

# North Dakota Native Vote



2024 - 2029



## Strategic Plan

# Message from Executive Director

**To our relatives,**



**Nicole Donaghy**  
**Executive Director**

On behalf of our Board and Staff, I am pleased to present the 2024 – 2029 Strategic Plan for North Dakota Native Vote. Our team and communities have been instrumental in shaping our narrative on important issues since 2018. We are humbled by all of our leaders across North Dakota who have helped us accomplish our goals in our first five years. These goals include reaching 5 full-time staff, electing 2 new Native American legislators, building a million-dollar budget, and engaging in the 5 different programs we offer. We are working to reclaim our culture and build power through Inspiring Indigenous Action.

In 2023 we are taking a moment to reflect on our past and humble beginnings and are now excited about our future. Our goals in this inaugural strategic plan represent the mission of our work which is to engage tribal communities to construct a representative democracy through community organizing, leadership development, civic engagement, and public policy advocacy. We can't thank our partners, funders, and advisors enough, knowing each has left a positive influence on our organization, our staff, and the future of our communities. Thank you to all who have been involved through 2023 and we extend a warm welcome to all who are getting involved as we build power through 2029 and beyond.

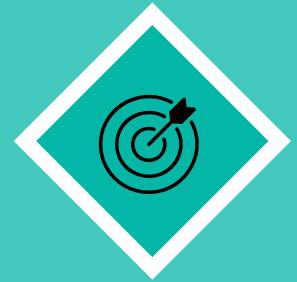
Our hope is that this plan gives you an idea of how we are going to inspire tribal members to take action on the issues that affect their daily lives. We want to show you how we can be an invaluable resource that promotes tribal self-determination. Let's work together for a better, stronger future for the next generation.

**Pilamayaye! Thank You.**

# Our Mission & Vision

## Mission

Our mission is to engage tribal communities to construct a representative democracy through community organizing, leadership development, civic engagement, and public policy advocacy.



## Vision

Our vision is to inspire tribal members to take action on the issues that affect their daily lives. We work to build power and to enhance leadership for North Dakota's Native people. We are a resource that promotes tribal self-determination.



## Values

We carry the values of our ancestors and the foundation that they created for us to preserve our way of life. We work to inspire:

- Inspire Indigenous Action
- Native Voices and Faces
- Strategy
- Persistence
- Interpersonal balance
- Reclamation of culture
- Equal representation



# Our History

**2018**



North Dakota Native Vote (NDNV) was founded during the 2018 election. We worked as an advocacy group to help organize tribal communities and fight back against a voter suppression law that went into effect just weeks before Election Day.

**2020**



NDNV persisted through a difficult first election cycle as an organization due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The 2020 June Primary Election was all vote by mail. Only 1 polling site was open in each county. The 2020 General Election was hindered by health and safety protocols. The 2020 Decennial Census work was also hindered during this time due to health and safety protocols.

**2022**



The 2022 Mid-Term Election was a momentous year for voters in North Dakota. Our impact grew, launching a full operational Field Outreach Campaign, facilitating the collection of over 800 pledges, and continuing to combat the discriminatory Voter ID law.

**2019**



NDNV identified a need for consistent voter engagement and decided that it was time to incorporate. Through multiple fundraising efforts and support from peer organizations, we established an operation budget, found Native leaders to serve on the board, and filed for non-profit status with the IRS (501c4).

**2021**



NDNV engaged in its first North Dakota Legislative Assembly. With 935 bills and resolutions introduced, NDNV help educate and advocate for the Native community in ND. Our internal team grew to support our work, hiring administrative and communications staff. We also celebrated a big win, splitting house districts for two Reservations in ND (Fort Berthold and Turtle Mountain)

**2023**



This year, NDNV is engaging in its 2nd Legislative Assembly, tracking and monitoring bills that may adversely impact voting rights and Tribal Sovereignty. We are continuing to build our Rural Climate and Energy Program. We are building on the first five years of progress and growth and planning our next, with our inaugural Strategic Plan.

# Expand Our Grassroots Organizing

North Dakota Native Vote prides itself on creating grassroots efforts. Grassroots community organizing is defined as a movement that uses people in a community as the basis for political or economic action. Since 2018, we have been working to create grassroots organizing culture across the communities we serve. Grassroots movements and organizations use collective action from the local level to create change. Grassroots organizing puts an emphasis on a bottom-up, rather than top-down decision-making environment. They are sometimes considered more natural or spontaneous than traditional power structures.

1.1 Extend our community stakeholder list to 2,500 by December 31, 2024.

1.2 Develop an indigenous grassroots community organizing curriculum by December 31, 2025.

1.3 Establish an office space on each reservation in North Dakota by December 31, 2026.

1.4 Hire and train 4 Part-Time Permanent Field Organizers by January 31, 2027.

1.5 Build a network of Indigenous Organizers at the local and state level by December 31, 2028.

1.6 Develop a community organizing impact analysis and report by December 31, 2029.



North Dakota Native Vote was created through dynamic partnerships that responded to an immediate need. We continue to strengthen our network as we have learned from our communities and partners. The future success of our advocacy depends on the connectedness of our communities. We will work to help tribal communities find their voice and identify our shared priorities as a collective. Our goal is to create comprehensive and sustainable campaigns that utilize the inherent strength of the people we serve. Our objectives here focus on our internal and external partners to empower each individual to achieve our mission and vision.

2.4 Hire a Lead Organizer to execute field campaigns for community engagement by December 31, 2027.

2.5 Increase team capacity to meet the needs of stakeholders by December 31, 2028.

2.6 Publish 5 annual reports for stakeholders by December 31, 2029.



# 3

## Build Our Community Power

North Dakota Native Vote is dedicated to meet our communities where they are. Our vision requires more than votes and policy work, it needs action. We must be in partnership with local leaders who are encouraging and equipping future generations to increase the representation of Native voices and Native faces in leadership. We want to support all people who represent our values by creating winning strategies and being persistent. This requires us to have interpersonal balance to listen and identify issues to organize around. This requires us to reclaim our culture to meet the immediate needs of our communities. We are committed to being in partnership with our community as we work to build equal representation of our people.

3.1 Expand fundraising capacity by creating a 501c3 program by December 31, 2024.

3.2 Create a candidacy training program with partners and allies for tribal communities by March 31, 2025.

3.3 Conduct a community assessment to expand our issues portfolio by December 31, 2026.

3.4 Establish a Memorandum of Understanding with Tribal Governments to provide GOTV support and Legislative support by December 31, 2027.

3.5 Provide direct support to tribal communities through technical assistance, research, budget analysis, and policy analysis by December 31, 2028.

3.6 Host 5 Regional Meetings for stakeholders and partners by December 31, 2029

# 4

## Reclaim Our Culture

North Dakota Native Vote was founded in 2018 when the votes of Native Americans across North Dakota were threatened. Through community organizing, we quickly formed a movement to respond. Since that time, we've been active in holding federal, state, and county governments accountable for laws and regulations. We are working to reclaim the values and culture that years of colonization destroyed. Our goal is to enhance leadership for North Dakota's Native people and be a resource that promotes tribal self-determination. The objectives have been strategically developed to align with significant events over the coming years and are tied to constructing a representative democracy.

4.1 Increase the number of polling places by December 31, 2024.

4.2 Hire a Full-Time Budget & Policy Analyst by December 31, 2025.

4.3 Develop a state legislative program for tribal communities by December 31, 2026.

4.4 Create a sustainability plan for Get Out The Vote efforts beyond December 31, 2027.

4.5 Boost voter turnout by increasing the number of polling sites in each reservation county by December 31, 2028.

4.6 Develop Decennial Census Engagement Plan by December 31, 2029.

# Support Our Vision

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