

Protect the Vote

Voter Registration Toolkit

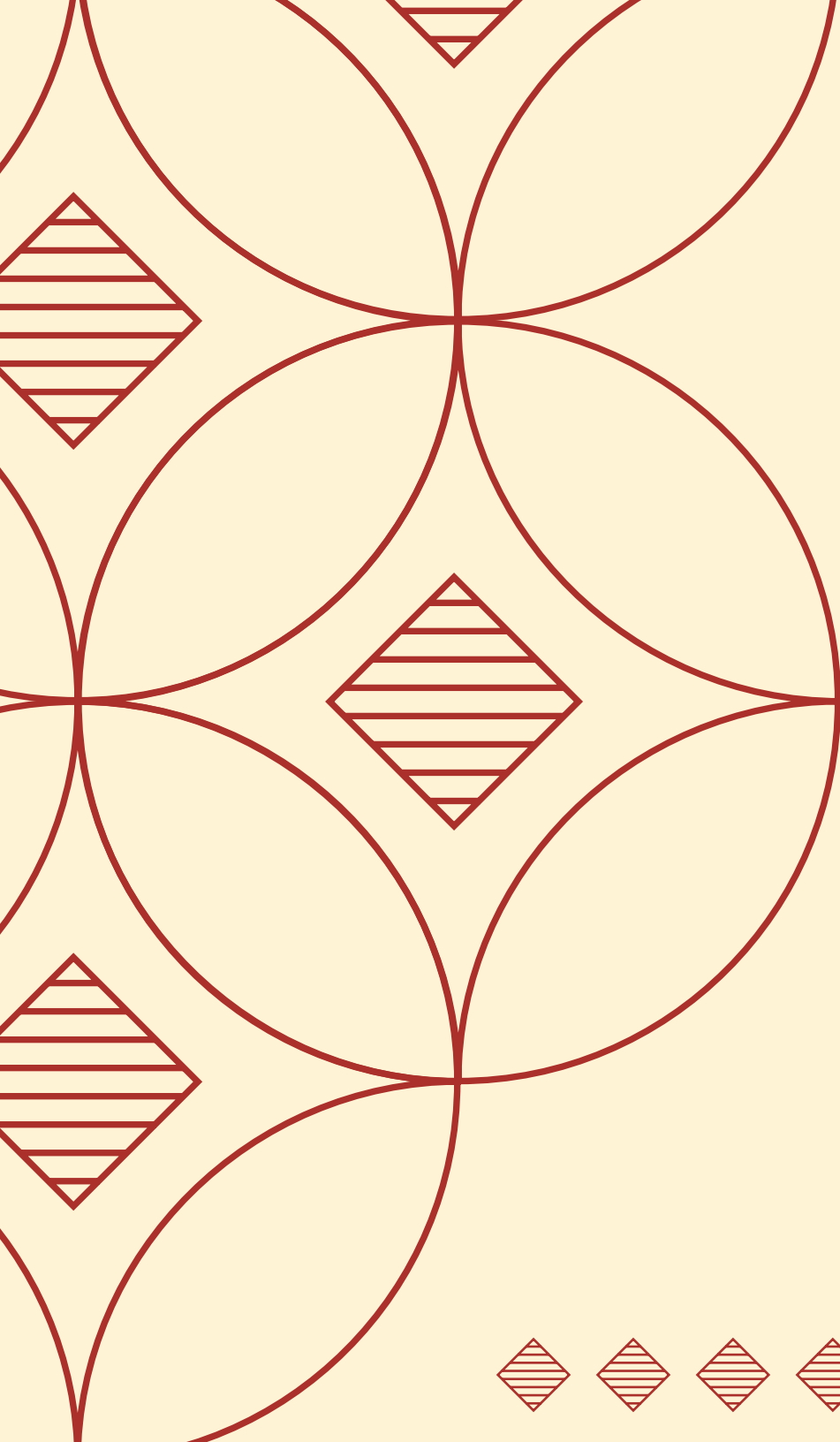
On April 29th, 2026 the U.S. Supreme Court effectively overturned the Voting Rights Act, eliminating the protections and rights our communities have fought for and defended for decades.

Protect the vote to protect our families and our future.



Art by Lehi Thunder Voice Eagle





What You'll Find in This Toolkit

- ◆ Background on the status of the Voting Rights Act
- ◆ How voting determines Indian Country's future
- ◆ Voting resources
- ◆ Make a plan to register to vote
- ◆ Planning calendar
- ◆ Tips for success
- ◆ Social media assets
- ◆ Voter registration script
- ◆ Pledge to Vote Card
- ◆ Sample text messages
- ◆ Sample talking points for on-the-ground organizers

**November 3, 2026
is Election Day.**

Show our power by registering to vote.



The Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act and put the Native vote in great danger.

Voter suppression in Indian Country is anti-Native racism doing what it has always done, keeping power from us. When Native people are made invisible in the civic process, we are then undercounted, redistricted, and politically erased.

We cannot let this go uncontested. When we show up in record numbers and raise our voices together, we have the power to change policy, strengthen sovereignty, and decide elections.

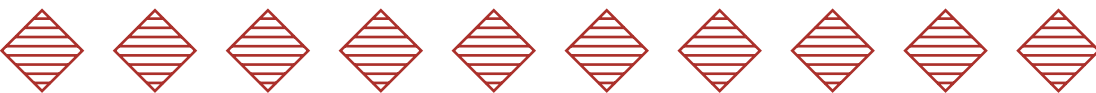
Voting for Native leaders and our allies to hold positions of power, from local to national, is one of the important ways we create change. And we're making progress: In recent years, we have witnessed more Native representation at all levels of government than ever before.

We've shown that when we turn out to vote, we impact results. In 2020, record numbers of Native voters turned out in key states and decided tight races in Arizona, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Do your part, starting this November. Register to vote. Then, vote! We can and will make a difference in 2026.



**The power of the
Native vote is
undeniable.
Protect the vote.**



Protect the Vote, Protect our Power.

What is our opportunity in 2026?:

- ◆ **There are 1.2 million eligible Native voters who have not yet registered to vote.**
- ◆ **Nearly 600,000 registered Native voters did not vote** over the past six elections.
- ◆ **Together, that means almost 1.8 million people whose voices have untapped potential** to decide election outcomes.

The more we work together, the more we can protect our ways of life, land, and culture for future generations. Here's what we can do:

- ◆ **Make voting a family tradition.** Help your auntie, your cousins, your elders register to vote. Then bring them to vote. We do everything else together, and voting works the same way.
- ◆ **Create and share voter rights content.** We need to create the conditions and culture where voting is accessible and active. You never know who you'll influence.
- ◆ **Learn what's on your ballot.** Find out which offices are up for re-election, who is running for those positions, and what other measures will be on your ballot that may directly affect your community.

**Our way of life
is at stake
in every election:**



Access to
clean water



Food
security



Cultural and
natural resources



Treaty
rights



Education



Self-determination
& tribal
sovereignty



Healthcare



Social
security



**Protect the vote, protect our
ways of life. The best way to
protect the vote is to register,
and then vote.**

Make voting a family tradition.

Start by building your voter registration plan.

Research shows that when someone registers to vote, pledges to vote, and makes a plan, it increases the chances **they will vote!**

Whether leading civic engagement for a tribal nation, a Native-led nonprofit, or as a community member, you have the power to register unregistered voters in your community.

Quick Planning Tips



1 Set a goal
for how many new voters you want to register. Setting a realistic goal helps you plan at the appropriate scale for your community and gives a benchmark for when to pivot or consider new strategies.

2 Work backwards from the last day of voter registration.
How many days do you have to register folks? Start your planning, and map out what you need to do between now and then to meet your goals.

3 Attend gatherings to register voters at community events.
Instead of trying to build events from scratch, use a tribal calendar detailing activities from the day you start your plan until the last day of voter registration to find opportunities to plug into and get community members registered.

4 Host a “Voter Registration Day”
and set a goal for registration.

5 Register voters
by scanning the QR code below to find registration information.



vote.org

Planning Calendar

My voter Registration Goal:

new voters registered

Week 1

- Set your goal for new Native voter registrations.
- Create a list of who can be supportive of a voter registration drive, and learn from past Elders or Aunties who have done them previously.
- Determine if any formal permission from the Tribe or organization you work for is necessary for the registration drive. If so, get permission.
- Identify social media accounts that can post voter registration content.

Week 2

- Develop a list of necessary supplies (pens, tables, voter registration cards, websites to check status).
- Start recruiting volunteers - family, friends, work colleagues, faith leaders, health workers.
- Identify places to register voters - health center lobby, community centers, churches, fitness centers, gyms, tribal head quarters, tribal college campuses.
- Ask elected tribal leaders to support the registration drive.
- Contact the places to register voters and ask permissions to set up a table for registering; ask what's required, then follow through.
- Cross promote the registration events on your channel and the place that's hosting (see social assets below).

Week 3

- Continue to recruit volunteers by making phone calls and sending texts.
- Contact additional places where you would like to register voters - health centers, churches, grocery stores, etc.
- Continue contacting social media account owners about voter registration day asking about posting content.

Week 4

- Confirm volunteers.
- Organize supplies.
- Distribute social media content to volunteers and account owners for posting.
- Check for the last day of voter registration in your state.

Voter Registration concludes: Onward to GOTV!

- Post-Event: Debrief and discuss what worked well and what adjustments can be made for the upcoming GOTV work for the final two weeks prior to November 3 election.

Tips for Success

1. **Make sure you know the key rules** in your state and county for registering voters.
2. **Request data on voter registration** from your county election officer to find out any key deadlines and where to submit voter registration cards.
3. **Purchase a list of registered voters** at the election office to help determine who is currently registered in your Tribe and develop an outreach strategy for those who are not.
4. **Get voter registration cards** at the county election office.

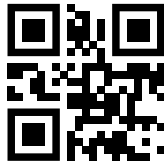
Create and share voter rights content.



Resources

Vote.org

- ◆ Check voter registration status
- ◆ Register to vote
- ◆ Find out what is the last day to register in your state
- ◆ Get election reminders



Native Civic Power Initiative Resource Hub

nativecivicpower.org/native-power-resources

Scan to view and use the tools and resources to make sure Native voices are heard.



Social assets

Your social media channels are spaces to drum up voter registration, too! Download graphics and copy/paste the draft captions on your own channels, or use these as inspiration for your own content.



POST 1: Get Registered

Caption: Protect the vote! We honor our ancestors and protect our way of life for our children's grandchildren by exercising our right to vote.

Check your voter registration status and register to vote if you aren't already! It takes just two minutes: vote.org



[Download Post 1 graphic](#)



POST 2: Pledge to Vote

Caption: This is an emergency: we must protect the vote! When we show up in record numbers and raise our voices together, we have the power to protect our futures, strengthen sovereignty, and decide elections.

Make 2026 Indian Country's biggest year yet for Native voter turnout. Pledge to vote and reshare this post to show your friends and family you're doing your part and that you need them to vote too!

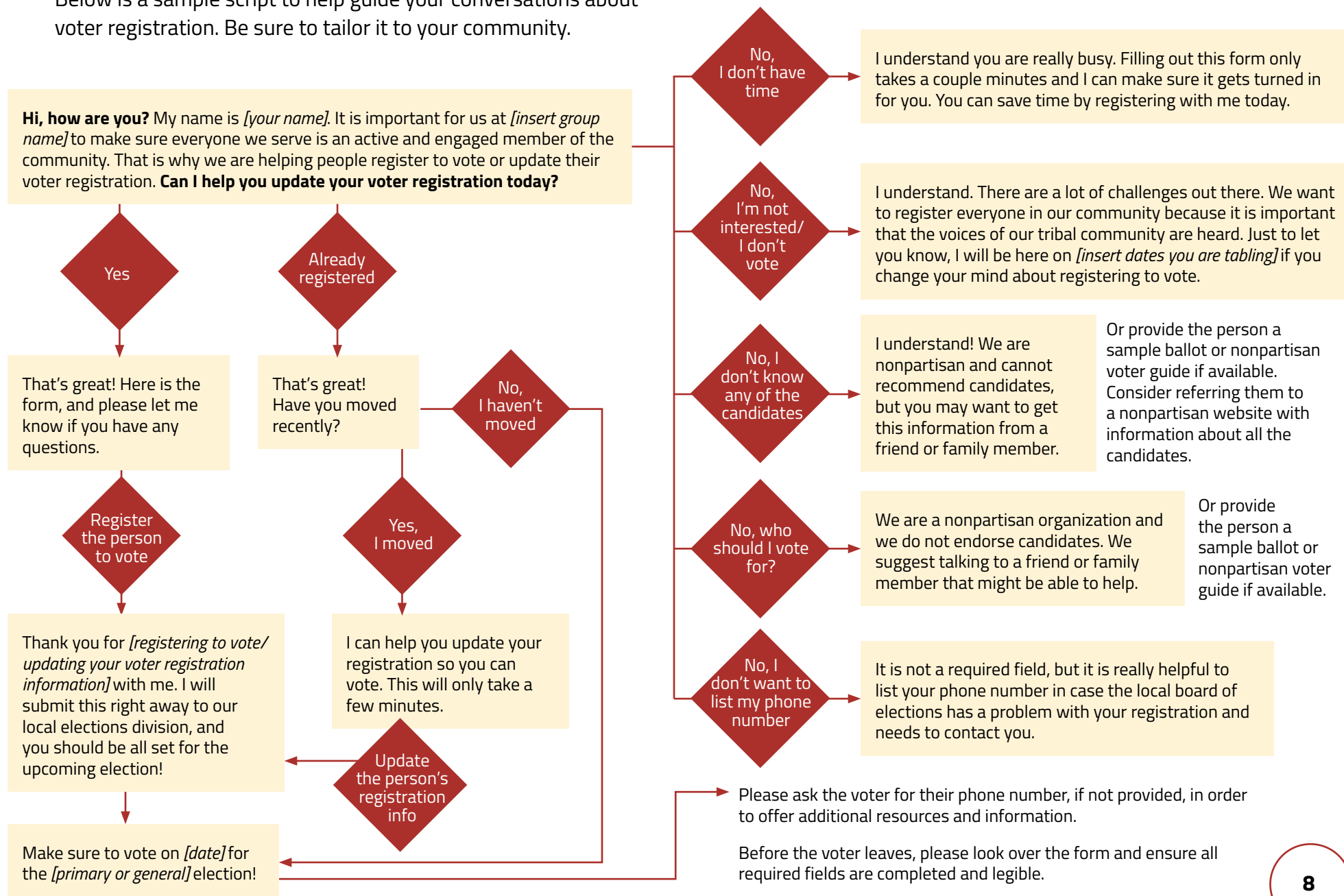


[Download Post 2 graphic](#)

Voter Registration Script

Script adapted from  Nonprofit VOTE

Below is a sample script to help guide your conversations about voter registration. Be sure to tailor it to your community.



Pledge to Vote Card

Distribute the following Pledge to Vote Card in your voter registration drive efforts. The cards are available for download to print or use digitally.

Why it matters:

1. People who pledge to vote and make a plan are more likely to show up and cast their votes on Election Day!
2. When people see friends and family make public commitments to vote, they're more likely to prioritize voting, too.

Cut out the Pledge to Vote Cards on the next page, or download below for printable and digital cards to share out on social media and other digital channels.

I pledge to vote!

- Ensure you're registered to vote by visiting vote.org or your state's elections office.
- Make a plan for when and where you'll vote, whether at a polling place or through the mail.
- Stay informed on the latest information on voting.
- On Election Day, cast your vote at the polls to ensure it's counted in time.

Full Name _____

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Full Name _____

Email Address _____

Signature _____

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[Download
Printable Cards](#)



[Download
Digital Card](#)

Sample text messages

- ◆ Have you made your voting plan? It takes just 2 minutes to check your voter registration status and register to vote! vote.org
- ◆ We honor our ancestors & protect our way of life for future generations by exercising our right to vote. Check your registration status: vote.org
- ◆ Help us make 2026 the biggest year yet for Native voter turnout. Pledge to vote and encourage your friends and family to vote too! vote.org
- ◆ Are you ready to cast your vote by November 3rd? Pledge to vote and encourage your friends and family to vote too! vote.org

Sample talking points for on-the-ground organizers

- ◆ Election Day is [xx] days away! Make sure you're registered to vote, as it's one of the most powerful things you can do for yourself, family, community, and state.
- ◆ Make your voting plan today to ensure your vote is counted by Election Day, November 3, 2026.
- ◆ Voters in Indian Country have the power to decide elections and influence policy.
- ◆ We honor our ancestors by exercising our right to vote in order to protect our way of life for our children's grandchildren.
- ◆ Commit to make voting a family tradition. Make sure your auntie, your cousins, and your elders are registered to vote.



Art by Lehi Thunder Voice Eagle

Thank you to the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), whose previous election toolkits helped in developing this content.

