



ISSUES FACING NATIVE AMERICANS IN ILLINOIS - 2026

- 1. Education**
 - a. Establish the Office of Native American Education within the Illinois State Board of Education
- 2. Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)**
 - a. Ensure the state and legal system are following ICWA requirements
- 3. Native American Child Health and Welfare**
 - a. Addressing harmful Native American mascots and logos in K-12 schools
- 4. Tribal Language**
 - a. Allow tribal language to satisfy education requirements for foreign languages
- 5. Public and Health Data Infrastructure**
 - a. Establish methods to collect information about Native Americans at all levels
 - b. Reports to list numbers specific to Native Americans, along with Tribal affiliation
 - c. Stop being coded as "Other"
- 6. Affordable Housing and Homelessness**
 - a. Work with the state for research, programs, and services
- 7. Illinois Legislators**
 - a. Establish a Native American Caucus in both the Senate and House
- 8. Indigenous Peoples Day**
 - a. Establish Indigenous Peoples Day in Illinois
- 9. Public Parks and Signage**
 - a. Honor Indigenous Peoples at public parks through proper signage

CELEBRATING PREVIOUS LEGISLATION THAT PASSED

- 1. HB 727 - Native American Employment Plan Act (2019)**
- 2. SB 1446 - Dress Code Policy - allows culturally appropriate attire at school ceremonies (2023)**
- 3. HB 3413 - Culturally appropriate treatment of Native American remains (2023)**
- 4. HB 1633 - Mandates Native American history be taught K-12, Native American history to include sovereignty and self-determination along with focus on Urban Indians, includes Native Americans in the study of the Holocaust and Genocide, includes a Native American on the State Education Equity Commission (2023)**
- 5. HB 4107 - Land Transfer to the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation (2024)**



Native American Summit 2026 FAQs

When is the Native American Summit?

Tuesday, April 28, 2026.

What is the location?

Springfield, Illinois. Summit activities will take place at the Illinois State Capitol and the Illinois State Museum.

Is this event free?

Yes. There is no cost to attend.

Do I need to register?

Registration is strongly encouraged so we can plan and coordinate the day smoothly.

Summit registration: <https://chicagoaicc.com/nas-2026-registration-form/>

Can I register on the day of?

Yes. You are still welcome to attend, but we strongly encourage registering in advance.

Is there a Summit Orientation?

Yes. CAICC hosted a one-hour orientation to walk through the day-of flow and what to expect.

Date and time: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 at 6:30 PM (Hybrid)

What happens at the Capitol this year?

The press conference will take place at 11:30 AM in the Capitol Rotunda (statue area), with microphone, speakers, tables, and chairs set up. Following the press conference, we will gather for drum, song, and dance in the Rotunda/steps area.

Will the House and Senate both be in session?

No. This year, only the Senate will be in session. The Senate convenes at 12:00 PM. We are coordinating a brief recognition during session and planning our day around the Senate schedule.

Are there organized shuttles or buses?

Yes. CAICC is coordinating bus transportation with two pickup locations:

Gichigamiin (Evanston) and Tunica-Biloxi (Cermak, Chicago).

Bus details and pickup timing will be shared with registrants.

Can I drive separately instead of taking the bus?

Yes. You are welcome to drive separately and meet us in Springfield. Please plan to arrive by 10:00 AM at the Illinois State Museum.

What about parking?

Free parking is available at the Illinois State Museum in the lot on the southwest corner of Spring and Edwards Streets.

What food will be served?

Breakfast will be provided for bus riders. Lunch will be provided for all attendees. A light dinner/snack will be provided for those riding the bus back.

What is the dress code?

Wear what is comfortable and appropriate for a day at the Capitol. If you are participating in cultural components (singers, dancers, drummers), please come prepared and ready based on coordination guidance.

I indicated interest as a singer, drummer, or dancer. What happens next?

CAICC is coordinating cultural participants. We may follow up to confirm your role and participation details so we can plan respectfully and appropriately.

Is there an honorarium for singers and dancers?

CAICC is planning to provide a \$150 honorarium per participant, with a target of up to 15 participants, depending on final confirmations.

Will there be meetings with legislators?

Yes. Attendees will be organized into small groups, led by day captains, to meet with legislators. Some meetings will be scheduled, and others will be drop-by visits to share materials and connect with offices.

What should I bring?

Bring comfortable walking shoes, a water bottle, any necessary medications, and a fully charged phone. CAICC will provide official materials for meetings.

What about accessibility needs or dietary restrictions?

Please indicate any accessibility needs or dietary restrictions during registration so we can plan accordingly.

Who can I contact with questions?

Email Marne Smiley at caicc.facilitator@gmail.com

Will there be programming at the Illinois State Museum?

Yes. The museum space is confirmed, and programming will take place in the auditorium, including:
"In Whose Honor?" (47 minutes)

A presentation by Sharon Hoogstraten (details to be shared once finalized)