

NORTH DAKOTA NATIVE VOTE

***2021
LEGISLATIVE
REPORT***



INSPIRE INDIGENOUS ACTION

Bismarck, ND

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

North Dakota Native Vote (NDNV) created this Legislative Report to be an educational tool that demonstrates how Representatives and Senators in the North Dakota Legislature vote on important legislation that affects Indian Country. This report explains the proposed legislation, where we stand on Bills, the sponsors, and the outcome. We also celebrate and highlight the Native American elected officials who served their communities during the 2021 legislative session.

NDNV's advocacy program is centered on equity building, social justice, economic justice, environmental justice, protecting Native American rights, and tribal sovereignty. We work to ensure that the Native voice is part of the public policy process, from creation to implementation. We focus on an array of issues determined by the communities we serve, including, but not limited to, voting rights, tribal sovereignty, education, language and cultural preservation, land conservation, and energy democracy.

LAY OF THE LAND

North Dakota's Legislative Assembly convenes bi-annually, on every odd numbered year. The North Dakota Legislative Assembly consists of a Senate of 47 senators and a House of Representatives with 94 representatives. Under North Dakota's Constitution, the Legislative Assembly may meet for up to 80 days during the biennium (Article IV, Section 7). This year, the 67th Legislative Assembly convened in regular session on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 and adjourned April 30, 2021.

The bulk of the Legislative Assembly's work is conducted through the use of standing committees. Legislators who serve on the Appropriations Committees have no other standing committee assignments as those committees meet every day of the week. Other legislators, except the majority and minority leaders and the Speaker, serve on two committees--one meeting Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday and the other on Thursday and Friday. Except in unusual instances, all bills and resolutions are referred to standing committees. The Speaker of the House and President of the Senate assign bills and resolutions to standing committees for hearings. Standing committee appointments are made by the Committee on Committees in both the House and Senate. After public hearings, the standing committees submit their recommendations to their respective chambers. Committee reports for bills and resolutions may either be:

1. Do pass.
2. Do not pass.
3. Amend and do pass.
4. Amend and do not pass.
5. Without recommendation.

After the standing committee hearing process, all bills are reported back to the floor of the House or Senate. Committees are not allowed to hold legislation or kill bills in committee. All bills have a recorded roll call vote in the appropriate chamber. If the House and the Senate cannot agree on the language of a bill, each chamber appoints three of its members to a conference committee. When the conference committee reaches agreement, it reports its recommendation to the House and to the Senate. If both agree, the bill is passed. If not, a new conference committee is appointed.

After the House and the Senate pass a bill, the measure goes to the Governor for consideration. The Governor has three options:

1. Sign the bill.
2. Veto the bill, in which case the bill with the veto message must be returned to its house of origin within three days. The Legislative Assembly can override the Governor's veto by a two-thirds vote of the legislators in both houses.
3. Refuse to sign the bill. The bill then becomes law without the Governor's signature.

When the Legislative Assembly adjourns, the Governor keeps the three options, but the Governor then has 15 days in which to act instead of three. If the Legislative Assembly is not in session, vetoes cannot be overridden. If a bill is vetoed after adjournment, the veto message is filed with the Secretary of State within the 15 days.

Since the North Dakota Legislature convenes every biennium, each legislator takes on a huge work load that must be completed within the 80 days allotted. This year, the 2021 North Dakota Legislature saw a total of 914 bills, concurrent resolutions, and memorial resolutions introduced. There were 21 bills introduced that focused on the electoral process and reforming voting laws here in North Dakota. Of those 21 bills, only 2 survived.

North Dakota's Indigenous Legislators



REPRESENTATIVE
RUTH
BUFFALO

Ruth Buffalo (Woman Appears) is a citizen of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation. She is originally from Mandaree, ND. Ruth has served in various capacities focused on building healthy and safe communities. Ruth was elected into the North Dakota House of Representatives in 2018 and proudly serves the people of District 27 in south Fargo. Ruth is married to Brian and has four children.

Buffalo is an Independent Consultant and Small Business Owner. She serves on many boards including National Native Boarding School Healing Coalition; National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development and was a recipient of the "40 under 40" award in 2017.



SENATOR
RICHARD
MARCELLAIS

Richard Marcellais (Red Fire) is a citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa where he was Chairman from 2008 to 2010. Marcellais became a North Dakota State Senator in 2007 and is currently serving District 9 in Belcourt, ND. Richard also works for Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Tribe as Veteran Service Officer (VSO) and he and his wife Betty have two sons Shawn & Chad and nine (9) grandchildren.

A Vietnam Veteran, Marcellais served in the U.S. Army from 1968 to 1971. He was a federal employee for 24 years and has experience working with the Veterans Administration, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Indian Health Service. Marcellais also owns multiple businesses and serves on various school boards and is a member of numerous organizations.

NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATORS WITH RESERVATION BASED CONSTITUENCIES

Fort Berthold Reservation (District 4)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Party</i>	<i>Hometown</i>	<i>Years Served</i>
Senator Jordan Kannianen	R	Stanley, ND	2017 – 2021
Representative Clayton Fegley	R	Berthold, ND	2018 – 2021
Representative Terry B. Jones	R	New Town, ND	2017 – 2021

Spirit Lake Reservation (District 23)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Party</i>	<i>Hometown</i>	<i>Years Served</i>
Senator Joan Heckaman	D	New Rockford, ND	2007 – 2021
Representative Bill Devlin	R	Finley, ND	1997 – 2006 2011 – 2021
Representative Don Vigesaa	R	Cooperstown, ND	2003 - 2021

Standing Rock Reservation (District 31)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Party</i>	<i>Hometown</i>	<i>Years Served</i>
Senator Donald Schaible	R	Mott, ND	2011 – 2021
Representative Karen M. Rohr	R	Mandan, ND	2011 – 2021
Representative Jim Schmidt	R	Huff, ND	2011 – 2021

Turtle Mountain Reservation (District 9)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Party</i>	<i>Hometown</i>	<i>Years Served</i>
Senator Richard Marcellais	D	Belcourt	2007 – 2021
Representative Tracy Boe	D	Mylo, ND	2003 – 2021
Representative Marvin E. Nelson	D	Rolla, ND	2011 – 2021

Find your Senator or Representatives here: <https://tinyurl.com/24jsr79r>

LEGISLATIVE SCORE CARD

This score card reflects our stance on the bills that we worked on and how our lawmakers voted based on our stance. The top line shows the bill number with our stance below in red/green and the last column is the grade that the legislator received based on their support or opposition to the bill content. The bills that NDNV worked on are not ALL the bills that were proposed that impact Indian Country.

Score Card Symbols

OPPOSE NDNV opposes the bill.

SUPPORT NDNV supports the bill.

+ Legislator voted with our stance.

- Legislator voted against our stance.

\ Legislator was absent or not voting.

GRADE # of + / # of
bills * 100 = %

Tom Kading	R	Fargo, ND	45	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	43%
Karen Karls	R	Bismarck, ND	35	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	29%
Jim Kasper	R	Fargo, ND	46	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	14%
George Keiser	R	Bismarck, ND	47	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	43%
Keith Kempenich	R	Bowman, ND	39	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	14%
Dwight Kiefert	R	Valley City, ND	24	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	29%
Lawrence R. Klemin	R	Bismarck, ND	47	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	43%
Ben Koppelman	R	West Fargo, ND	16	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	29%
Kim Koppelman	R	West Fargo, ND	13	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	29%
Gery Kreidt	R	New Salem, ND	33	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	43%
Mike Lefor	R	Dickinson, ND	37	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	43%
Donald Longmuir	R	Stanley, ND	2	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	43%
Scott Louser	R	Minot, ND	5	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	29%
Jeffery J. Magrum	R	Hazleton, ND	28	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	14%
Andrew Marschall	R	Fargo, ND	16	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	14%
Bob Martinson	R	Bismarck, ND	35	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	57%
Lisa Meier	R	Bismarck, ND	32	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	43%
Alisa Mitskog	D	Wahpeton, ND	25	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	86%
Corey Mock	D	Grand Forks, ND	18	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	71%
David Monson	R	Osnabrock, ND	10	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	43%
Mike Nathe	R	Bismarck, ND	30	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	29%
Dave Nehring	R	Bismarck, ND	8	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	43%
Jon O. Nelson	R	Rugby, ND	14	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	57%
Marvin E. Nelson	D	Rolla, ND	9	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	86%
Emily O'brien	R	Grand Forks, ND	42	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	57%
Mitch Ostlie	R	Jamestown, ND	12	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	43%
Mark S. Owens	R	Grand Forks, ND	17	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	29%
Bob Paulson	R	Minot, ND	3	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	29%
Gary Paur	R	Gilby, ND	19	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	57%
Chet Pollert	R	Carrington, ND	29	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	29%
Todd Porter	R	Mandan, ND	34	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	43%
Brandy Pyle	R	Casselton, ND	22	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	43%
David Richter	R	Williston, ND	1	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	43%
Shannon Roers Jones	R	Fargo, ND	46	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	43%
Karen M. Rohr	R	Mandan, ND	31	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	29%
Dan Ruby	R	Minot, ND	38	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	29%
Matthew Ruby	R	Minot, ND	40	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	29%
Mark Sanford	R	Grand Forks, ND	17	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	57%
Bernie Satrom	R	Jamestown, ND	12	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	43%
Mike Schatz	R	New England, ND	36	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	14%
Austen Schauer	R	West Fargo, ND	13	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	29%
Jim Schmidt	R	Huff, ND	31	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	29%
Mary Schneider	D	Fargo, ND	21	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	86%
Randy A. Schobinger	R	Minot, ND	40	+	*	+	\	-	-	-	40%
Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	R	Wahpeton, ND	25	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	57%
Kathy Skroch	R	Lidgerwood, ND	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
Vicky Steiner	R	Dickinson, ND	37	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	29%

Greg Stemen	R	Fargo, ND	27	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	29%
Michelle Strinden	R	Fargo, ND	41	+	*	+	\	-	-	-	40%
Paul J. Thomas	R	Velva, ND	6	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	43%
Nathan Toman	R	Mandan, ND	34	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	14%
Wayne A. Trottier	R	Northwood, ND	19	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	57%
Bill Tveit	R	Hazen, ND	33	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	43%
Steve Vetter	R	Grand Forks, ND	18	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	29%
Don Vigesaa	R	Cooperstown, ND	23	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	43%
Robin Weisz	R	Hurdsfield, ND	14	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	43%
Greg Westlind	R	Cando, ND	15	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	43%
Denton Zubke	R	Watford, ND	39	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	43%
Luke Simons (Expelled: 3/4/2021)	R	Dickinson, ND	36								

FAILED
FAILED
FAILED
PASSED
PASSED
FAILED
FAILED

FINAL BILL STATUS

SENATE

NAME	PARTY	TOWN	DISTRICT	SB 2228 SUPPORT	SB 2304 SUPPORT	SCR 4005 OPPOSE	HB 1253 OPPOSE	HB 1373 OPPOSE	HB 1397 OPPOSE	GRADE
Howard C. Anderson Jr.	R	Turtle Lake, ND	8	-	+	-	-	+	-	33%
JoNell A. Bakke	D	Grand Forks, ND	43	+	+	+	+	+	-	83%
Brad Bekkedahl	R	Williston, ND	1	-	+	-	-	+	-	33%
Jessican Bell	R	Beulah, ND	33	-	+	-	-	+	-	33%
Rand A. Burckhard	R	Minot, ND	5	-	+	-	-	+	-	33%
David A. Clemens	R	West Fargo, ND	16	-	+	-	-	-	-	17%
Cole Conley	R	Jamestown, ND	12	-	+	-	-	-	-	17%
Kyle Davison	R	Fargo, ND	41	-	+	-	-	+	-	33%
Dick Dever	R	Bismarck, ND	32	-	+	-	-	+	-	33%
Michael Dwyer	R	Bismarck, ND	47	-	\	-	-	+	-	20%
Jay R. Elkin	R	Taylor, ND	36	-	+	-	-	+	-	33%
Robert Erbele	R	Lehr, ND	28	-	+	-	-	+	-	33%
Robert O. Fors	R	Larimore, ND	19	-	+	-	-	+	-	33%
Joan Heckaman	D	New Rockford, ND	23	+	+	+	-	+	-	67%
Jason G. Keitkamp	R	Wahpeton, ND	26	-	+	+	-	+	-	50%
Kathy Hogan	D	Fargo, ND	21	+	+	+	-	+	-	67%
David Hogue	R	Minot, ND	38	-	+	-	-	+	-	33%
Ray Holmberg	R	Grand Forks, ND	17	-	\	-	-	+	-	20%

Jordan Kannianen	R	Stanley, ND	4	-	+	-	-	-	-	17%
Jerry Klein	R	Fessenden, ND	14	-	+	-	-	-	-	17%
Karen K. Krebsbach	R	Minot, ND	40	-	+	-	-	+	-	33%
Curt Kreun	R	Grand Forks, ND	42	-	+	-	-	+	-	33%
Doug Larsen	R	Mandan, ND	34	-	+	-	-	-	-	17%
Oley Larsen	R	Minot, ND	3	-	+	-	-	-	-	17%
Diane Larson	R	Bismarck, ND	30	-	+	-	-	+	-	33%
Judy Lee	R	West Fargo, ND	13	-	+	-	-	+	-	33%
Randy D. Lemm	R	Hillsboro, ND	20	-	+	-	-	-	-	17%
Larry Luick	R	Fairmount, ND	25	-	+	-	-	+	-	33%
Richard Marcellais	D	Belcourt, ND	9	+	+	\	+	+	-	80%
Tim Mathern	D	Fargo, ND	11	+	+	+	+	+	-	83%
Scott Meyer	R	Grand Forks, ND	18	-	+	-	-	+	-	33%
Janne Myrdal	R	Edinburg, ND	10	-	+	-	-	-	-	17%
Erin Oban	D	Bismarck, ND	35	+	+	+	-	+	-	67%
Dave Oehlke	R	Devils Lake, ND	15	-	+	-	-	+	-	33%
Dale Patten	R	Watford City, ND	39	-	\	-	-	+	-	20%
Merrill Piepkorn	D	Fargo, ND	44	+	+	+	+	+	-	83%
Nicole Poolman	R	Bismarck, ND	7	-	+	-	-	+	-	33%
Jim P. Roers	R	Fargo, ND	46	-	+	-	-	+	-	33%
Kristin Roers	R	Fargo, ND	27	-	+	-	-	+	-	33%
David S. Rust	R	Tioga, ND	2	-	+	-	-	+	-	33%
Donald Schaible	R	Mott, ND	31	-	+	-	-	+	-	33%
Ronald Sorvaag	R	Fargo, ND	45	-	+	-	-	+	-	33%
Shawn Vedaa	R	Velva, ND	6	-	+	-	-	-	-	17%
Terry M. Wanzek	R	Jamestown, ND	29	-	+	-	-	-	-	17%
Rich Wardner	R	Dickinson, ND	37	-	+	-	-	+	-	33%
Mark F. Weber	R	Casselton, ND	22	-	+	-	-	+	-	33%
Michael A. Wobbema	R	Valley City, ND	24	-	+	-	-	+	-	33%

FAILED
 PASSED
 PASSED
 PASSED
 FAILED
 PASSED

FINAL BILL STATUS

BILLS IN LEGISLATIVE SCORE CARD

HB 1161 – Oppose. Regards closing time for polling places. Specifies that all ballots must be marked and cast 30 minutes after the last elector at the polling place who is allowed to vote receives a ballot. Sponsors are worried about election results being delayed. Similar provision included in HB 1253. **Defeated in the Senate 4-90.** *Introduced by Representatives D. Ruby, Bellew, Kasper, Louser, Marschall, Schatz; Senators Burckhard, Hogue, Rust, Vedaa*

HB 1182 – Oppose. Permits political party labels on the ballot for candidates in county, city, school, and other local elections. Local elections have not been partisan in North Dakota because “there isn’t a Republican or Democratic-NPL way to plough a road.” Allowing party labels would bring partisan hostility into local government. This Bill was an attempt to protect party incumbency. **Defeated in the House 36-55.** *Introduced*

by Representatives Louser, Kasper, Kempenich, B. Koppelman, Lefor, Nathe, D. Ruby, Schauer; Senators O.Larsen, Meyer, Vedaa

HB 1280 – Oppose. Rewrites parts of election law. Allows only paper ballots to be used in North Dakota, raises penalty for election official who tampers with elections to a felony, nullifies all actions of elected official convicted of election tampering, extends time period to contest the 2020 Election, and more. Supporters used out-of-state stories as reasons for the bill. **Defeated by the House 13-81.** *Introduced by Representatives Ertelt, Jones, Kasper, B. Koppelman, Magrum; Senator Heitkamp.*

HB 1373 – Oppose. Reduces early voting time from 15 days to 9 business days. This would have made it more difficult for people who live on reservations and rural areas as well as those who cannot leave work to be able to get to the polls to vote. **Passed House 78-13, defeated in Senate 10-37.** *Introduced by Representatives Kasper, Bellew, B. Koppelman, Louser, Pollert, Rohr, D. Ruby, Steiner; Senators Clemens, Heitkamp, Kreun, Myrdal*

HB 1397 – Oppose. Establishes a redistricting committee to develop a plan to redraw legislative district boundaries and for the plan to be presented to a special legislative session. NDNV lobbied to keep Native communities intact during the redistricting process, for transparency and community input that gives tribes an equal opportunity to elect representatives of their choosing, and for fairness to avoid the gerrymandering and partisan bias of the past. NDNV proposed amendments to the bill that would have established an independent redistricting committee to redraw the lines; removed the secrecy provision of the bill; and required single-member house districts, respect for communities of interest according to federal law, public meetings, “timely and meaningful consultation” with all Tribal Nations. NDNV recommended appointing Rep. Ruth Buffalo to the Redistricting Committee. The original bill kept proposed district maps secret until presented at committee meetings. The Senate amended this to allow for maps to be on the legislative website “if possible.” **Passed House 86-8, passed Senate as amended 47-0.** *Introduced by Representatives Pollert, Louser; Senators Klein, Wardner*

HB 1451 – Support. Adds reports of the ultimate and true source of independent expenditures or “dark money” to influence elections or public officials’ decisions through ads, mailings, or other means outside of candidate campaigns and political parties and to provide a penalty. This is a “voters' right to know” bill. Defeated in the House 14-80. *Introduced by Representatives Buffalo, Boschee, Dobervich, Hanson; Senators Bakke, Mathern*

HB 1488 – Support. Creates a truth, healing and reconciliation commission for tribal nations. Specifies an annual report that includes recommendations to address truth and reconciliation in the interest of healing historical conflicts and legacies of distrust and to address historical and intergenerational trauma. **Defeated in the House 20-72.** *Introduced by Representatives Buffalo, Dobervich, Schneider; and Senators Marcellais, Mathern*

HB 2228 – Support. Creates 7-member, nonpartisan advisory redistricting commission to devise and recommend redistricting plan to the legislative assembly. **Defeated in the Senate 7-40.** *Introduced by Senators Heckaman, Hogan, Oban; Representatives Boschee, Dobervich, Mitskog*

SB 2304 – Support. Requires Native American history curriculum in all elementary and secondary public and private schools. Senate version specifically included “impacts to Native American tribes, tribal history, tribal sovereignty, and treaty rights.” House version removed those specifics. NDNV and many other groups worked hard to get this bill through the legislature. **Passed Senate 47-0, failed first time in House 47-47, passed House with amendment 72-21, passed with conference committee amendment by the Senate 44-0 and the House 76-16.** *Introduced by Senators Heckaman, Marcellais*



SCR 4005 – Oppose. Requires constitutional amendments to be placed only on General Election ballots. Also, increases from 50% to 60% the vote required by each house of the legislative assembly to put the amendment on the ballot and for the voters to approve the measure in the General Election. Defeated because the state Chamber of Commerce started effort to put this on the 2022 ballot. **Passed Senate 39-7, defeated in the House 23-71.** *Introduced by Senators Holmberg, Hogue, Poolman, Bell; Representatives Howe, Sanford*

IMPORTANT BILLS TO NOTE; NO VOTE (WITHDRAWN)

HB 1289 – Oppose. Increases the residency requirement to become a qualified elector in the state from 30 days to one year and in the precinct from 30 days to 90 days. North Dakota Native Vote and Native American Rights Fund testified in opposition on the Unconstitutional nature of the Bill. **Bill was withdrawn.** *Introduced by Representatives Magrum, Christensen, Jones, Kasper*

HB 1333 – Oppose. Designates “American” as a race. Require state agencies to include an “American” classification on state forms requesting racial information. **Bill was withdrawn.** *Introduced by Representatives Jones, Ertelt, Fegley, Kasper, Schauer* **HB 3003 – Oppose. HCR 3003 -** Prohibits initiated measures for constitutional amendments from having more than one subject. **Bill was withdrawn.** *Introduced by Representative Fegley*

MONITORED BILLS

HB 1043 – Support. Ethics Commission complaint procedures. **Final bill passed Senate 47-0 and House 70-23.** *Introduced by House Judiciary at the request of the Ethics Commission.*

HB 1171 – Support. Specifies that only the legislature could change the requirement that at least one physical polling place in a county be open on Election Day. **The House defeated this bill 8-86** because it would have prohibited a governor during a major emergency from making any adjustments to elections to ensure voters would still be able to vote. *Introduced by Representatives Kempenich, Kasper, Steiner, Thomas, and Senator O. Larsen.*

HB 1191 – Support. Requires multi-candidate committees and other entities to report expenditures above certain amounts and the names of candidates opposed or supported; and to provide a penalty. **Passed the House 91-1 but defeated by the Senate 12-35.** Reason defeated was candidates (who are supported) currently report receipt of those contributions. *Introduced by Representatives Devlin, Becker, Bellew, Boschee, Mock, Pollert, Vigesaa; Senators Heckaman, Klein, Wanzek, Wardner*

HB 1238 – Oppose. Concerns polling places: Prohibits 100% vote-by-mail elections and requires (except in counties with a vote center) that each legislative district in a county and each city over 1,000 population have a physical voting location on Election Day. Would have hurt voters on reservations and rural areas. **Passed House 49-45, defeated in the Senate 2-45.** *Introduced by Representatives Kasper, B. Koppelman, Lefor, Louser, Pollert, Rohr, D. Ruby, Steiner; Senators Meyer, Myrdal*

HB 1239 – No Stance. Eliminates electronic voting, requires paper ballots, and makes scanned images of ballots available to the public. Supporters said reason for the bill is “other things in the nation.” Similar to HB 1360. **Defeated by the House 15-76.** *Introduced by Representatives M. Nelson, P. Anderson, M. Ruby; Senator Heitkamp*

HB 1253 – Neutral. Election administration bill (83 pages). Most negative provisions were amended out of the bill before passing at the end of the session. Includes limiting voters to 30 minutes to vote (because of fear of sit-in protests). **Final passage House 87-0 and Senate 44-3.** *Introduced by Representatives Louser, Christensen, Kasper, B. Koppelman, Rohr, D. Ruby, Schauer, Toman; Senators Hogue, Meyer, K. Roers, Vedaa.*

HB 1312 – No Stance. Eliminates mail voting and early in-person voting, limits voters’ eligibility to cast absentee ballots, and removes the governor’s authority regarding the right to vote and elections. This bill would have restricted access to the election process and disenfranchised voters. **Defeated by House 7-86.** *Introduced by Representative Hoverson*

HB 1360 – No Stance. Eliminates electronic voting, requires paper ballots, makes scanned images of a ballot available to the voter, and adds duplicating vote tallies. Similar to HB 1239. **Defeated by House 8-86.** *Introduced by Representatives Hoverson, Magrum; Senator O. Larsen*

HB 1447 – Support. Public higher education institutions may issue a printable document with current address to be used as identification for voting for students, who are North Dakota residents. **Passed House 87-7, passed Senate 47-0.** *Introduced by Representatives Cory, O’Brien, Pyle, Sanford; Senators Holmberg, Kreun, Meyer, Sorvaag*

SB 2142 – No Stance. Changes when ballots can be opened to determine if they are from duly qualified electors from “the day before” to “3 days before” an election. Helps speed up processing mail ballots due to the growing number of mail ballots. **Passed Senate 47-0, passed House 84-9.** *Introduced by Senators K. Roers, Marcellais, Vedaq; Representatives P. Anderson, Louser, Meier*

SB 2160 – No Stance. Removes option to apply for all election ballots in a year by limiting applications to one specific election, deletes option to send unrequested applications to the public but allows unrequested applications to go to military overseas. Supporters expressed concern that voter fraud could happen. Opponents said the option to request application for more than one election has been important for voters and election officials in vote-by-mail counties. **Defeated by Senate 2-44.** *Introduced by Senators Clemens, Dwyer; Representatives Becker, Jones, Kiefert*

SB 2251 – Oppose. Permits political organizations to use net proceeds of a raffle for a political purpose. Spirit Lake Nation opposed bill because it is one of two bills this session that continues the increase in charitable gaming that will take away from tribal gaming operations, which undermines tribal sovereignty. **Passed Senate 35-12, passed House 84-9.** *Introduced by Senators Hogue, D. Larsen, Schaible; Representatives B. Koppelman, Porter, D. Ruby*



Representative Ruth Buffalo posing with North Dakota Native Vote Board of Directors

CONCLUSION

Following a tumultuous year filled with uncertainty, we went into the 2021 legislature with high hopes of affecting proposed legislation and policy that directly affect our tribal communities. Our legislative priorities include voting, renewable energy, tribal sovereignty, and Indian education. 2021 was our first year engaging at the State Legislature and were able to be affective in advocating for the wellbeing of our communities. We will continue to work to hold elected officials accountable for adequately or inadequately addressing our issues and build power for our people, through our people.



A group of Indigenous advocates gathered for the SB 2304 People's Celebration in Bismarck



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