



PRESS RELEASE

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION

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Colville Tribes to be the First Stop on Statewide Reservation-to-Reservation Voter Registration Tour

NESPELEM, WA— The Chairman of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation announced today that the Colville Tribes will be the first stop on a statewide reservation-to-reservation voter registration tour. The tour is expected to stop at the Lucy F. Covington Government Center the morning of Wednesday, February 19th, visit two tribes each day, wrapping up around March 10th.

“The Native American Voting Rights Act of Washington opened a lot of doors for tribes to participate in voter registration efforts for their members,” Colville Chairman Rodney Cawston said. “We are now able to assist members in meeting residential address requirements and verifying signatures with tribal identification when registering to vote in the State of Washington.”

National Congress of American Indians President Fawn Sharp is expected to be among those traveling across the state. Lummi, Puyallup, and Snoqualmie tribal leaders will also participate. The goal is to get out the Native vote and mobilize first-time voters.

“It is vitally important that every tribal member exercise their right to vote,” Cawston said. “Your vote is your chance to make your voice heard. The voices of Native people must be fully represented in our democracy.”

Washington State is among the states with the highest population of voting age Native Americans.

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About the Colville Tribes:

Today, more than 9,534 descendants of 12 aboriginal tribes of Indians are enrolled in the Confederated Tribes of the Colville. The twelve tribes which compose the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation include: ščəlámxəx^w (deep water) or Chelan; walwáma (Wallowa people) or Chief Joseph Band of Nez Perce; sǰwʷyʷiʷp (sharp pointed trees) or Colville; šntíyátk^wəx^w (grass in the water) or Entiat; snʷáyckst (speckled fish) or Lakes; mətx^wu (blunt hills around a valley) or Methow; škwáxčənəx^w (people living on the bank) or Moses-Columbia; nspilm (prairie) or Nespelem; uknaqin (seeing over the top) or Okanogan; palúšpam (people from Palouse) or Palus; sənpʷilx (grey mist as far as one can see) or San Poil, and šnpəšq^wáwsəx^w (people in between) or Wenatchi.