

The National Congress of American Indians

RESOLUTION POLICY AND PROCESS

(Revised November 10, 2003)

A RESOLUTION is one of the policy mechanisms utilized by NCAI to express the organizational positions on any federal, state, local, and/or tribal legislation, litigation or policy matters that affect the welfare and rights of American Indian and Alaska Native governments or communities. In June of 2002, NCAI adopted a Policy Statement which addresses the organization's general stance on issues such as tribal sovereignty, treaty rights, federal trust responsibility, health, housing, education, environmental quality, and physical, spiritual, traditional, and cultural customs and practices of American Indians and Native Alaskans. These matters need not be addressed by resolution, but remain an intrinsic focus of the organization's work.

AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

Only individual members in good standing or delegates/alternates in good standing from a member Tribe are authorized to submit a resolution. The Resolutions Committee will verify membership for all resolutions submitted.

RESOLUTION SUBMISSION DEADLINE

All resolutions are required to be submitted to and received by the NCAI office electronically or on floppy disk, at the following addresses, three weeks prior to the Annual Convention. Resolutions will not be considered at the Mid-Year Convention or the Executive Council unless they are determined by the Executive Committee to be of an extraordinary emergency nature (issues that *cannot* wait until the Annual Session to be addressed) *and* national in scope. Resolutions must be submitted to the NCAI office and made available to the Executive Committee for review to determine if the proposed resolution is of an extraordinary emergency nature and national in scope no later than fourteen days before the Mid-Year or Executive Council Winter Session.

National Congress of American Indians
1301 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036 or...
FAX (202) 466-7797 or...
NCAI@ncai.org

RESOLUTION SUBMISSION FORMAT

Resolutions must be submitted in the attached resolution format in Microsoft Word 5.0 or higher on disk or in an e-mail attachment. Resolutions must be accompanied with a completed Resolution Submission Form. Resolution templates and Submission Forms are available from the NCAI website, www.ncai.org, from the NCAI Office (202) 466-7767, or from Committee Chairs. If the resolution is not being submitted electronically, a disk containing the resolution must be submitted with the resolution.

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RESOLUTION CONTENT

All resolutions should be national in scope to address the best interests of all American Indians and Alaska Natives. Resolutions that take one side between conflicting tribes are not in order. Resolutions should address current issues, and should clearly and concisely present issues and position or action being requested. Resolutions should not duplicate the NCAI Policy Statement, and are not required in order for NCAI to take positions on issues that are consistent with that statement of policy. Resolutions should not be longer than two pages. Additional information may be attached if necessary.

All resolutions begin with a descriptive title and the following standard NCAI resolution language:

***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, 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*

PROCESS FOR CONSIDERATION, MODIFICATION, AND/OR APPROVAL

Resolutions must be submitted to the Resolutions Committee, in care of the NCAI National Office, before the established deadline. The Resolutions Committee will review the resolution for compliance with the resolution policy. If the resolution is in compliance it will be referred to the appropriate NCAI Committee for consideration, modification, and/or adoption. Resolutions found not to be in compliance with resolution policy will be referred back to the submitter.

All NCAI Standing Committees will consider resolutions from two sources:

- (1) Those referred to the Standing Committee by the Resolutions Committee, and
- (2) Those considered emergency in nature and national in scope as determined by the Executive Committee and subsequently referred to the Standing Committee.

All resolutions referred to the Committees shall be reviewed and recommended back to the General Assembly or Executive Committee for action. Note: The Presiding Chair makes the judgment about whether a resolution or proposed amendment(s) is in order, after consultation with the Resolutions Committee Co-Chair and Parliamentarian.

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Standing Committees are authorized to either modify a resolution or recommend approval of the resolution as submitted. All voting on actions, recommendations, proposed resolutions or policy shall be conducted according to the NCAI By-Laws Article II Section 2 (B). Voting on positions to be adopted by Committees shall be conducted under the same conditions as the Executive Council, i.e. One Tribe - One Vote.

ACTIONS FROM THE FLOOR – NCAI operates meetings under Roberts Rules of Order, which allow for action to come from the floor. Under extraordinary circumstances, the General Assembly or Executive Council may suspend the rules of the Convention or Conference in order to consider a resolution proposal from the floor, if the Presiding Chair deems the action appropriate after consultation with the Resolutions Committee Co-Chairs and the Parliamentarian.

The suggested format of the request should be: “Mr. /Madam Chairperson my name is ____, I am a member in good standing and I move and ask unanimous consent to suspend the rules to introduce a resolution titled....” Hearing no objection, the Chair rules that the rules are suspended for the stated purpose and asks the delegate to proceed. If there is an objection, a majority of the delegates present decide if the rules are suspended.

TERM OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions, once adopted, will remain the policy of NCAI until withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution, or until the resolution expires pursuant to its terms.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON RESOLUTIONS

NCAI maintains a list of the follow-up actions taken on resolutions and reports to the membership annually on the prior year resolutions. Resolutions are also used by the membership in a wide variety of local, regional, and issue-specific situations to support tribal positions, so please communicate with NCAI staff and the NCAI committee chairs so we can provide assistance and track the progress of the resolutions.

RESOLUTION CODES & NUMBERING SYSTEM:

The following shall be the codes for each NCAI Committee:

- EF Economic & Finance
- NR Natural Resources
- HR Human Resources
- LG Litigation & Governance
- VT Veterans

The following shall be the codes for:

- GA General Assembly
- EC Executive Council
- EX Executive Committee
- AB Administrative Board