

YWOMENVOTE 2022

Spotlight on American Indian and Alaska Native Women

This spotlight on American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) women provides a brief overview of their concerns and priorities heading into the 2022 Congressional session and national election. Drawn from [YWCA USA’s fourth national survey of women in the United States](#), this data centers women of color whose voices are critical yet frequently overlooked in policy discussions, and frames clear expectations for legislative action to address their concerns and priorities. While women overall are remarkably consistent in their concerns and priorities, the nuanced experiences of women of color shape their specific expectations for action to meet their most pressing concerns.

While the U.S. Census releases voter turnout statistics broken down by some racial and ethnic groups, it does not release data specific to the AI/AN community. Despite this gap, AI/AN communities’ work to educate, organize, and register voters was highly influential in critical states that impacted overall 2020 election results.

POLICY SOLUTIONS: American Indian and Alaska Native Women

AI/AN women expressed an **intensity of support for racial justice, economic, and gender-based violence policy solutions**– about 11 percentage points to 21 percentage points higher than women overall for all but one of their top policy solutions. Their highest ranked policy solutions include:

| Top Policies: American Indian and Native Alaskan Women <i>Ranked by One of the Most Important/Very Important Combined</i> |
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| Pass Paid Family & Medical Leave, Paid Sick Leave and Paid Safe Leave (89%) (+17 compared to women overall) |
| End Racial/Religious Profiling (84%) (+15) |
| Support Living Wages and Skills-Based Training for Childcare Sector (83%) (+14) |
| End Workplace Harassment and Sexual Violence (83%) (+12) |
| Pass Paycheck Fairness Act (82%) (+9) |
| Pass legislation declaring racism as a public health crisis (81%) (+21) |
| Reauthorize Violence against Women Act* (81%) (+11) |
| Expand Workforce Training for Jobs Non-Traditional to One’s Gender (80%) (+13) |
| Pass the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act (80%) (+19) |

** It is important to note that the data on domestic and other violence against women in native communities is not currently tracked by the U.S. government.*

TOP CONCERNS: American Indian and Alaska Native Women

AI/AN women share core concerns with all women across a range of economic, health, and societal issues, but at higher levels of intensity. Of these top concerns, **AI/AN women expressed acute concern with respect to specific economic and racial justice concerns** (between 14 percentage points and 23 percentage points higher in comparison to women overall). The concerns that rank highest for Native American women are:

| Top Concerns: Native American Women <i>Ranked by Very/Somewhat Worried Combined</i> |
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| That your total family income will not be enough to meet your family's expenses (83%) (+19 compared to women overall) |
| Being able to afford your rent or mortgage (65%) (+17) |
| The rise in white nationalism in the U.S. (58%) (+14) |
| Keeping you and your family safe from police violence (53%) (+23) |
| Stress, anxiety or trauma from COVID-19 (53%) (+4) |
| That reproductive health services for women, including the right to have an abortion, remain legal where I live (52%) (+8) |
| Having access to affordable mental health services (51%) (+10) |
| Earning equal pay – equal to what a man would earn for the same work (50%) (+9) |

FULL SURVEY RESULTS AVAILABLE AT YWOMENVOTE.ORG

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

This online survey was designed and conducted by Finn Partners and reached a total of N=1,438 women nationwide between December 22, 2021 and January 5, 2022. The overall sample includes oversamples to ensure at least N=200 were interviewed in the following categories: Black women, Hispanic/Latinx women, Asian American and Pacific Islander women, and Native American women. These oversamples were weighted down to their proper size in the final dataset to ensure that the findings are representative by race and ethnicity. Additionally, slight weighting was applied to the data set by age, region, and education level, to ensure the overall representativeness of the sample as well.

ABOUT YWCA

For over 160 years, YWCA has been on a mission to eliminate racism, empower women, and promote peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. YWCA has been at the forefront of the most pressing social movements – from voting rights to civil rights, from affordable housing to pay equity, from violence prevention to health care reform. Today, we combine programming and advocacy in order to generate institutional change in three key areas: racial justice and civil rights, empowerment and economic advancement of women and girls, and health and safety of women and girls.