and turning them out."

### **Rolling Out the Red Carpet - [Sacred Pipe Resource Center](#)**

How do you make sure first-time voters feel comfortable during their first election? You bring them to the polls in style, like how Sacred Pipe Resource Center (SPRC) did during their 'Native Vote in Style' event, which brought voters to early voting in North Dakota in a Hummerzine!

Efforts like this and the extensive work that SPRC has been doing all around North Dakota has been vital. While based out of Bismarck, they've been sure to organize COVID-19 safe events in cities like Mandan, Fargo, Grand Forks, and more. These cities may be 200+ miles away from one another but that is the determination needed to turn out the Native Vote.

Finally, SPRC has been putting in the work on the ground to go and canvass and make sure people are ready for the election. This means helping people create vote plans, ensuring they have a way to cast their ballot and whatever else they need. This work is vital, since many in the community are missed in traditional GOTV efforts.

"Natives here want to be activated, they are eager to be invited into the process," says SPRC's Executive Director, Cheryl Kary. "We are always hearing from our canvassers about the excitement people have when someone is showing up to engage with them on the issues. That's the key, that someone cares enough to come and invite them into the process."

### **Building For The Future - [American Indian Center of Houston](#)**

2020 has not been the debut year that the American Indian Center of Houston (AICH) had been planning. Opening a few weeks before COVID-19 changed everyone's ability to gather and organize, AICH has had to stay nimble and think of new ways to build out their Native Vote efforts.

To start, AICH knew they would need support and volunteer energy if they were going to make inroads with that Native population in Houston. They focused on youth engagement, finding kids interested in spreading information about the election. These local high school youth, while not old enough to vote, participated in literature drops, voter engagement efforts, and more.



AICH's focus on youth-led efforts comes from their Executive Director, Nikki McDonald, teaching background. As an former educator and a debate teacher, McDonald has always been committed to helping people learn about the issues and make informed decisions, regardless of their age.

"I don't want kids to think that just because they are young, that they don't matter or they can't affect the election," says McDonald. "Focusing on the youth is the first step, it's starting this whole process of civic engagement that they will carry with them as they get older."

Along with mobilizing a grassroots team, AICH has also been thinking about ways to support people even younger. To this end, they've been creating trick-or-treat bags that they will distribute to daycares in lower-income neighborhoods. The bags will have candy for the kids and voter registration information for the parents. They've also created a public service announcement and 'what's on your ballot' infographics that have shared on social media.

All of these efforts focus on tying the stakes of the election into the reality of people's everyday life with the explicit goal of increasing voter turnout in Harris

County. This work seems to be paying dividends, with over 1 million voters already casting their ballot through early voting.

"In the past, roughly half of the eligible voters in Harris County voted," says McDonald. "I don't think we should be okay with half of the county deciding what happens to everyone here. We need the people to have a larger voice."

### **Building A Movement - [HeSapa Voter Initiative](#)**

As one of the first major GOTV efforts for urban Natives in Rapid City, South Dakota the HeSapa Voter Initiative (HSVI) has been focusing on connecting with the community on the issues that are affecting their everyday life. While not being a traditional center, HSVI has been able to grow their civic engagement efforts into a powerful political force around the city.

Like so many organizations, HSVI adapted their plans to reflect the reality of COVID-19. So much of their effort has been about educating people about the election while supporting them during these difficult times



"We've been making sure to have voter registration and election information in our COVID-19 supplies we've been handing out," says Natalie Stites-Mean, HSVI's founder. "We've handed out 4,000 meals and care packages that have more food, traditional medicine, general supplies, and more."

Beyond supplies, HSVI has been on the ground and is visiting low-income housing complexes with large Native American populations to make sure they have everything they need to vote. This includes working with them to register to vote, make a vote plan, and get them to the polls if necessary. They've been able to undertake these efforts by drawing on their hundreds of volunteers and community members that have been supporting their work.



They will also be celebrating Halloween with a socially distanced event at the local mall. They will have candy for the kids, voter information for the adults, and will be sweeping through the shopping center to raise awareness around the election.

These efforts are new for Rapid City, which is often overlooked by traditional GOTV efforts because of assumptions that the political energy there is rigid and not worth

expanding upon. This has been upended by HSVI, which has shown the potential of power building.

"We have laid a groundwork here, not just for this election but for elections to come in the future," says Stites-Mean. "We are focused on the grassroots here because that's who we are."

### **Three-Pronged Approach - [North American Indian Association of Detroit](#)**

The North American Indian Association of Detroit (NAIAD) is one of the oldest Indian organizations in the country and has become a cornerstone for the Native community in Michigan.

"We're a beacon for Native people all around here, we're a hub for our people," says Brian Moore, NAIAD's Executive Director. "We have 40,000 natives in our county alone, it's a huge population that could be the deciding vote in this critical swing state."



To help energize this population, NAIAD has taken a targeted approach by dividing the community by age to tailor messaging for that specific demographic. This three-pronged approach focused on young voters, middle-aged voters, and the elder population.

Each of these groups have specific messaging because each has different needs and preferred forms of communication. They've been doing organizing on social media to reach younger voters and have conducted weekly wellness calls to elders to make sure they are secure and ready to vote in the election.



As a community hub, NAIAD has also been doing pickups of Native Vote swag at their office for weeks. This gives people a chance to come by, check-in, and work with the center to create a vote plan. To help get people to the polls, they've also provided individuals Uber gift cards so that they can be taken to the polls regardless of their transportation situation.



A lot of work has been put to digital organizing, with constant messaging about voter registration and how to vote safely in the election. They've also planned a social media costume contest to celebrate Halloween by sharing pictures of their members and their families dressed up for the holiday.

One of the big points NAIAD wants to communicate to their members is the accountability aspect of voting and how it's critical to having the kind of society we want to live in.

"We know that democracy is indigenous but how do we make sure people know that they need to take ownership of the election," says Moore. "We want to reaffirm to people that they have agency in the outcome. They can't complain if they aren't voting!"

### Democracy is Indigenous in the News

- [Native Americans battle COVID-19 and other voting obstacles as Election Day nears](#) - USA Today
- ['Rock the Native Vote' allows local candidates to connect with Native American communities](#) - OKC Fox
- [Nevada Native Vote Project Wants Native American Voices To Be Heard In November](#) - Nevada Public Radio
- [A Record Number of Indigenous Women Are Running for Office This Year. Here's What an Incumbent Has to Say to a Challenger.](#) - Vouge

### **What is the Democracy is Indigenous Newsletter?**

With the most consequential election of our lives 5 days away, the NUIFC wants to take some time each week to share the work our Cohort is doing to make history. This newsletter will be a space to uplift the grassroots work our partner organizations are doing during the most ambitious Urban Indian Get Out the Vote campaign in history. We look forward to bringing this inspiring work right to your inbox every week.

*And, of course, I would be remiss if not noting/adulating the efforts of Janet Davis (Pyramid Lake) and Elveda Martinez (Walker River) and their teams to obtain and make their precincts stand out in the voting process. sdc*

**Elveda Martinez** (Go to her FB page to see the video)

Some senior voters still got it. They just voted and thought they'd do a victory dance. Lol. Thanks to "L-Breeze" for the Twist music. Our Polling site is the place to be. Pick up a gas card, get gas and pick up your relatives who need a ride to the polls. An article that didn't get published but is still worthwhile;  
[https://www.smithsonianmag.com/blogs/national-museum-american-indian/2020/10/07/indigenous-peoples-day-2020/?mc\\_cid=92f9cc4114&mc\\_eid=1e8de76023](https://www.smithsonianmag.com/blogs/national-museum-american-indian/2020/10/07/indigenous-peoples-day-2020/?mc_cid=92f9cc4114&mc_eid=1e8de76023)

*"The story of Indigenous peoples in America is often invisible or ignored. And so it is important that as Americans we find the opportunity to celebrate the histories, cultures and resiliency of the people who comprise the 573 tribal nations who live today within the United States."*

— AZ State Sen. Jamescita Peshlakai

And another:

October 15, 2020 / Modified oct 15, 2020 3:43 p.m.

**'Falling on deaf ears': Tohono O'odham Nation reacts to use of force at Indigenous protest**

<https://news.azpm.org/p/news-articles/2020/10/15/182181-falling-on-deaf-ears-tohono-oodham-nation-reacts-after-border-protest-turns-violent/>

[Smithsonian Voices](#) [National Museum of the American Indian](#)

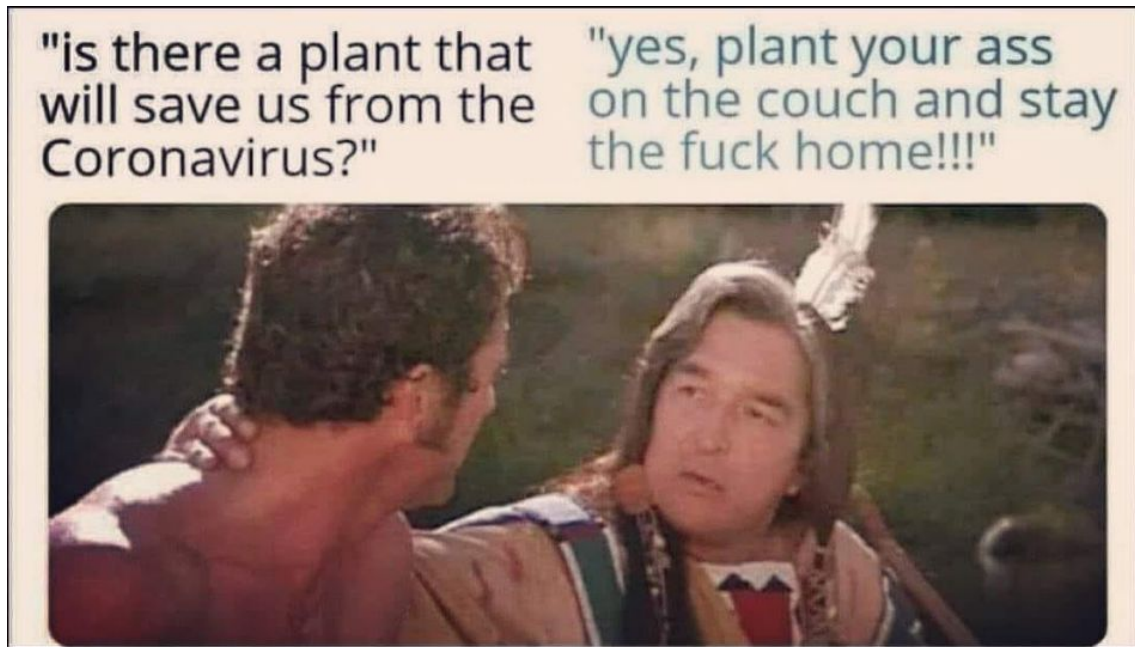
**Rethinking How We Celebrate American History—Indigenous Peoples' Day**

October 12th, 2020, 12:00PM / BY Dennis W. Zotigh and Renee Gokey



California Natives gather in front of City Hall to celebrate Los Angeles's second annual Indigenous Peoples Day. October 14, 2019, Los Angeles, California. (Photo courtesy of Helena Tsosie)

*"The most American thing about America is American Indians."* —Paul Chaat Smith (Comanche)



### **Peruvian Indigenous Groups Thwart Oil Drilling in Their Territory - for Now**

*John C. Cannon, Mongabay*

Cannon writes: "In the Peruvian Amazon, two Indigenous groups have been battling the government and oil companies for decades to prevent an incursion they believe would forever alter their homeland." [READ MORE](#)

### **The \$16 Million Was Supposed to Clean Up Old Oil Wells; Instead, It's Going to Frack New Ones**

*Nicholas Kusnetz, Inside Climate*

*News*

Kusnetz writes: "North Dakota, where Covid-19 rates are surging, is redirecting the federal relief money, turning it into grants that will go directly to oil companies." [READ MORE](#)



Season's Greetings!