



Promoting Access to Voting Among Elders and People with Disabilities

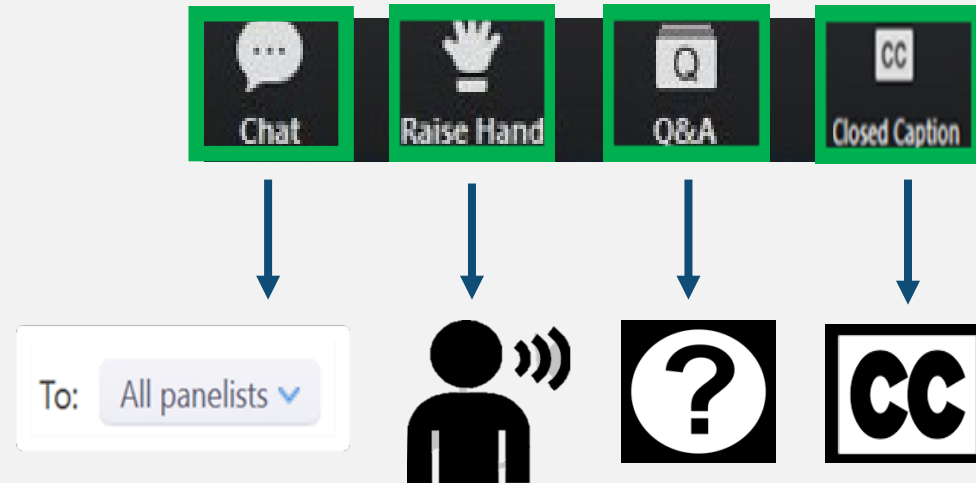
October 23, 2024

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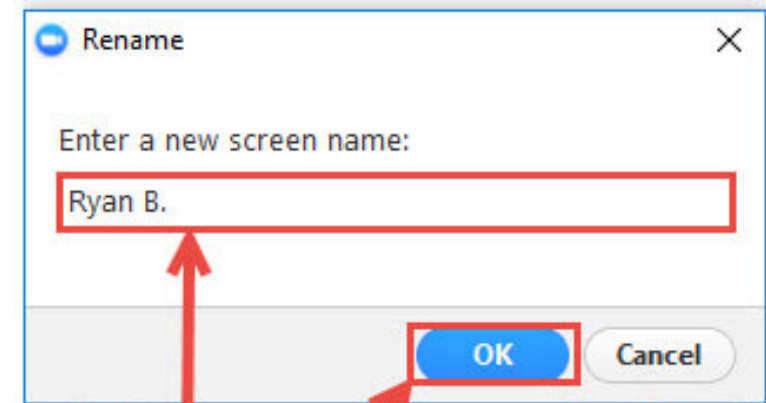
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Webinar Objectives

- Explain how the program started
- Describe what was involved in selecting Indian Health Service facilities to participate
- Discuss how the program helps make voting more accessible to elders and people with disabilities
- Provide an overview of plans to ensure program growth and sustainability

Today's Presenter



Joshuah Marshall
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Indian Health Service

Executive Order 14019, National Voter Registration Act, and IHS

JOSHUAH MARSHALL

SENIOR ADVISOR TO THE IHS DIRECTOR



Topic

- What is Executive Order 14019?
- What is the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA)?
- Why IHS?
- Progress to date
- Next steps

Executive Order 14019

- [Executive Order \(EO\) 14019](#), issued on March 7, 2021, named unique barriers to voting faced by Native people and directed federal agencies to do what they can to address these barriers
- The EO reinforced and encouraged designation of federal agencies under the NVRA to promote voter registration
- The U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and Indian Health Service undertook projects to designate facilities
- President Biden committed to designating five IHS voter registration pilot sites by the end of 2023

REPORT OF THE INTERAGENCY STEERING GROUP ON NATIVE AMERICAN VOTING RIGHTS

MARCH 2022



MARCH 07, 2021

Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting

 [BRIEFING ROOM](#) [PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS](#)

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Purpose. The right to vote is the foundation of American democracy. Free and fair elections that reflect the will of the American people must be protected and defended. But many Americans, especially people of color, confront significant obstacles to exercising that fundamental right. These obstacles include difficulties with voter registration, lack of election information, and barriers to access at polling places. For generations, Black voters and other voters of color have faced discriminatory policies and other obstacles that disproportionately affect their communities. These voters remain more likely to face long lines at the polls and are disproportionately burdened by voter identification laws and limited opportunities to vote by mail. Limited access to language assistance remains a barrier for many voters. People with disabilities continue to face barriers to voting and are denied legally required accommodations in exercising their fundamental rights and the ability to vote privately and independently. Members of our military serving overseas, as well as other American citizens living abroad, also face challenges to exercising their fundamental right to vote.

The NVRA of 1993

- NVRA (aka “motor voter law”) was signed into law by President Bill Clinton
- States can designate state and federal government agencies and non-governmental organizations as non-partisan voter registration agencies
- There are mandatory sites (DMVs and public assistance agencies, for example) and voluntary sites
- Designated facilities receive special support and recognition from the state and must:
 - Distribute vote registration application forms to customers
 - Help people complete the voter registration form
 - Transmit any completed voter registration forms to the appropriate election officials

The NVRA of 1993 (continued)

- The NVRA includes a formal process for designating agencies, including federal agencies, as “voter registration agencies” that would offer voter registration during all agency transactions for benefits or services – EO 14019 further endorsed this process
 - Different states have different state officials who are in charge of making these designations
 - Under EO 14019, federal agencies should, “to the greatest extent practicable,” accept these designations
 - Once formally designated, a voter registration agency would be subject to the requirements of Section 7 of the NVRA

UPCOMING WEBINAR



How to Transform Voter Registration in Indian Country Through NVRA Designation

Wednesday, April 12, 2023
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. EDT

Demos



National Congress of American Indians



Why the Indian Health Service?

- IHS (ITU) health programs serve approximately 2.6 million American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs)
- 34% of voting-age AI/ANs are not registered to vote (1.2 million)
- Civic engagement is a proven contributor to social determinants of health and is well within the IHS mission
- Additionally, AI/AN people face unique obstacles to registration
 - County sites, DMVs, and public assistance can be more than 50 miles away
 - Often, homes do not receive mail or have addresses, complicating registration
 - Native American registrations are rejected at a disproportionately high rate
- Unregistered AI/AN people will benefit from the convenience of voter registration alongside visits to their trusted IHS facilities



Original Investigation | Health and the 2024 US Election

Increasing Voter Participation Through Health Care–Based Voter Registration

Katherine McCabe, PhD; Yirui Zhu, BA, BS; Simar S. Bajaj, AB; Alister F. Martin, MD, MPP

Abstract

IMPORTANCE Young people and historically marginalized racial and ethnic groups are poorly represented in the democratic process. Addressing voting inequities can make policy more responsive to the needs of these communities.

OBJECTIVE To assess whether leveraging health care settings as venues for voter registration and mobilization is useful, particularly for historically underrepresented populations in elections.

DESIGN, SETTING, AND PARTICIPANTS In 2020, nonpartisan nonprofit Vot-ER partnered with health care professionals and institutions to register people to vote. This cross-sectional study analyzed the demographics and voting behavior of people mobilized to register to vote in health care settings, including hospitals, community health centers, and medical schools across the US. The age and racial and ethnic identity data of individuals engaged through Vot-ER were compared to 2 national surveys of US adults, including the 2020 Cooperative Election Study (CES) and the 2020 American National Election Study (ANES).

EXPOSURE Health care–based voter registration.

MAIN RESULTS AND MEASURES The main outcomes were age composition, racial and ethnic composition, and voting history.

RESULTS Of the 12 441 voters contacted in health care settings, 41.9% were aged 18 to 29 years, 15.9% were identified as African American, 9.6% as Asian, 12.7% as Hispanic, and 60.4% as White. This distribution was significantly more diverse than the racial and ethnic distribution of the ANES (N = 5447) and CES (N = 39 014) samples, of which 72.5% and 71.19% self-identified as White, respectively. Voter turnout among health care–based contacts increased from 61.0% in 2016 to 79.8% in 2020, a turnout gain (18.8–percentage point gain) that was 7.7 percentage points higher than that of the ANES sample (11.1–percentage point gain). Demographically, the age distribution of voters contacted in health care settings was significantly different from the ANES and CES samples, with approximately double the proportion of young voters aged 18 to 29 years.

CONCLUSION AND RELEVANCE This cross-sectional study suggests that health care–based voter mobilization reaches a distinctly younger and more racially and ethnically diverse population relative to those who reported contact from political campaigns. This analysis of the largest health care–based voter mobilization effort points to the unique impact that medical professionals may have on voter registration and turnout in the 2024 US elections. In the long term, health equity initiatives should prioritize expanding voting access to address the upstream determinants of health in historically marginalized communities.

JAMA Health Forum. 2024;5(6):e241563. doi:10.1001/jamahealthforum.2024.1563

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JAMA Health Forum. 2024;5(6):e241563. doi:10.1001/jamahealthforum.2024.1563

Key Points

Question Can health care–based voter mobilization efforts help reach populations underrepresented in US elections?

Findings This cross-sectional study compared data from individuals reached in health care settings before the 2020 US elections with 2 national surveys of US adults, including the 2020 Cooperative Election Study and the 2020 American National Election Study. Of the 12 441 health care–based contacts, a significantly larger proportion were young (41.9%) and racial and ethnic minority individuals (39.6%) relative to the nationally representative data.

Meaning Health care settings may register and mobilize younger and more racially and ethnically diverse voters, suggesting medical professionals can play an important role in voter registration and turnout during the 2024 US elections.

+ Multimedia

+ Supplemental content

Author affiliations and article information are listed at the end of this article.



The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #ANC-22-038

TITLE: Encouraging Indian Health Service Providers to Seek Designation as National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) Designated Sites

WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, over 30 percent of eligible Native American voters remain unregistered to vote in federal and state elections; and

WHEREAS, many Native Americans do not have regular access to county seats and other state registration services due to geographic distances, lack of access to transportation, and poor roads; and

WHEREAS, many Native Americans do not have access to other National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) designated sites such as state motor vehicle agencies, likewise due to geographic isolation, lack of access to transportation, and poor roads; and

WHEREAS, many Native Americans do not have access to NVRA designated sites such as state public assistance agencies because at times public assistance is provided through federal programs in fulfillment of treaty obligations; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Health Service (IHS) providers interact regularly with eligible unregistered Native American voters; and

WHEREAS, other health service providers such as Medicaid have provided registration services to eligible voters; and

WHEREAS, NVRA designation means a provider will provide a meaningful registration opportunity to an eligible voter in coordination with Secretary of States who will process received applications.

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Current Sites

- Native Health of Phoenix – October 2023
- Santa Fe Indian Health Center – March 2024
- Crownpoint Health Care Facility – March 2024
- Western Oregon Service Unit – September 2024
- Native American LifeLines, Baltimore – expected October 2024



Next Steps

- Continue to highlight the importance of voting when communicating with AI/AN people
 - Blog on National Voter Registration Day
 - Highlight the revamped [vote.gov](https://www.vote.gov) on IHS website
 - Social media engagement
 - June 2024 webinar on how to pursue NVRA sites
- Create toolkit for interested sites and tribes
- Speak at national events and White House convenings and summits
- A pipeline of interested federal, tribal, and urban sites in development



Agency Voter Registration: Best Practices Guide

Indian Health Service,
Department of Health and Human Services



Thank You

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Questions?



