

Siletz News Letters Policy

Siletz News, a publication of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, is published once a month. Our editorial policy encourages input from readers about stories printed in Siletz News and other Tribal issues.

All letters must include the author's signature, address, and phone number in order to be considered for publication. Siletz News reserves the right to edit any letter for clarity and length, and to refuse publication of any letter or any part of a letter that may contain profane language, libelous statements, personal attacks or unsubstantiated statements.

Not all letters are guaranteed publication upon submission. Published letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Siletz News, Tribal employees, or Tribal Council.

Please type or write legibly. Letters longer than 450 words may be edited for length as approved by Tribal Council Resolution #96-142.

Please note: The general manager of the Siletz Tribe is the editor-in-chief of Siletz News.

Editor-in-Chief: Brenda Bremner
Editor: Diane Rodriguez

To the editor:

We need all of you!

For your loved ones who are incarcerated or you know someone who is, we're their voice. Please help and storm the gates of the State Capitol!

Rally is set for Feb. 19, 2016, from noon to 1 p.m. on the steps of the Capitol building. Would love to see 500 or more people come and support.

If you can't come, you can call, write or email your senator, representative and governor. Measure 11 time does not fit the crime. This law needs to be amended now.

For more info, contact:

Patty Youngblood at pattyyo70@gmail.com

Barb Dickerson at barbspigpen@charter.net

If you and your family and friends can't come, show your support by buying a sweatshirt, T-shirt or tank top at Teespring.com/TimeDoesNotFitTheCrime.

Hope to see you all there!

Roxanne Williams, Tribal Member

Increase in American Indian and Alaska Native US Populations

1990: 1.9 million
2010: 5.2 million

Source: US Census

Elected Representation in US Government

2 Native US Representatives

If representation in Congress was proportional to the US Native population, we would have 2 Native Senators and 7 Native Members of the House.

	Actual	Proportional
Senate	0	2
House	2	7

EVERY NATIVE VOTE COUNTS

64 Native State Legislators

Oklahoma: 22 Native Legislators	Maine: 3 Native Legislators	Maryland: 1 Native Legislator
New Mexico: 9 Native Legislators	South Dakota: 3 Native Legislators	Minnesota: 1 Native Legislator
Montana: 8 Native Legislators	Washington: 2 Native Legislators	North Carolina: 1 Native Legislator
Alaska: 5 Native Legislators	Illinois: 1 Native Legislator	North Dakota: 1 Native Legislator
Arizona: 5 Native Legislators	Kansas: 1 Native Legislator	Wyoming: 1 Native Legislator

Key Issues that Bring Native People to the Ballot Box

- Tribal Government Sovereignty
- Indian Child Welfare
- Education
- Water
- Energy
- Gaming
- Environmental Impact Issues
- Federal Budget & Spending

17 Senators

47 Representatives

Female: 31%
Male: 69%

National Congress of American Indians
Embassy of Tribal Nations
1516 P Street NW | Washington, DC 20005
www.NCAI.org | www.NativeVote.org

National Congress of American Indians

Fast Facts

Top 10 States with the Highest Populations of Voting-Age Natives

The power of the Native Vote has been significant in state races and important national races.

EVERY NATIVE VOTE COUNTS

Map Key:
 Pin: Eligible AIAN Voters in 2010
 %: AIAN population as % of state's total population (18 and over)

Voting Population

66% Registered
Of American Indians and Alaska Natives eligible to vote, only 66% are registered, compared to 74% of eligible non-Hispanic Whites.

1,000,000 Not Registered
34% of the total Native population over 18 – or 1,000,000 eligible voters – is not registered to vote.

Lower Turnout
The turnout rate of American Indian and Alaska Native registered voters is 5 to 14 percentage points lower than the rate of many other racial and ethnic groups.

MONTANA: Building a Base of Power 1990: Montana tribes challenge 1990 redistricting and file case in federal court. 1999: Tribes' influence leads to the appointment of a tribal member as Chair of Redistricting Commission. 2003: Montana creates six American Indian-majority districts. 2006: Nine American Indians serve in the Montana Legislature, reflecting proportion of American Indian state population.	ALASKA: Erosion of Native Districts 1959-2009: State population triples between 1959-2009, though no change in the number of state representatives or legislative districts. 2010: Ballot measure to expand the number of legislative districts fails. 2011: Alaska Redistricting Board merges two Southeast Districts, diminishing rural Native voter impact. 2012: Election loss of long-serving Alaska Native State Senator Albert Kookesh due to redistricting.
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Source: Demos, 2012.