



October 14, 2020

Tami Rae Spero
Humboldt County Clerk
50 W Fifth Street
Winnemucca, NV 89445
county.clerk@humboldtcountynv.gov

Re: Drop boxes and more voting sites in Humboldt County

Dear County Clerk Spero:

On behalf of Nevada Native Vote Project and All Voting Is Local, we urge you to add additional in-person voting sites and drop box locations in areas that are more convenient and accessible to the Tribal communities in Humboldt county. Nevada Tribal communities have continually lacked voting access options in Nevada. All Voting is Local analyses shows that the average American Indian and Alaska Native resident is significantly farther from voting locations than white voters; specifically, Native American voters in the county must drive an average of 45 minutes to a voting or drop off location compared to just 18 minutes for the average white resident. The COVID-19 pandemic, which has disproportionately affected Tribal communities, will make in-person voting an untenable option for some Native voters. And, in light of the widely reported issues with the United States Postal Service, many voters are not comfortable returning their vote-by-mail ballots by mail. Therefore, for Humboldt County's Native voters, we urge you to add more accessible voting options that are within reasonable distance for your county's Native voters.

1. Many Native Voters who live on or near Fort McDermitt Reservation Lack Easy Access to a Drop Box Location, Early Voting Site, or Election Day Site.

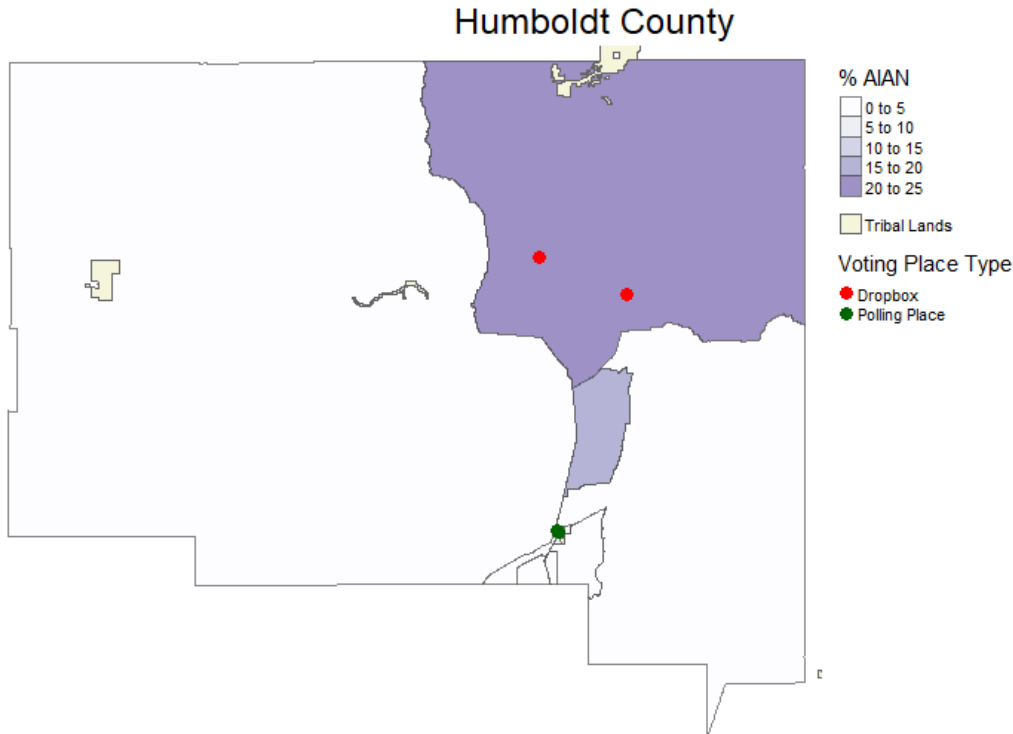
Voters in and near the Fort McDermitt Reservation lack easy access to all voting sites and drop off locations, as shown in Map 1 below. The affected community, which is at risk of being disenfranchised, has about 325 Nevada Native residents, according to census data. Voters in this community who do not have an automobile are particularly at risk, because there are limited public transportation options available to residents (and in light of the COVID-19 crisis, many residents are uncomfortable utilizing public transportation). None of the current early voting and drop box sites are suitable for these Tribal communities.

- County-wide, American Indian and Alaska Native voters would need to travel an average of 45 minutes to reach in-person early vote and in-person Election Day voting sites. The

average time to access these opportunities is 18 minutes for white voters.

- Voters on or near the Fort McDermitt reservation must drive over an hour (~75 miles) to reach the in-person locations at the County Courthouse or the Convention Center in Winnemucca.

Map 1: Humboldt County In-Person and Drop off Voting Sites



We urge you to place another in-person voting option for the Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes of the Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation and a drop box location on or near the Fort McDermitt Reservation, so that these voters can safely exercise their right to vote during this pandemic. There are numerous viable options that you could explore, including working with the Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes of the Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation to find a suitable location for a drop box location on or near the reservation, or working with the town of McDermitt, which is 7 minutes away by car from the Fort McDermitt Reservation, to establish a closer early vote or Election Day in-person voting option for the Fort McDermitt Tribal community, which would also benefit the McDermitt community.

As the 2020 general election is already underway in Nevada with vote-by-mail ballots being mailed out and early voting starting this week, it is important to take these commonsense

and nonpartisan steps to guarantee that all of Humboldt County's Native voters have access to Election Day, early voting sites, and drop box locations, and to ensure that voters are not forced to choose between their health and their fundamental right to vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kerry Durmick". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Kerry Durmick
All Voting Is Local

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Melendez". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Brian Melendez
Nevada Native Vote Project

