

INFRASTRUCTURE PANEL

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND CIVIC INFRASTRUCTURE TO ADVANCE HEALTH EQUITY

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ABOUT NAVA EDUCATION PROJECT

NAVA Education Project works with New Mexico's Traditional Native American Communities and Urban Native Communities to unite community stakeholders to improve the quality of life for Native American communities and to protect the continuity of our cultures. We advocate for social, economic, and environmental justice principles through the lens of civic engagement and building a Native American electorate that is active, informed, and empowered. Together we seek to ensure equity, inclusion, and security to create greater opportunities so that Native American People in New Mexico may enjoy a more healthy and prosperous future.



WHO WE PARTNER WITH & ADVOCATE FOR

NAVA Education Project works directly with New Mexico's 23 Native American Communities that include:

- The 19 Pueblos
- The Navajo Nation
- Jicarilla Apache Nation
- Mescalero Apache Tribe

We also work heavily in Albuquerque, which has the 6th largest Urban Native American population in the United States.

New Mexico's 23 Tribes, Nations, and Pueblos account for about 80 voting precincts. For the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic many of these communities closed their borders and imposed lockdown measures to curb the spread of virus.

During the 2020 Primary Election, these lockdown measures gave county clerks cause to close down polling locations within tribal communities, where existing conditions already make it difficult to cast a ballot.

These closures resulted in an approximate 1% drop off in Native American voter participation, compared to the previous primary turnout data.

PREVENTING FURTHER DISENFRANCHISEMENT

The NM Legislature convened a special session in June 2020, during which they addressed issues of voting in Senate Bill 4.

Senate Bill 4 created temporary provisions pertaining to Tribes, including:

- Strengthening Tribes' rights to close their borders and maintain a polling location on their lands.**
- Allocating resources for ballot drop boxes.**
- Giving tribes more flexibility in the timeline for establishing polling locations.**

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ADDITIONAL METHODS OF VOTER OUTREACH

SB4 would not be enough to increase participation on its own for the 2020 General Election, we embarked on a GOTV strategy that included:



SUSTAINED SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

In the absence of door knocking, spreading election information on social media would be integral to GOTV efforts.



PHONE BANKING CAMPAIGN

Phone banking was at the core of our GOTV strategy and ensuring that voters would know where to cast a ballot.



ELECTION AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

We recruited community members to share PPE kits and to monitor polls on Election Day.

Hey Shiprock! **VOTE EARLY!**

**Your Closest In-Person
Early Vote Site is:**

CCSD BUSINESS OFFICE
(S OF U.S. HIGHWAY 6)
OLD SHIPROCK HIGH SCHOOL A-GYM
SHIPROCK, NM 87420

OPEN FROM OCTOBER 17 - 31
HOURS: MON - FRI: 11AM - 7PM
SATURDAY: 10AM - 6PM



MAKE THE NATIVE VOTE COUNT!

Remember to wear your mask & to stay socially distanced!
Thank you from your friends at NM Native Vote!
Visit [NMVote.org](https://nmvote.org) for more voter information!

**Same Day Registration
is now available!**
**You can register to vote,
update your registration
& vote *all in the same day!***
**Show up in person at your
County Clerk's office!**

**AVAILABLE
THRU 10/31!**

**THIS IS AN ABSENTEE
BALLOT DROP OFF
LOCATION!**

An election flyer produced by our c4 organization, NM Native Vote, that we distributed on social media and within tribal communities.

RESULTS

Native American participation was up from the Primary but failed to meet expectations.

Reasons for lower than anticipated turnout may have included:

- **Fear of contracting COVID-19 while voting in-person.**
- **Inability to request or return an absentee ballot.**
- **Changes made by SB4 were not communicated adequately between the state, county clerks, and tribes.**

Importantly, we were able to advocate for the positive impact that SB4 had in order to make most of the tribal provisions permanent in House Bill 231, during this years legislative session.

