



2018



ANNUAL REPORT

Natives Leading Nations



A letter from the Executive Director

In February 2014, I graciously accepted the position as Executive Director of Western Native Voice. We were working on building a strong foundation and at the time had two employees, over 6000 members and an amazing board of directors. Today, we have five permanent staff, leaders rooted across the nation, and several temporary staff that lead our community-based programs. The organization has expanded and invested in communities, partnerships, and leaders. The results can be heard in the personal stories of sparks we have ignited, voter turnout numbers, and the number of Indigenous people engaged and running for office.

Today, our emphasis is on finding the unsung heroes in Montana's Indian country and providing them with opportunities to develop their leadership and policy making skills through one on one training, group activities, and educational workshops.

We provide opportunities for people that want and need to be heard, and is the reason we have been so successful in getting out the vote in underserved areas of Montana. Our annual report not only provides the facts and figures, it demonstrates that our models work. As you turn each page, you will see our members, volunteers, communities and staff, hard at work.

In 2018, Montana tribal communities were exposed to new exciting opportunities. WNV launched an internship program and the Billings Youth Leadership Program. Through hard work and dedication, we increased our membership by 2463 and had an 80% voter turnout of our 10,401 members. We registered 2105 voters, and of those registered, 80% showed up to vote. After all was said and done, we celebrated a whopping 60.3% overall record breaking voting turnout across Montana's Indian Country!

Throughout this report, you will also find data from the 2018 Election Impact report on the seven federally recognized tribal nations in Montana. This summary of findings draws on data from the messages sent, doors knocked on, rides given to the polls and it shows that we make a difference in voter turnout when we all work together.

From the smallest, most isolated tribal nation in Montana, to the urban areas and everywhere in between, only we have the experience and culturally tailored community organizing and citizen education model, to give Native people the tools they need to become leaders and change makers in their communities and across the state.

Our future plans are to continue to build leadership in Native communities, advance economic development, educate people on how policy making decisions impact their daily lives, rock the Native vote and expand our youth engagement program. We hold deep gratitude to our gracious donors, sponsors, staff and volunteers, for making these victories possible. With your contributions and support, we continue to build strong leaders, both young and old, in Indian Country. Leaders that make new life changing policies, build confidence, and help bring a sense of hope and positive change to their respective communities.

Thank you for raising voices for those that have been silent far too long.

Sincerely,

Marci McLean-Pollock

"Our engagement is critical to creating positive change in our families and communities from elections to implementation of laws."

-Marci McLean-Pollock

Our Staff

Marci McLean-Pollock
Executive Director

Ta'jin Perez
Program Manager

Leah Berry
Development Manager

Cinda Burke-Meineke
Outreach & Engagement
Director

Krystal Hill
Financial Controller

John Old Elk
Campaign Coordinator

310 N 27th Street
PO Box 1018
Billings, MT 59103
406.869.1938
800.729.3540
westernnativevoice.org



mission

To foster sustainable positive social change in our communities through community organizing and mobilization, leadership development, education, civic engagement, and public policy advocacy.

*...positive social
change...equality...
safety...success...*

vision

We strive for a world absent of discrimination and inequality, where every human has equal access to safety and success. Building on the successes of our ancestors, we equip community members with the tools to address local community needs and enhance political and personal power.



our story

Western Native Voice was established in 2011 and is a non-profit, non-partisan social justice organization. We inspire Native leadership through civic engagement, education, leadership, and advocacy.

We work with seven of Montana's tribal nations and three urban centers to promote community based, proactive strategies to advance racial, gender, class, social, economic, and environmental justice.

Our year round, culturally tailored community organizing model ensures Native Americans are leading discussions and decisions that affect their lives.

Of the 7% of Montana's Native population, half lives on a reservation and the other half lives in urban areas.

OUR FUTURE PLANS

- Volunteer engagement
- Data collection
- Member engagement
- Leadership development
- Homegrown prosperity work
- Youth engagement

“What guides our work is the direct action of tribal community members to create and implement change from their families to the policy level.” -Marci McLean-Pollock

FOSTERING SOCIAL CHANGE

Western Native Voice's advocacy program is centered on equality, social justice, economic justice, environmental justice, protecting Native American rights and tribal sovereignty.

We ensure the Native voice is part of public policy, from creation to implementation. We focus on an array of issues, determined by the communities we serve, including, but not limited to, language and cultural preservation, suicide prevention, tribal sovereignty, voting rights, access to quality healthcare, quality education, and quality affordable foods.

We have a strong Native presence at the Montana State Legislature. Staff and members engage in holding elected officials accountable to adequately address our issues. We rely on member communication tactics and relationships with Native and non-Native allies, including tribal governments and tribal colleges. Our success is only as strong as our members.

SOCIAL IMPACT

“Community Advocacy”

Regalia Bill Implementation

Community Meeting Tour

State Tribal Relations

Interim Committee Drafted
5 MMIW Bills





EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES

We educate Native Americans on opportunities and strategies to expand and inspire engagement in civic leadership. Our program is tailored to meet the unique needs of each audience. Our education program reaches high schools, colleges, tribal organizations, and other non-profit organizations.

Topics Include:

- Policies—old, new, proposed
- How citizen action influences lawmakers
- How policy making affects our daily lives
- History and power of Native voting

We provide opportunities for developing and implementing strategies to expand and inspire leadership and civic action. Our programs are tailored to meet the desires of each unique audience, in high schools, colleges, tribal organizations and other ally organizations. Through our outreach and engagement we equip local leaders to employ the skills they gain to create the change they wish to see. Over 300 people have attended our trainings.

SOCIAL IMPACT

“Inspire and Expand”

Tribal College Tour
High School Presentations

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



We use a culturally relevant community organizing model to train emerging leaders and engage our members. Our customized training shares the principles and best practices of community organizing with respect to all Indigenous identities.

We recruit, hire and train interns from the tribal colleges and universities, conduct one-on-one interviews with potential Native American leaders to assess interests and skills, and host leadership development conferences and trainings to expand and deepen the leadership pool in Indian Country. We aim to have leaders equipped to address issues in our communities from tribal government to federal government and engage allies in our movements.

Our Program:

- Identifies and trains the new generation of Native leaders
- Builds a circle of leaders from Native communities
- Cultivates a strong base of civic leaders and public servants in Native communities
- Builds relationships with other organizations working for racial, social, environmental, and economic justice. We partner with Native and non-Native, reservation and urban, and local, national and regional organizations
- Fosters a national coalition to increase leadership in Indian Country

SOCIAL IMPACT

“Identify, Equip and Empower”

Internships
Billings Youth Leadership
Program Launch

“It’s important for change to happen in our communities. Vote for change. And know who you’re voting for...it’s important even when you’re young.”

-Joshlynn Monroe, Student





INFORMED AND ENGAGED

Our civic engagement program emphasizes the need for everyone to fulfill their civic duty in all levels from school boards to county and statewide positions.

Our program includes voter registration, voter mobilization, Get Out the Vote (GOTV) activities, training on public narrative and mobilizing individuals to take action on issues important to them. Along with our allies, we work to increase the number of new registered voters, voter turnout, and engagement with elected officials.

Our robust GOTV program works to mobilize voters during early in-person voting and on election day. During early in-person voting we offer ballot pick up, drop off and replacement, rides to drop off ballots, and GOTV efforts during satellite election office hours. We canvas neighborhoods from the corners of our nations to the centers of our cities. We help to protect the voter by conducting poll watching, providing information on voter rights and monitoring policy that impacts voting access. All of our citizen engagement work is nonpartisan.

Public Service

We share information on the importance of civic participation, how and why to engage, and what we can accomplish by fulfilling our civic duty. Through community outreach and engagement, we increase participation in public service and amplify the Native voice by:

- Providing intern and volunteer opportunities
- Provide training on running for elected positions, such as, energy and school boards, tribal, city, county, state and federal positions
- Facilitating appointments to boards and commissions

SOCIAL IMPACT

“Outreach, Engagement & Participation”

Voter Registration

Voter Turnout- Increases in 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018

Volunteer Engagement

Protecting Voting Access

Leadership

DIANA BURD, BLACKFEET

I have learned so much about the legislative process thanks to Western Native Voice. I have so much respect for our legislators and what they do. I realized if we want our voice to be heard this is the place to do it. I was more amazed with the fact that this experience has changed my husband and his thinking. Within a few days, I watched his attitude change. He went from being an observer to standing up and testifying on House Bill 219, Montana Indigenous Peoples' Day. I recommend that everyone pay attention to Western Native Voice to learn what bills are being introduced that affect our communities.

“My culture is my guiding force and provides stability in my life. My sense of identity is very important to the change I work towards in my community.”



Chase Comes at Night

Mr. Chase Comes At Night was inspired to take up a leadership role when negativity started circulating in his community, specifically pertaining to the view of Native Americans in Montana. He was inspired to take action when he met Marci McLean, Executive Director of Western Native Voice, and Clint Valandra, home-to-school coordinator at Skyview High School. They encouraged him to start taking leadership roles from small to large.

Chase, a graduate from Skyview High School in Billings, served on the District 2 Billings Schools Tribal Council, a council comprised of Native American students from the three Billings public high schools. Chase, along with other Native American students from across Montana, testified in support of Senate Bill 319, also known as the Regalia Bill, a law which protects the right for individuals to wear tribal regalia and objects of culture significance at public events such as high school graduations. He shared his Regalia Bill experience and voice at the 1st Annual Indigenous Movements Interchange conference while on the youth voices panel. Chase is currently studying law at the University of Montana.

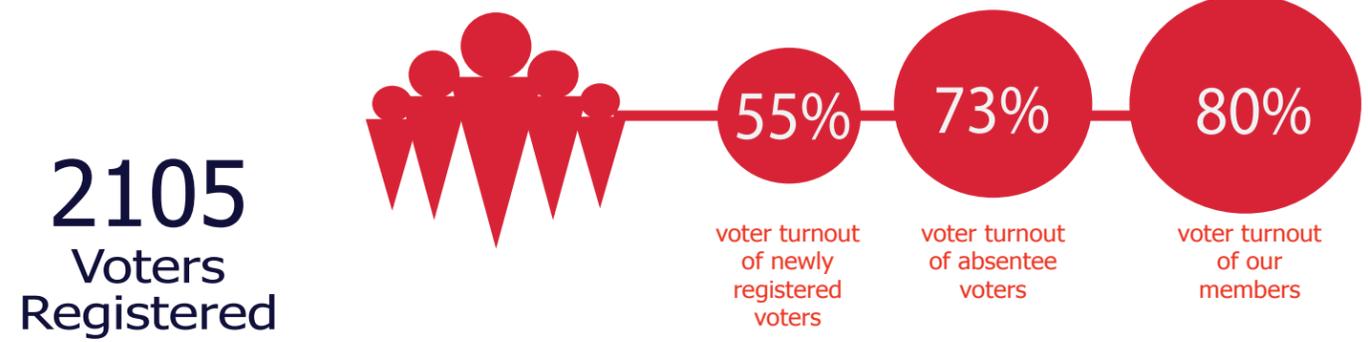
“In the next five years I want to see the younger generations of every background and ethnicity group taking on leadership roles. The leadership role does not have to be on a political scale but on a scale where the world is made a better place.”

2018 Highlights



80%
voter turnout of people WNV contacted to get out and vote

Voter Turnout



60% Record Breaking Turnout Across Montana Indian country

64% Registered to Vote by Mail

7705 more people voted in this midterm election than in the last 2014 midterm election

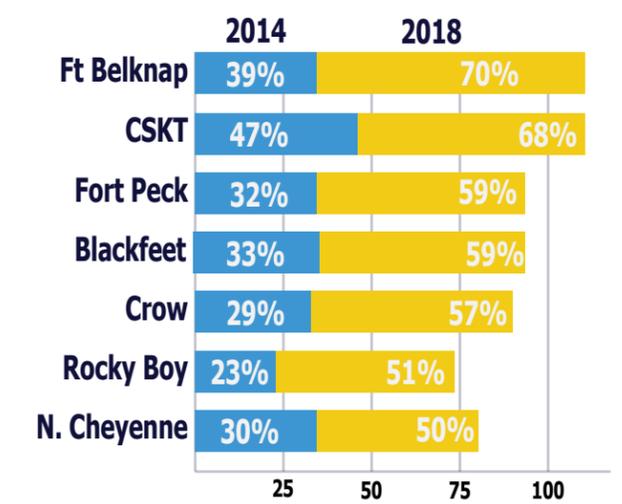
853 ballots picked up

482 rides given to polls

33,769 doors knocked on

11,064 text messages sent

Voter Turnout Increases On All Reservations



2018 FINANCIALS

Ordinary Income/ Expense	Jan - Dec 18
Income	
Donations	178,838.71
Program Revenue	1,000.00
Grants	640,500.00
Fundraising Event Income	280.00
Other Income	299,163.24
Total Income	1,119,781.95
Expense	
Fiscal Fee	25,874.62
Payroll Expenses	482,717.49
Professional Services	12,426.83
Occupancy	13,105.00
Operating Expenses	33,221.83
Telecommunications	8,011.67
Travel	73,306.78
Meeting & Training Expenses	39,232.53
Advertising & Promotion	27,310.47
Fundraising Event Expenses	534.89
Public Outreach Event Expenses	15,253.37
Liability and Renters Insurance	727.47
Merchandise Purchases	17,594.15
Misc. Expenses	1,530.31
Depreciation Expense	3,795.97
Total Expense	754,643.38
Net Ordinary Income	365,138.57
Net Income	365,138.57



THANK YOU TO OUR 2018 DONORS:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Anonymous | Jewish Communal Fund |
| Steve Anthony | Marguerite Jodry |
| Baltimore Community Foundation | Jonathan Juba |
| Laurie Barnard | Kendeda Fund |
| Sarah Beck | Rochelle Kristol |
| Jeff Blatnick | Richard Lytton |
| David Bonderman | Gary MacDonald |
| Alaina Buffalo Spirit | Mariah-Rose McClaren |
| Allison Bush | Johanna McCormick |
| Chickasaw Nation | Elizabeth McGee |
| Robert Coats | Aubrey Menarndt |
| Common Counsel Foundation | Barbara Michelman |
| Community Catalyst, Inc. | Network for Good |
| Roberta Crane | Darcy Nonemacher |
| Katrina Dalrymple | Lea Page |
| John Dawson | Patagonia Works |
| Elli Elliott | PayPal |
| Susan M. Elliott | Tajin Perez |
| Kirsten Feldman | Cheryl Polacek |
| Fidelity Charitable | Janet Putnam |
| Sally Francis | Candida Quinn |
| Robert Gilbreath | Anji Reyner |
| Denise Gill | Rockefeller Family Fund |
| Concetta Gleason | Paulo Ruffino |
| Becky Grey | Julie Shultz |
| Groundswell | Rebecca Skeldon |
| Samantha Gupta | Alissa Snow |
| Jean Guy | Mary Stranahan |
| John Haltiwanger | Alex Street |
| Emily Hardt | William Sussman |
| Deena Heg | Mark Tarantina |
| Russell Hendlin | Tides Foundation |
| Claire Hermann | Gail Trenfield |
| High Stakes Foundation | Mary VanAllen |
| Ichneumon Family Fund | Vanguard Charitable |
| Imagine Nation Brewing Co. | Grant Vernon |
| Stuart Jackson | Katherin Walker |
| Ian Jarvis | Karen Wark |
| | Shirin Wertime |
| | Rebecca Weston |
| | Zachary Winestine |
| | Linda Workman |

WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

DONATE

You can help ensure that Western Native Voice continues doing the necessary work to inspire Native leadership. Your contribution helps us reach our goals to improve the lives of Native Americans and move towards justice and equality. Your contribution to Western Native Voice is tax deductible.

Write a check payable to Western Native Voice and mail to:

Western Native Voice
310 N 27th ST
Billings, MT 59101

Or donate to our wish list:

- Tablets
 - Gas Cards
 - Laptop Computers
 - Video Equipment
 - A building to call home
 - Interactive Electronic Whiteboard
-

VOLUNTEER

Volunteering is a great way to get involved at any level. If you feel strongly about a particular issue and would like to advance the cause, contact us and inquire about volunteering.

BECOME A MEMBER

- Receive notifications and scholarship opportunity to trainings and meetings
- Stay abreast on issues impacting Native families (local to national)
- Receive action alerts during the Montana legislative session, including invitations to testify in Helena (travel stipend opportunity)
- Have your voice be heard

WESTERN NATIVE VOICE

310 N 27th Street

PO Box 1018 • Billings, MT 59103

westernnativevoice.org

406.869.1938 • 800.729.3540

