North Dakota Native Vote

Annual Report
2022

SKoVoteDen!

NDNATIVEVOTE.ORG

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:

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

Letter from the Executive Director

Hello my relatives,

I am excited about going into our fifth year of operation as North Dakota Native Vote! We are building on the progress that we have made since 2018. Beginning with our inception and launch, engaging in the legislative process, inspiring our relatives to participate in the first ever digital Census, advocating for fair legislative mapping with the implementation of the first ever sub districts that elected two new Native American legislators, creating the foundation for Native owned Voter Access Network, reaching our first $1 million dollar budget, and building our team to 5 full time permanent staff. WE have come a long way in what seems like the blink of an eye.

As we move into 2023, I look forward to all that we will accomplish in the next year. We are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead and are committed to building on our successes of the past 5 years. We will continue to focus on expanding our impact by expanding our staff, improving our operations by keeping an ongoing regimen of professional development, and strengthening our partnerships with key allies and stakeholders. We are also committed to remaining agile and adaptable, recognizing that the only constant in our world today is change.

Our financial performance has remained strong despite the challenges posed by the pandemic. We have been able to maintain a healthy cash position and have continued to invest in our programs and services. We have also taken steps to ensure that our operations are sustainable in the long-term, by investing in infrastructure and technology that will enable us to be more efficient and effective in our work. As always, we remain committed to our mission of serving our communities.

I am grateful to our Board of Directors. We have a topnotch Board. Throughout this year, their independent judgment and expert perspectives have been a huge benefit to North Dakota Native Vote and to our communities. Our emerging culture is anchored in the core values of tradition, kinship, respect, and integrity.

As you will see in our program narratives, we have put bridging data science and culture at the forefront of our work. By collecting and studying data, we are discovering the most effective strategies for maximizing our outreach and working on ways to implement it into all facets of our work. As it is often said, "if you can't measure it, you can't manage it", so in order to effectively manage a process or system, it is important to be able to quantify and measure its performance. These processes will lead us to a clear understanding of how well our programs are performing, and how to identify areas for improvement, make data informed decisions, and set realistic goals.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to our dedicated staff, volunteers, and partners, whose hard work and commitment have been critical to our success over the past year. I would also like to thank our community members for their continued support, and for their trust in North Dakota Native Vote. Your collective investment in our mission and work is critical to all of our success, and we remain deeply grateful for your trust and confidence.

Pilamayaye!
Nicole Donaghy
Kampeška Činkila Wiŋ

Board of Directors

WES DAVIS

Chair
Turtle Mountain
Band of Chippewa

KIRSTIN CAVANAUGH

Vice Chair
Spirit Lake Nation

JONATHAN CATCH THE BEAR

At Large
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

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At Large
Spirit Lake Nation

JODY DELONG

At Large
Turtle Mountain
Band of Chippewa

BERNADETTE DAUENHAUER

At Large
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

Staff

NICOLE DONAGHY

Executive Director
Standing Rock
Sioux Tribe

SHARNELL SEABOY

Rural Climate &
Energy Organizer
Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate

JESSICA BEHELER

Communications
Coordinator
Standing Rock
Sioux Tribe

DEVERO YELLOW EARRING

Program Director
Cheyenne River
Lakota Nation

DAWNELLE RED HORN

Office Administrator
Standing Rock
Sioux Trbe

Our Programs

Get Out The Vote

The 2022 Mid-Term Election was a momentous year for voters in North Dakota. Since the founding of North Dakota Native Vote (NDNV), our reach and impact has grown. We continue to educate, organize, and mobilize Native American communities across the state. We worked to build on the 2020 Presidential Election by producing a fully operational Field Outreach Campaign. Our Get Out The Vote (GOTV) efforts continue to build trust in the communities we serve. The primary focus of our GOTV campaign is to help voters on the reservation update their IDs, verify their addresses, and find their polling place. The North Dakota Voter Identification Law has continued to disproportionately impact Native American voters by requiring a physical address on identification cards to vote.

NDNV works to provide voter education and support to voters who live in Fort Berthold, Spirit Lake, Standing Rock, and Turtle Mountain Reservations. These four reservations are split between seven counties. Each having varied election plans and polling places.

To vote in North Dakota, electors must have a residential address listed on their identification cards. Due to the lack of a registration system, voter data is oversimplified and makes it difficult to determine the number of Native Americans who vote in the elections. Thus, making it difficult to utilize existing databases, like the Voter Access Network to do targeted outreach in rural reservation communities. Voters who live within these reservation boundaries face various challenges in accessing a ballot in an election which tend to include a lack of resources to update sufficient identification cards, transportation, limited broadband, infrastructure for local postal services, and a limited number of poll locations or voting centers. All of which contribute to negatively impacting voter confidence and voter turnout.

Get Out The Vote

The North Dakota Secretary of State Office has voter information available on its website. We use the eligible voter population for each county to help us track turnout. The table below shows the total eligible voters for each reservation county.

Eligible Voters in Reservation Counties

Reservation	County	Eligible Voters
Fort Berthold	Dunn	3,235
	McKenzie	9,360
	McLean	7,370
	Mountrail	7,325
Spirit Lake	Benson	4,510
Standing Rock	Sioux	2,825
Turtle Mountain	Rolette	9,500
Total Number of Voters in Reservation Counties		44,125
Total % of State Voters from Reservation Counties		8%

https://vip.sos.nd.gov/PortalList.aspx
*There are no Native American identifiers due to no voter registration system.

Voter Turnout Trends by County & State

County	2016 Election	2018 Election	2020 Election	2022 Election	Average Turnout
Dunn	66%	62% ↓	71% ↑	52% ↓	63%
McLean	72%	67% ↓	74% ↑	58% ↓	68%
McKenzie	60%	48% ↓	58% ↑	35% ↓	50%
Mountrail	56%	51% ↓	55% ↑	36% ↓	50%
Benson	45%	50% ↑	44% ↓	33% ↓	43%
Sioux	45%	53% ↑	42% ↓	21% ↓	40%
Rolette	39%	53% ↑	40% ↓	29% ↓	40%
Statewide	61%	57% ↓	63% ↑	43% ↓	56%

Data Democracy Project

The Data Democracy Project (DDP) is a partnership between North Dakota Native Vote (NDNV) and Mato Ohitika Analytics LLC (MOA) that works to support a permanent state-based engagement program that empowers citizens to participate in civic life. NDNV fosters sustainable and positive social change through community organizing, mobilization, leadership development, education, civic engagement, and public policy advocacy.

The DDP partnership utilizes the strength of MOA's Data Sovereignty Initiative (DSI) to create Native led data collection systems suited to the unique experience of Native American people living on their reservation homelands. The DDP seeks to identify the role that data science plays in understanding the complex nature of how data models the nature of human interactions through culture, citizenship, democratic influences of voter suppression, gerrymandering, and grassroots organizing.

Problem Statement

The origins of this project were centered on developing digital infrastructure that indigenous grassroots organizations could use to better understand campaign planning, voter tracking, advanced geographic information systems (GIS) mapping, and election analysis. MOA's DSI framework seeks to democratize data for communities' benefit to tell stories about the history of Native voter disenfranchisement and to examine carefully the voter and census data to inform tribal citizens of their right to vote.
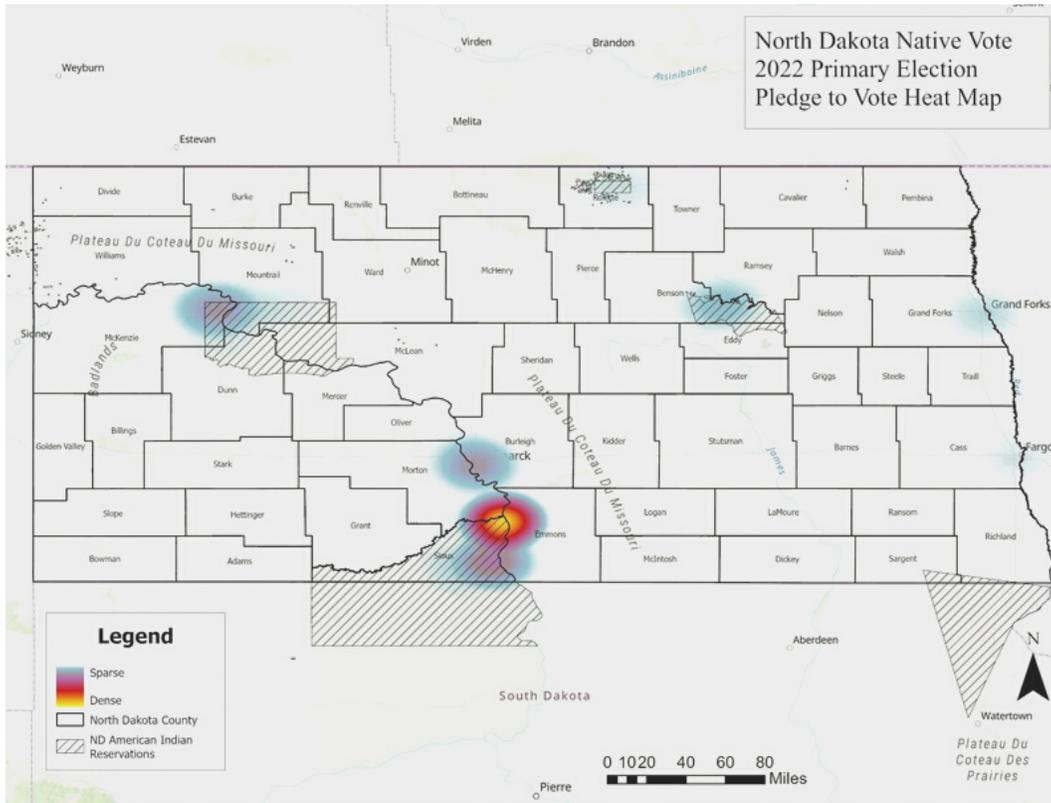
The DDP partnership is an indigenous led collective of professionals that lead with cultural knowledge and kinship systems to promote a sense of responsibility towards every individual that works within American Indian communities for the betterment of society and democracy

In addition, key impending issues that could help in the educational nature of this data driven decision making is focused on:

- How quickly could solutions be created that reflect the outcomes of the 2022 North Dakota primary and general elections and beyond?

- What are strategies to assist in telling stories about the importance of voting and participating in democracy?

- What is the impact of gerrymandering within American Indian reservation boundaries as they stand from the 2020 census redistricting?

- How do we tell stories in meaningful ways to American Indian communities in North Dakota?

- What does a comprehensive long-term strategic plan look like in the development of artificial intelligence (AI) / machine learning (ML) techniques to confront the settler colonialism constructs for truth telling about our shared history in this country?

Data Democracy Project

Heat Map: Pledge to Vote Canvass 2022 North Dakota Primary Election

North Dakota Native Vote
2022 Primary Election
Pledge to Vote Heat Map

Legend
- Sparse
- Dense
- North Dakota County
- ND American Indian Reservations

Voting History in North Dakota

The history of Native Americans' right to vote in North Dakota is pervasive and often misunderstood in the context of the formation of the United States and subsequent drafting and ratification of the U.S. Constitution. American Indians appear in the U.S. Constitution with pervasive term in Article I Section 2 Clause 3, "excluding Indians not taxed" which was not the historical basis of tax exemption, rather it described a philosophical basis of treating Indians as well as "those bound to service for a term of years" (i.e. Slaves / three fifths rule) as means of controlling apportionment of the House of Representatives every ten years.

Although the three-fifths compromise was deemed a "necessary sacrifice to promote a great diversity of interests of the union" through census and apportionment of seats; nonetheless citizenship of American Indians and the right to vote was not adjudicated until the 1920's (Indian Citizenship Act) and full voting rights granted by states did not fully happen in fifty states until 1962 (Utah was final state to remove restrictions), 174 years after the founding of the country.

North Dakota in particular in its written constitution in 1889 determined citizenship with exception: "Civilized persons of Indian descent who shall have severed their tribal relations two years next preceding such election" with the obvious expressed intent to exclude Native Americans from the electorate which was not amended in its constitution to remove the restricted voting rights of Indians until June 24, 1958.

Data Democracy Project
Voting History in North Dakota

Thus, in the case of North Dakota notwithstanding the similar voter suppression tactics of Jim Crowe in the South was also used to prevent Indians from voting despite the change in North Dakota's constitution (1958); American Indians right to vote in Federal elections cycles (1788-2020) in North Dakota has only been 17/59 (28.8%) since the founding of the United States. The tragic irony of this nearly two centuries of voter disenfranchisement is at the heart of advocating for modern voting rights through the DDP.

Strategic Implementation and Outcomes

Over the past year, the DDP has been actively working on a pilot project that worked in a number of capacities to implement data science solutions into NDNV's workflow and intelligence gathering. These deliverables are part of a collective model to expand and work in other states where strengthening Native American voting rights are also a priority. Some of the pilot project outcomes that are part of this model are:

- Creating pilot maps of state census districts.
- Policy level intelligence gathering of county commission and precinct level voting outcomes.
- Developing rural landscape analyses such as polling stations, transportation routes, and precinct locations to assist in a broader pledge to vote for the 2022 & 2024 elections and beyond.
- Create data collection systems to track voter data and to utilize data in strategic decision-making throughout the project in real-time.
- Developing GEO-AI to study urban and rural gerrymandering in voting.

Data Democracy Project Next Steps

The DDP partnership is actively working on data driven solutions that utilize data science to make real time decisions based on the data collected through indigenous data sovereignty. This strategic act of sovereignty is part of MOA's DSI designs to generate data owned and controlled by indigenous communities to strengthen self-determination. Current and future work that are actively in development:

- Develop Geo-Artificial Intelligence for urban gerrymandering and voter targeting through geo spatial modeling
- Further develop codebase to utilize 2020 Census data for model integration
- Develop Voter Action Network (VAN) protocols for data governance and AI ethics
- Project management planning for the 2024 presidential election
- Developing additional Story Maps on Voting
- Build a geodatabase of voters from election rolls
- Expand Voter Action Network to neighboring states

Grassroots Democracy Program

North Dakota Native Vote is designated a 501 (c)(4) non-profit organization while we are primarily focused on promoting social welfare, we have the ability to engage our stakeholders in civic engagement activities, and political activism.

Our work supports Native American candidates who pursue an elected seat by running for office in local or statewide elections. Each election cycle we develop a plan that outlines the strategy, timeline, and the cost of our political activities for that election cycle. Our goal is to increase representation for Native American communities across the North Dakota political landscape.

The Native vote in North Dakota has the power to decide state and local elections which has been proven in the 2012 Election with a Fort Berthold precinct deciding a narrow victory for US Senate. It has been proven that direct voter contact, particularly face to face, is the single most effective strategy for voter persuasion and mobilization. However, in Native communities, we must approach our fieldwork differently than traditional electoral canvassing.

In 2022, we bolstered our face-to-face, traditional grassroots tactics and employed on the ground field organizers that delivered our Get out the Vote message and supported local candidates. We worked with our Board of Directors to establish our slate of targeted races to support our Native American candidates through Independent Expenditures and political endorsement.

The completion of the 2020 Census kicked off the redistricting process and NDNV advocated for split house districts for four of North Dakota's Tribal Nations. The 7-month process ended with 2 of the 4 reservations with split house districts, a big win for North Dakota's Native People. Through that process and visible advocacy, there was an unprecedented number of Native candidates running for office in 2022. A first in North Dakota's history.

In June 2022, NDNV launched a vigorous voter outreach program to inform tribal communities on the electoral process, the process of obtaining proper identification to vote, and endorsements of local Native American candidates in the General Election.

Grassroots Democracy Program

- Extensive relational organizing training for part time local field organizers and volunteers
- Tabling at events and place-based canvassing
- Voter guides for each county
- Independent expenditure campaign endorsements for targeted candidates
- Recruit participants to our Pledge to Vote platform to track voter outreach
- Grassroots storytelling and testimonials
- Sent flights of informational direct mail to our target legislative districts to persuade voters to support our candidates down the ballot
- Create a landing page on our website laying out the process of obtaining a valid ID and where to vote

Our legislative targets focused on districts that have a large majority of eligible Native voters or competitive districts where Native Americans were running for office.

2022 North Dakota Legislative Races			
U.S. Congressional Seats		North Dakota State Legislature	
U.S. Senate	U.S. House	Senate	House of Representatives
1 (Class III Senate Seat)	1 (At-Large House of Representatives Seat)	24 Senate Seats (Odd Numbered Districts)	47 House Seats (Odd Numbered Districts)
North Dakota Legislative Redistricting Special Election Seats			
District 8, 10, 20, 26, 28, 36, and 44 (one Senate member and two House members) (Redistricting)	Subdistricts 4A and 4B (for one House member each) (Redistricting)	District 6 (for one Senate member) (Redistricting)	District 24 (for two House members) (Redistricting)

NDNV supported the election of endorsed candidates through independent expenditure campaigns. Our endorsements included mailers, newspaper/radio ads, strategically placed digital and social media posts.

Grassroots Democracy Program

| North Dakota Native Vote | | | |
| Independent Expenditure Report | | | |
Legislative District	Legislative Chamber	Candidate	Win or Loss
4A	House	Lisa Finley-Deville	WIN
9A	House	Jayme Davis	WIN
9	Senate	Richard Marcellais	LOSS
15	House	Heather Skadsem-Lawrence	LOSS
15	Senate	Colette Brown	LOSS
27	House	Ruth Buffalo	LOSS

Rural Climate & Energy Program

Rural Climate and Energy Democracy Rural Electric Cooperatives (REC's) power 56% of the Nation's landmass; they power over 20 million homes, businesses, schools, and farms in 47 states; and serve 42 million people across 88% of United States counties, including 93% of those with persistent poverty.

Nationally, more than half of all Native American lands are at least partially served by REC's. Currently RECs Governance is overwhelmingly male and white and not at all reflective of the communities that they serve. REC governance can impact communities in a variety of positive ways. They not only determine local utility bills and energy choice, but also can serve as vehicles for federal and private resources and investments in community and economic development and for policy making and community revitalization.

North Dakota Native Vote is working to bring awareness and lasting change through our Rural Climate and Energy Democracy campaign. Our program goals are to build representation on REC governance boards, create access energy choice to alleviate energy burden, create a pathway to transition from fossil fuels to clean and renewable energy, and to work on policy that promotes energy sovereignty.

North Dakota Native has invested in local organizing efforts to increase civic engagement, cultivate grassroots leaders, and to build strong local networks of motivated and inspired individuals who are committed to creating change for their communities.

Content Creation

According to our 2022 end of the year Meltwater report we had 2 articles posted in top publications such as Daily Kos, MinotDailyNews.com, The Bismarck Tribune, Public News Service, Froggy 99.9 and Trend Fool. Our most popular articles were reposted to Yahoo News and reached up to 70 million views.

We have a neutral overall sentiment in our articles. We created content which included flyers, social media posts, mail-outs and yard signs during both the General and Primary Elections for all of our endorsed candidates.

This past year we also worked on the branding of our organization and vision for our new website which is an ongoing work in progress.

ATTENDED EVENTS & MADE CONNECTIONS
- WORC Annual BOD & Staff Meeting (online)
- Principals of Community Organizing Training
- Native American Communications Cohort
- GDP Cohort
- JPB Story Telling & Small Donor Spring Board
- Halloweeen Event/Outreach
- New Town Civic Center General Election Goodie Table

Reach & Analytics:
(Jan. 01, 2022 to Nov. 20, 2022)

Facebook:
Paid Reach: 23,158 up 100%
Paid impressions: 64,374 up 100% total spent on ads this year was $547.20
Page Reach: 46,683 up 39.7%
Page Visits is up 190%
200 new page likes up 11%

Instagram:
Page Reach: 3,370 up 879.7%
Page Visits up 32%
89 new followers (same)

Twitter:
Impressions: 22,406
Avg. Daily Impressions: 73
New Followers: 53

LinkedIn:
Impressions: 2,063
Reposts: 21
Reactions: 117

Public News Service Reach

PNS published 6 NDNV stories in 2022

Unique number of media outlets that used the stories: 1085

Outlets that used two or more story elements: 690

Website Audience: 575

Public Audience: 4,712,507

Most Popular article: "Economic Pressure Builds Ahead of Elections in Tribal Elections"

Audience Reached: 1,154,583

Financial Report

2022 began with $385,667 in reserve. Our expected fundraising goal was $335,500 but exceeded our fundraising goal by bringing in an extra $336,000, and just over $11,000 in individual donations bringing our entire budget to $1,051,561 for 2022.

Our payroll expense included 5 full time permanent staff and 4 part time temporary staff. Our program budget is our 2nd biggest expense, which included our Get Out the Vote program, political program, and Rural Climate and Energy campaign work.
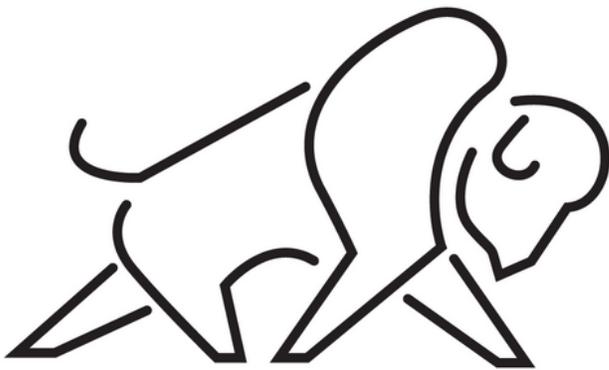
North Dakota Native Vote
Budget Report
2022 - 2023

INCOME	BUDGET
EXTERNAL INCOME	
FOUNDATIONS AND OTHER GRANTS C4	570,910
FOUNDATIONS AND OTHER GRANTS C3 SPONSOR	469,566
TOTAL EXTERNAL INCOME	$ 1,040,476
INTERNAL INCOME	
INDIVIDUAL DONORS	11,085
TOTAL INTERNAL INCOME	$ 11,085
TOTAL INCOME	$ 1,051,561
EXPENSES	
Payroll expense	318,509
Program	104,469
Occupancy	66,007
Professional fees	72,408
Miscellaneous	4,671
TOTAL EXPENSES	$ 566,064
NET INCOME	$ 485,497

Where are we going in 2023?

North Dakota Native Vote is committed to building stronger and more resilient communities through grassroots community organizing. Our goal is to create a sustainable, equitable, and just society where every individual has access to basic needs such as food, shelter, education, and healthcare.

As 2023 is not an election year, we will pivot our focus toward expanding our Rural Electric Cooperative Reform campaign. It has become increasingly apparent that our communities have been left behind by the policies and investments that provide urban areas the option for sustainability. To address these challenges, NDNV is working to engage our base of stakeholders through our field program that focuses on community organizing, leadership development, and advocacy.

Where are we going in 2023?

Legislative Assembly

Every biennium, North Dakota Native Vote engages in the North Dakota State Legislature to be a key resource and support system to our North Dakota Tribal Communities. We work to influence policy that can have detrimental effects on our Native communities. In 2023, we will create various educational tools that demonstrate the importance of civic engagement that will be shared across our digital platforms.

Our goals for 2023 are to track issues that are important to our tribal nations such as election reform, education, voting rights, extraction issues, victim's rights and protections, and issues that affect our families and youth.

2024 Presidential Election

Native American people are at a critical moment in the political discourse of our Nation. The Native vote has the power to swing elections and determine political leadership for our communities, if we could clear institutional obstacles that limit our participation in civic systems.

In 2023, we will continue our partnership with Mato Ohitika Analytics, LLC to analyze how harmful policies, social disparities, top-down decision making, historical data, and public data impacts the communities from which it is extracted.

North Dakota Native Vote and Mato Ohitika Analytics will work to further develop data that reflects lived experience of our Native American relatives. We will utilize our data framework that is tailored to the unique experience of Native American people living on our reservation homelands. We will work to identify the role that data science plays in understanding the complex nature of how data models the nature of human interactions through culture, citizenship, democratic influences of voter suppression, gerrymandering, and grassroots organizing.

North Dakota Native Vote and Mato Ohitika Analytics, LLC will work to support a permanent, state-based civic engagement program through our Pledge to Vote platform that empowers citizens to participate in civic life. We believe in building a powerful movement led by Native people, and rooted in local communities to create change and build lasting power.

One obvious lesson that we've learned in 2022 is that we must maintain continuous visibility and voter engagement in our communities to build voter confidence, increase awareness on important issues, and increase voter turnout. To do this we will expand our field program that is rooted in community-based, year-round, culturally connected grassroots organizing, tailored to each specific community.

It has been proven that direct voter contact, particularly face to face, is the single most effective strategy for voter persuasion and mobilization. However, in Native communities we approach our field work differently than traditional canvassing. We will hire and train field organizers to use our relational organizing model as a way to build relationships and engage our communities. A fully funded campaign will include a robust canvass program on all tribal nations in North Dakota. NDNV is the most effective messenger to mobilize the Native vote in North Dakota and to inspire our relatives to engage in the systems that have historically forgotten our voices. We're on our way to the 2024 Presidential Election!

THANK YOU!

PRAIRIE KNIGHTS CASINO & RESORT

CANDESKA CIKANA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

OUᴎ

DON MORRISON

OUR RELATIVES

FUNDERS

PARTNERS

AND TRIBAL LEADERS