

## A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT REQUIRES A HEALTHY DEMOCRACY

In 2020, we were proud to significantly expand our work to build a more just and equitable democracy that is responsive to all people and their will to protect the planet. In addition to expanding our Native Vote program, we added Voice the Vote, a voter registration and education program in Madison and Milwaukee, and invested significant resources in advocating for structural democracy reform and improvements to voter access.

The communities that are most affected by climate change, pollution, and environmental injustice are the same communities that our country has traditionally left out of the democratic process. Our democracy fails when any voices are excluded. Wisconsin Conservation Voices is working to connect people of color and young people – communities who overwhelmingly want to solve the climate crisis and support environmental protections – to our country's civic process.

- NATIVE VOTE

As COVID cases spiked in the fall, we needed to pivot to educating voters in ways that would catch their attention without face-to-face contact.

Native Vote worked with seven federally recognized tribes to **mail 12,900 pieces of voter education and registration literature**, which could be used as proof of residence when people registered to vote. Our team also **distributed almost 4,000 "care packages**" that included Native Vote face masks, hand sanitizer, buttons, stickers, and voting information.

We engaged more Native American voters digitally than ever before through fun and engaging virtual events, in-house social media and our paid digital program. We ran \$80,000 worth of digital ads, including original videos and photography created by our staff and music by a well-known Indigenous artist.

Our work led to increases in voter turnout in every tribal community, from six percent in Bad River to a whopping 28 percent in Red Cliff.

### - VOICE THE VOTE

In this crucial election year, it was more important than ever that Wisconsinites have access to the ballot box. Unfortunately, over the past decade, decision makers have made Wisconsin one of the most difficult states in which to vote. These restrictive voter laws disproportionately impact people of color and young people, and COVID-19 made those impacts greater.

We had to get creative, pivoting to a virtual program and incorporating music and art. We worked in close partnership with community organizations, businesses, and leaders to register new voters, educate voters about absentee and early voting, and to get-out-the-vote in communities of color and with young people. Those partnerships included neighborhood groups, service providers like YWCA and The Literacy Network, and student programs like the UW-Madison athletic department.

None of this would be possible without your support! Thank you so much for standing with us this year. We are so grateful, and hope you will join us next year as we work to create a democracy where all Wisconsin voices are heard.



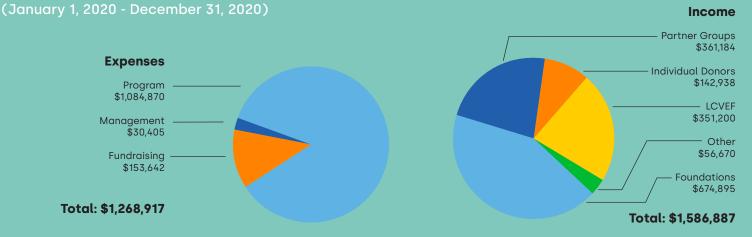
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