

YWOMENVOTE 2022 - MIDTERM ELECTIONS

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 midterm elections. Drawn from [YWCA USA's fifth 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.

Despite gaining citizenship status in 1924, AI/ANs did not gain the right to vote until the 1970s, and 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 [reported as](#) highly influential in critical states that impacted overall 2020 election results. As AI/AN populations galvanize around the issues and policies that impact their daily lives, the influence of this voting constituency will likely grow in influence.

Enthusiasm and Impact: American Indian and Alaska Native Women

Just under two-thirds of AI/AN women (63%) surveyed believe the midterm federal election results in 2022 will have at least somewhat of an impact on their lives and their families' lives. This falls just short of the numbers among women overall (67%). Additionally, 44% of AI/AN women reported high enthusiasm to vote in the upcoming federal elections (scoring importance as an "8", "9", or "10" on a scale of 0 - 10, with 10 being most important), only slightly lower than the enthusiasm for women overall (49%) (-5 points).

Policy Solutions: American Indian and Alaska Native Women

Intensity of support is higher among AI/AN women for a number of policies. **Particularly, their support for caregiving legislation is between 10 and 14 percentage points higher than for women overall.** Their highest ranked policy solutions include:

Top Policies: AI/AN Women	
Ranked by One of the Most Important/Very Important Combined	
Health and Community Well-Being	Comprehensive Health Coverage (85%) (+7 compared to women overall)
Gender-Based Violence	Domestic Violence Prevention & Services (84%) (+8)
Economic Security	Paid Medical & Family Leave (83%) (+10)
Economic Security	End Workplace Harassment & Discrimination (83%) (+4)
Health and Community Well-Being	Prevent gun violence and mass shootings (82%) (+0)
Health and Community Well-Being	Protect access to contraception (81%) (+7)
Childcare	Provide robust funding for childcare in the federal budget. (79%) (+14)
Health and Community Well-Being	Expand Mental Health Services for Survivors of Trauma (79%) (+2)
Health and Community Well-Being	Federal Funding for Nonprofit Community Services (79%) (+4)
Economic Security	Strengthen equal pay laws for women (79%) (+3)

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 health and caregiving concerns (between 3 percentage points and 4 percentage points higher in comparison to women overall).** The concerns that rank highest for Native American women are:

Top Concerns: AI/AN Women <i>Ranked by Very/Somewhat Worried Combined</i>	
Economic	Cost of Living (87%) (+1 compared to women overall)
Economic	Family Income and Expenses (69%) (+1)
Economic	Afford Rent or Mortgage (62%) (+0)
Gun Violence	Mass Shootings and Gun Violence (62%) (-14)
Reproductive Rights	Abortion and Reproductive Health Services (55%) (+4)
Mental Health	Affordable Mental Health Services (54%) (+3)
Racial Justice	Rise in White Nationalism (49%) (-5)
Economic	Earning Equal Pay (47%) (-3)
Economic	Paid Sick Leave (45%) (+3)
Economic	Family Paid Time-Off (45%) (+4)
Mental Health	Stress, Anxiety, and Trauma from COVID-19 (45%) (-2)

FULL SURVEY RESULTS AVAILABLE AT YWOMENVOTE.ORG

Survey Methodology

This online survey was designed and conducted by Finn Partners. It reached a total of N=3,354 women nationwide between June 21, 2022 and August 2, 2022. This sample is inclusive of oversamples of women in six states (N=400 in each of Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Texas), younger women of color (N=200 Gen Z, N=200 millennial), and American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) women (N=81), all of which were weighted down to the appropriate size nationwide. The combined reach of this survey and additional oversamples enabled examination of demographic subgroups by race and ethnicity (Black women, Hispanic women/Latinas, Asian American and Pacific Islander women, and American Indian/Alaska Native women), and by generation.

About YWCA USA

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. Learn more at www.ywca.org.