

2024 Frank Harrison and Harry Austin Voting Rights Essay Contest

On July 15, 1948, a court decision by the Arizona Supreme Court recognized the American Indian right to vote, due to the commitment of Frank Harrison and Harry Austin of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation. The decision overturned a previous ruling that denied the Native right to vote twenty years prior, when Gila River Indian Community members, Peter Porter and Rudolph Johnson attempted to register to vote. Today, we honor their achievements by participating in local, state, and federal elections. The Frank Harrison and Harry Austin Voting Rights Essay Contest awards Native American youth who participate in non-tribal elections and are involved in efforts that serve to protect their right to vote. Mr. Harrison, Mr. Austin, Mr. Porter and Mr. Johnson, understood that their votes can influence the decisions made in their communities and impact the well-being of their family and friends.

A vote begins the process of civic action, the results of these actions determine the future of our communities. As citizens, we should follow our vote to ensure local and federal officials are acting on the issues that are most important to us. Please answer the nonpartisan prompts listed below to show how you plan to honor the legacy of Frank Harrison and Harry Austin by remaining civically engaged in your community during this election year and beyond Election Day.

Essay Prompt:

- Watch the [History of Indian Voting in Arizona video on YouTube](#)
- Write an essay answering the following questions (up to 800 words total):
 - Please provide a brief summary of the History of Indian Voting in Arizona video and describe ways you can protect the right to vote today.
 - What inspires you to participate in local, state, and federal elections?
 - How will you encourage your community to participate in the 2024 elections?
 - How will you continue to engage with your elected officials after Election Day?

Applicant Criteria:

- Enrolled member of a state or federally-recognized Tribe in the United States.
- Must be a registered voter in Arizona.
- 18-25 years of age.

Award:

- \$2,000 Award

Application & Submission Procedure:

1. Complete the application form.
2. Submit a picture and a brief bio (no more than 5 sentences) in the third person.
3. Submit a copy of your Tribal enrollment card/CIB from a state or federally recognized Tribe.

4. Submit proof of voter registration (voter ID card, registration receipt, mail-in ballot, etc.)
5. Submit a typed double-spaced essay in Microsoft Word format answering the questions in the Essay Prompt section above.

Deadline:

- Applications must be completed and sent to alexander.castillo-nunez@itcaonline.com by the deadline of **Friday, May 17, 2024**
- Awardees will be notified no later than July 12, 2024.

2024 Frank Harrison and Harry Austin Voting Rights Essay Contest Application

I. APPLICANT INFORMATION

First name: _____ Last name: _____

Preferred pronouns: _____ Tribal affiliation: _____

Mailing address: _____

Street Address or PO Box *Apartment/Unit #*

City *State* *ZIP Code*

Phone number: _____ Email address: _____

III: AUTHORIZATION & SIGNATURES

I hereby certify that the information provided in this Application Form is, to the best of my knowledge, true and correct. I have not knowingly withheld any facts or circumstances that could jeopardize consideration of my application. In addition, I authorize ITCA to (a) use my Essay for all non-partisan purposes at ITCA's sole discretion; and (b) release my name and publish my photo with any public announcement, social media account, or other nonpartisan voter related publication. I understand that I am not being financially compensated for my Essay and that this is a voluntary contest. By submitting the Application Form, I am giving ITCA permission to verify information on this form as permitted by law.

Print Name

Signature

Date

All submitted materials become the property of the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc., Essay Contest Committee and materials will not be returned.

Application Checklist: *(Incomplete applications will not be considered)*

1. Completed application Form
1. Picture and a brief bio (no more than 5 sentences) in the third person
2. Copy of Tribal enrollment card/CIB from a federally or state recognized Tribe
3. Typed, double-spaced essay in Microsoft Word format