

2026/ KNOW YOUR CANDIDATE GUIDE

VOTE LIKE A RADICAL

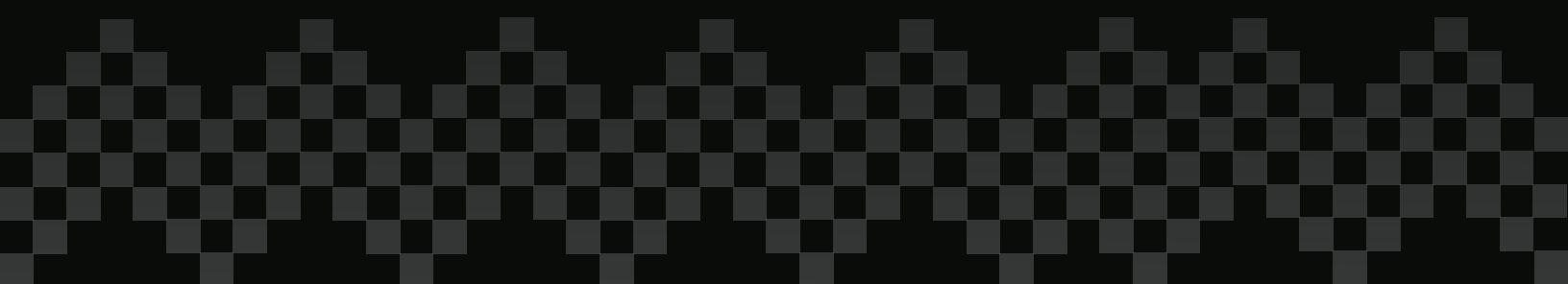
LANDBACK & INDIGENOUS RIGHTS



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VOTING IS AN ORGANIZING TOOL, NOT THE SOLUTION FOR LIBERATION.

As Indigenous People still living under a colonial government, we know that voting can be complicated. Last election cycle, we asked people what it would look like if they Voted Like a Radical – acknowledging that voting is an organizing tool but not the solution for liberation. In 2026, we are sharing some resources we built that are meant to help Indigenous Peoples influence the campaigns of candidates and establish a way to hold candidates and parties accountable once they are in office.





VOTE LIKE A RADICAL / COMMUNITY, FAMILY, FUTURE



THE PROCESS IS SIMPLE.

01 ASK

To decide which candidates deserve our votes, we need to know where they stand on issues that are important to us

02 VERIFY

We encourage you to ask candidates specific questions to learn what they have done and what they plan to do in the future.

03 HOLD ACCOUNTABLE

Document commitments and follow up after the election. Do not settle for value statements. Ask for an action, a policy, a budget,



LANDBACK & SACRED PLACES

LOOK FOR CANDIDATES WHO WILL:

Return public and surplus government lands to Indigenous Peoples.

- Protect sacred places, burial grounds, cultural landscapes, and treaty lands.
- Recognize Indigenous governance, jurisdiction, sovereignty, and stewardship.
- Require free, prior, and informed consent for any projects affecting Indigenous lands and waters.
- Oppose harmful mining, drilling, military activity, and development.
- Offer specific LandBack actions—not just consultation or symbolic recognition.
- End U.S. support to Israel.



FOOD SOVEREIGNTY & BUFFALO

LOOK FOR CANDIDATES WHO WILL:

- Support Indigenous control of land, water, seeds, food production, and traditional harvesting.
- Return buffalo to Tribal lands.
- Protect wild buffalo, their habitat, and their migration routes.
- Prioritize live transfer to Tribal nations over unnecessary slaughter.
- Fund Indigenous farmers, ranchers, hunters, fishers, and food producers.
- Expand public purchasing of foods produced by Indigenous communities.
- Protect traditional foods from contamination, exploitation, and habitat loss.



LANGUAGE, CULTURE & EDUCATION

LOOK FOR CANDIDATES WHO WILL:

- Provide sustained funding for language immersion and revitalization.
- Support Indigenous-controlled schools, curricula, and cultural programs.
- Return ancestors, sacred objects, and cultural items to their communities.
Respect Indigenous Data Sovereignty.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE & COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

LOOK FOR CANDIDATES WHO WILL:

- Direct public funding, contracts, and investment to Indigenous-owned businesses, community organizations, workers, and regenerative land-based economies.



DEFENDING DEMOCRACY

LOOK FOR CANDIDATES WHO WILL:

- Protect voting rights, oppose voter suppression, expand ballot access, and ensure Indigenous peoples have meaningful representation in government and public decision-making.



WATCH FOR WARNING SIGNS.

BE CAUTIOUS WHEN CANDIDATES:

- Offer recognition and cultural celebration without supporting Indigenous rights.
- Say they support consultation but avoid consent or Indigenous decision-making.
- Treat LandBack as access, recreation, or co-management without land return.
- Treat buffalo only as livestock, tourism, or a commercial commodity.
- Describe food sovereignty as food assistance.
- Discuss Indigenous peoples only in the past tense.
- Cannot identify a specific policy, budget, or action they will advance.
- Have a voting record or campaign donors that contradict their promises.

REMEMBER!

- Specific commitments are stronger than slogans.
- A documented record is stronger than a campaign promise.
- Budgets and votes reveal a candidate's real priorities.
- Respectful words matter—but measurable action matters more.

