



Political Research Report

Engagement & Advocacy

Native Visibility and Power Building Project





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Introduction

Holly Cook Macarro | The Angle



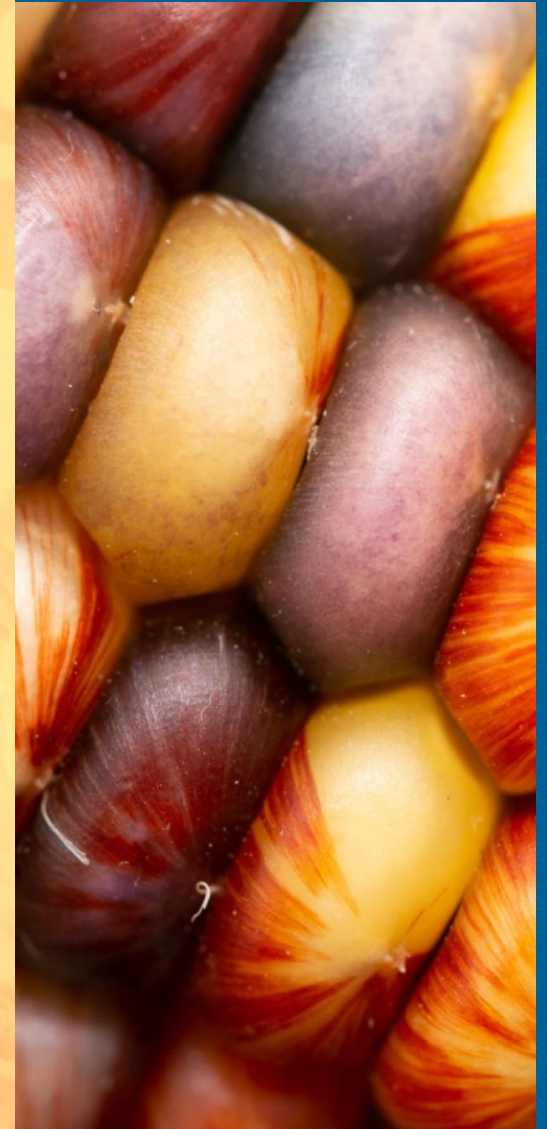
Introduction

- Report focuses on the political arena.
- Interviews focused on:
 - How visibility has changed
 - What effective Tribal advocacy looks like.



Who was interviewed?

- Administration - Executive-level appointees
- Members of Congress
- White House Staff - Domestic Policy Council
- Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
- Leaders of national Native organizations
- Assistant U.S. Attorneys
- Local elected officials
- Statewide elected officials
- Members of the Indigenous media
- etc.



2024 Landscape



83 NA's running
for local, state,
or federal office

Number
expected to rise
to 150-200+

What's next?




Summary of Findings





Reclaiming Native Truth

- Revealed the depths of the invisibility of Native Americans in American society
 - What has changed since the conversation was elevated?
 - Historic 2018 election
 - Washington professional football team
 - 2022 election cycle
- 

Political Visibility

Increased visibility in both state and federal government



Engagement with Tribes has become a regular course of business



Successful tribal economies have spurred increased participation on the Tribal side



Impacts of Visibility

Presence and voice of Native American elected officials
influence policy and legislation



Engagement with Tribal Leaders and advocates



Consultation and collaboration



Elections of Haaland and Davids



Impacts of Native American Colleagues

The knowledge brought to the table has swayed votes.

—

The opportunities for engagement are different.

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Greater numbers = greater impact



Tribal Advocacy

- Tribal advocacy has evolved along with the political sophistication of Tribes.
- Number of Native professionals
- Partisanship
- Tribal gaming



Effective Tribal Advocacy

- Now often led by a team of professionals
- Most impactful voices? Tribal leaders.
- Expanded influence in non-traditional issue areas
- Professional pipeline



Voices of Advocates

- Does it matter if a tribal lobbyist or advocate is Native American?
- Lived experiences bring a unique perspective to an issue.
- How can tribal advocacy be more effective?



Current Issues

- Appropriations
- Environmental Issues
- Public Safety
- Opioid epidemic
- Tribal Gaming
- Economic development
- Language Preservation
- Sacred Site protection



Josue Rivas



Tribal News

- Indian Country Today
- Indianz.com
- Websites of national Tribal organizations
- Turtle Talk

Barren landscape of Tribal news outlets



Cara Romero



Conclusions

- Diversity of electorate
- Professional pipeline
- Internship/fellowship opportunities in Washington D.C.
- Building Indigenous political power.



Gabrielle Norte

