

Kerry Edwards

John Kerry: A Record of Support for Native Americans

A Commitment to Appoint Native Americans to Key Positions



"As President, I will also restore respect for tribal sovereignty throughout the Executive Branch and reopen the doors to the White House to the first Americans...To ensure that your voice is heard on these and other vital issues, I will appoint Native Americans to key positions in the White House and throughout my administration."

[UNITY: Journalists of Color Convention, 8/05/04]

A Commitment to Improve Health Care and Education



On August 8, 2004, during a campaign swing through New Mexico and Arizona, John Kerry pledged to promote tribal sovereignty and partner with tribes to improve access to health care, provide more educational opportunities, and strengthen economic development efforts.

Kerry Co-sponsored the Law to Authorize the National Museum of the American Indian



John Kerry was a co-sponsor of the law that authorized the National Museum of the American Indian as part of the Smithsonian Institution in 1989. [101st Congress, S. 978]

John Kerry Has a Record of Legislation for Native Americans



When the BIA was slow to assist the Nipmuc tribe's claims, Kerry was "helpful, hosting a meeting with Nipmuc tribal members in his Washington office and urging the BIA to expedite its decision." For the Mashpee Wampanoag, John Kerry, has "tried to persuade the bureau to not let the process drag any longer." [*Boston Herald*, 9/10/01; *Cape Cod* 7/15/02]

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Ensuring Tribal Sovereignty and Working to Improve the Lives of Native Americans

★ **Promoting Sovereignty**

Strengthening the Government-to-Government Relationship: As President, John Kerry will sign an Executive Order that supports regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with Indian tribal governments.

Trust Reform: John Kerry and John Edwards are committed to working with tribes to continue meaningful and accountable trust reform.

★ **Appointing Native Americans to Key Administration Positions and to the Judiciary**

John Kerry and John Edwards will reopen the doors of government to Native Americans by appointing Native Americans to key positions in the White House and throughout the administration.

★ **Improving Access to Health Care**

Increase funding for the Indian Health Service: John Kerry and John Edwards will fight for meaningful increases for this vital program, which provides health care to Native communities.

Elevating the Director of the Indian Health Service: John Kerry and John Edwards support elevating the Director of the Indian Health Service to the Assistant Secretary level.

★ **Creating Educational Opportunities**

Elementary and Secondary Education: John Kerry and John Edwards will work to improve the reading levels of Native American children, including incorporating culturally relevant curricula.

Tribal Colleges: John Kerry and John Edwards support increased funding for tribal colleges.

★ **Building Communities**

Roads in Indian Country: John Kerry and John Edwards support increased funding for roads and other infrastructure projects in Indian Country.

Housing: John Kerry and John Edwards will work to improve homeownership and to build safe, affordable housing in Indian Country.

★ **Protecting the Environment & Energy Development**

Energy Development: John Kerry and John Edwards support the creation and funding of an office at the Department of Energy dedicated to energy issues in Indian Country. An integral part of the Kerry-Edwards energy plan is developing alternative sources of energy.