

OUR HOMES

OUR VOTES

BECAUSE HOUSING IS BUILT WITH BALLOTS



Overcoming Voter Suppression

Agenda

OUR HOMES

OUR VOTES

BECAUSE HOUSING IS BUILT WITH BALLOTS



- **Overcoming Voter Suppression in Rural Southern Communities**
 - Kelly Sue Waller, lead organizer, Bedford County Listening Project
 - Stephanie Isaacs, organizer, Bedford County Listening Project
- **Voting Rights and the Disability Community**
 - Lilian Aluri, voting campaign coordinator, REV UP
- **Protecting Native American Voting Rights**
 - Allison Neswood, staff attorney, Native American Rights Fund
- **Protecting Native American Voting Rights**
 - Courtney Cooperman, housing advocacy organizer, NLIHC

Welcome and Introduction

OUR HOMES

OUR VOTES

BECAUSE HOUSING IS BUILT WITH BALLOTS



Courtney Cooperman

Housing Advocacy Organizer

National Low Income Housing Coalition

ccooperman@nlihc.org

Overcoming Voter Suppression in Rural Southern Communities

OUR HOMES

OUR VOTES

BECAUSE HOUSING IS BUILT WITH BALLOTS



Kelly Sue Waller

Lead Organizer

Bedford County Listening Project

kellysue@fight4thesouth.org

Stephanie Isaacs

Organizer

Bedford County Listening Project

stephanie@fight4thesouth.org

Voting Rights and the Disability Community

OUR HOMES

OUR VOTES

BECAUSE HOUSING IS BUILT WITH BALLOTS



Lilian Aluri

voting campaign coordinator

REV UP

laluri@aapd.com

Protecting Native American Voting Rights

OUR HOMES

OUR VOTES

BECAUSE HOUSING IS BUILT WITH BALLOTS

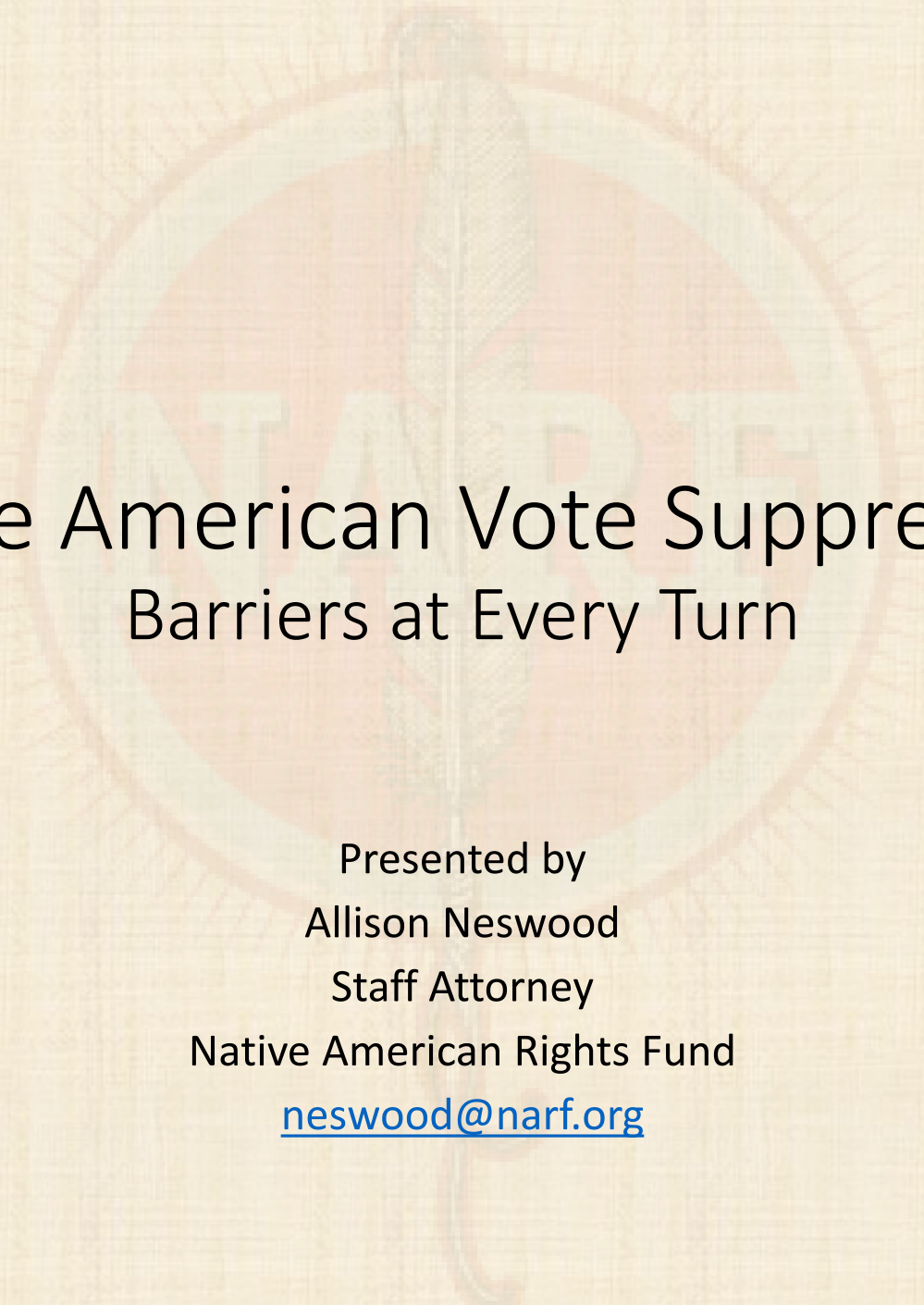


Allison Neswood

Staff Attorney

Native American Rights Fund

neswood@narf.org



Native American Vote Suppression Barriers at Every Turn

Presented by
Allison Neswood
Staff Attorney
Native American Rights Fund
neswood@narf.org

Native American Rights Fund

Since 1970, NARF has provided specialized legal assistance to tribes, Native organizations, and individuals nationwide. NARF is a 501c(3) organization that fights to protect Native American rights, resources, and lifeways through litigation and advocacy. For over 50 years, NARF has dedicated its legal expertise to the advancement of five priorities: preserving tribal existence, protecting tribal natural resources, promoting Native American human rights, holding governments accountable to Native Americans, and developing Indian law.

In 2015, NARF formed the Native American Voting Rights Coalition (NAVRC), which is a non-partisan alliance of national and grassroots organizations, scholars, and activists advocating for equal access for Native Americans to the political process. NARF continues to convene the NAVRC to this day.

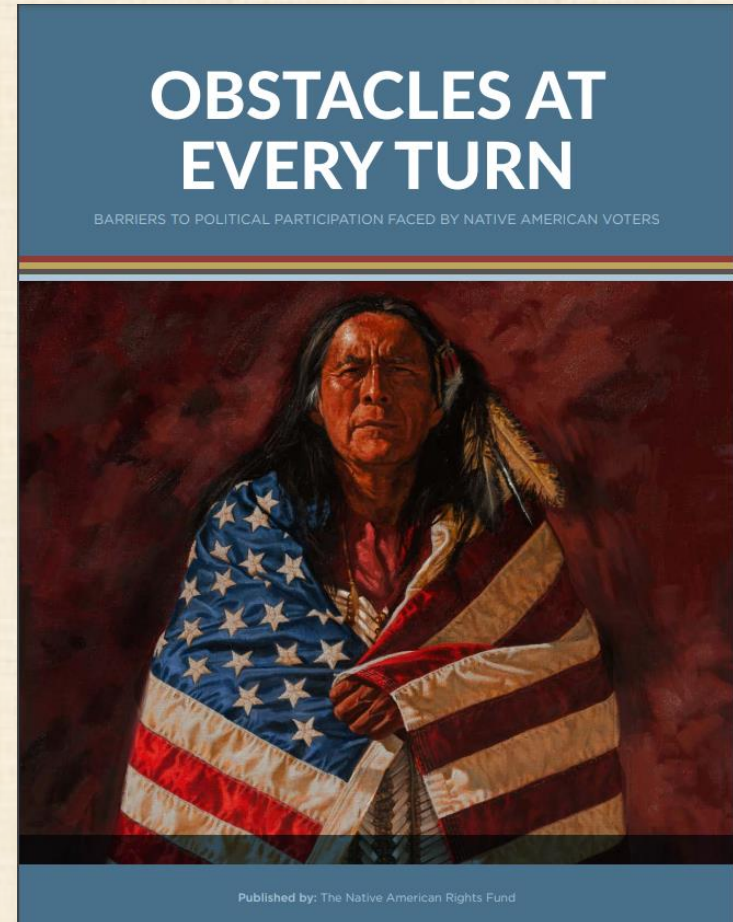
Low Native voter participation

- 34% of voting age Native Americans are **not registered to vote**
- Among registered voters, Native turnout is 13% **lower than the national average** for all racial and ethnic groups and 17% lower than non-Hispanic white voters



Root causes of low turnout

- **Structural factors** resulting from the legacy of colonialism and historical discrimination
- **Bias and racism** toward Native Americans
- **Voting policies** designed to make it harder to vote



Structural factors

“Every promise that was made to us has been broken.”



- **Long distances** from Native communities to voter registration offices and voting locations
- **Lack of transportation and infrastructure** including roads, Internet access, and other necessities
- **Lack of traditional mailing addresses** on many reservations
- Disproportionately high rates of **poverty and homelessness**

Bias and racism

- Beliefs that Native Americans are **not a part of the American democratic system**
- **Explaining away systemic mistreatment** as individual apathy
- Language **discrimination**
- Racial hostility in reservation **border towns**
- **Intimidation** at the polls



Figure 11. In South Dakota, a law enforcement officer inside the entry of a polling place on the Pine Ridge satellite voting office during the 2014 election. Photo by Donna Semans, Four Directions.

Policies that make it harder to vote



- **ID requirements** for both registration & voting
- **Proof of address requirements** for both registration & voting
- **Prohibitions on same-day registration**
- Restrictions on who may return a voter's ballot ("**ballot collection bans**")
- **Limits on how a voter can cast a ballot** (mail-only voting, limited early voting schedules, restrictions on ballot drop boxes)
- **Lack of opportunity for Tribes to secure voting locations** that are convenient to Tribal communities

Native vote dilution

- **“Packing” or “cracking”** Native communities
- **At large voting** systems
- **Prison gerrymandering**



REDISTRICTING

“We seek to join the lawsuit and defend the creation of the MHA subdistrict, because **fair districts benefit everyone and Native American voters deserve a voice.”**

-MHA CHAIRMAN MARK N. FOX



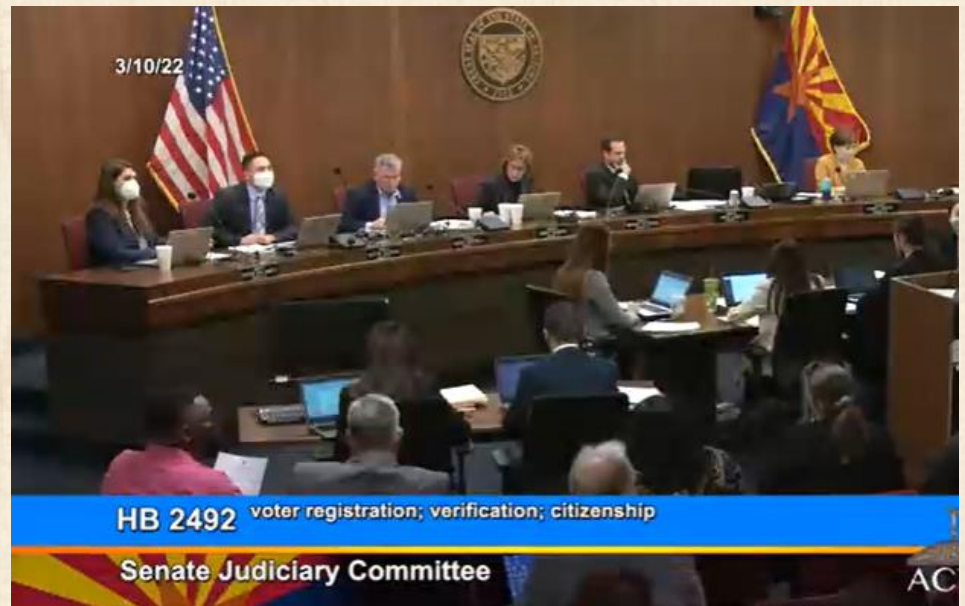
Natives taking political power

- More Natives are **running for office**
- Native candidates are winning **historical victories**
- Native voters are **making a difference in election outcomes** at all levels of government
- **Major appointments** are going to Native leaders



Backlash

- Strict ID requirements
- Residential address requirements
- Prohibition of ballot collection
- Elimination of same-day registration



Solutions



- Native GOTV and Election protection
- Registration opportunities that meet Natives where they are
- Flexible voting opportunities, including in-person voting on Tribal lands
- Flexible documentation requirements, including acceptance of Tribal IDs
- Let Native people lead

By getting out the Native vote and protecting our voters, Native communities can **continue to build our electoral strength**, impact the outcome of more elections, and **use our electoral power to demand better representation** of our communities at all levels of government.



Updates

OUR HOMES

OUR VOTES

BECAUSE HOUSING IS BUILT WITH BALLOTS



Courtney Cooperman

Housing Advocacy Organizer

National Low Income Housing Coalition

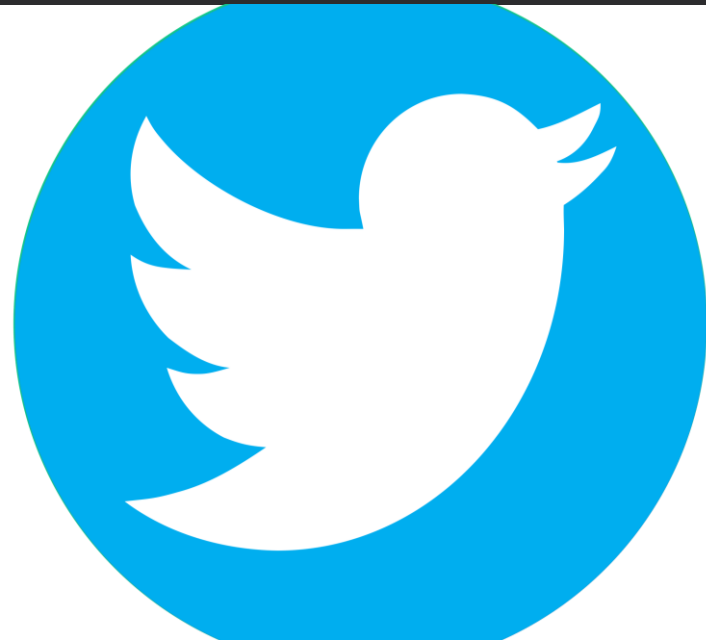
ccooperman@nlihc.org

National Voter
Education Week
Tweetchat &
Tweetstorm

NATIONAL VOTER
EDUCATION WEEK



- Monday, October 3: tweetchat to answer questions about nonpartisan voter education (check it out!)
- Friday, October 7: tweetstorm to build momentum for nonprofit voter engagement
- Join us online this Friday from 1-2pm ET and post content from the *Our Homes, Our Votes* social media toolkit!



Monday, October 31: Election Day—Getting Out the Vote and Preventing Voter Intimidation

Election Day is an all-hands-on-deck effort to get voters to the polls—the culmination of months of voter registration, education, and mobilization activities. Panelists will review the most effective Election Day Get Out the Vote (GOTV) tactics, such as coordinating rides to the polls, hosting community walks to the polls, bringing snacks and music to keep people in line at busy polling locations, and recruiting volunteers to follow up with those who have not yet voted. The webinar will also explore community efforts to protect against voter intimidation campaigns, which are often intended to deter low-income people and communities of color from voting.

The panel will feature Morgan Conley, national coordinator for Election Protection at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, and Blake Tyler, voting rights organizer with the Granite State Organizing Project.



Follow the Campaign!

OUR HOMES

OUR VOTES

BECAUSE HOUSING IS BUILT WITH BALLOTS



Twitter: @OurHomesVotes

Facebook @OHOV2022

Email: ourhomes@nlihc.org

Website: ourhomes-ourvotes.org

OUR HOMES

OUR VOTES

BECAUSE HOUSING IS BUILT WITH BALLOTS



OURHOMES-OURVOTES.ORG