



# History of the Native Vote in Arizona

## 1924 — Indian Citizenship Act

With the passage of the **Indian Citizenship Act** and by operation of the Fourteenth Amendment, an Indian who is a United States citizen is also a **citizen of his or her state of residence**.

## 1928 — *Porter v. Hall*

**Peter Porter and Rudolph Johnson** from the Gila River Indian Community attempted to register to vote but were rejected in Pinal County. After a petition was filed to demand their names be on the voting register, the Arizona Supreme Court determined Indians “persons under guardianship” and **not entitled to vote**. (*Porter v. Hall*, 1928)

## 1948 — *Harrison v. Laveen*

On July 15, 1948, the Arizona Supreme Court **overturned the *Porter v. Hall*** decision, recognizing the **Native American right to vote**. The Court noted that a report by the President’s Committee on Civil Rights described the Porter case as being discriminatory.

## 1970 — Literacy tests prohibited

Since 1948, most Native Americans in Arizona were not able to vote due to **literacy requirements**. In the 1970s, federal law **prohibited the use of tests**, expanding **voting rights** for American Indians in Arizona.

## TODAY — Expanding access

States across the nation are **passing laws that improve voting access in Indian Country**. New Mexico and Nevada, for example, have expanded polling locations, ballot access, and outreach through collaboration with Tribal governments.