



Land Acknowledgment

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Approved by the Leadership Team, August 8, 2022

This statement is by, and for, the League of Women Voters of Bloomington-Monroe County. Following advice from indigenous people, we have intentionally not asked native people to review the statement and tell us how they wish to be acknowledged. We make this statement because we recognize that the lands where we live, and work to protect civil government, have been under the care of many peoples over the long reach of history.

Our state, Indiana, was so named because of the tribes that lived on and governed much of the territory. The League of Women Voters of Bloomington-Monroe County recognizes the indigenous peoples who held sovereign right to this land, many of whom the U.S. government expelled between 1800 and 1836 [Indiana Territory, 1800-2000: A Bicentennial Perspective. Indiana Historical Society, 2001].

We acknowledge that the lands of Monroe County belonged to and sustained, among others, the Miami, Shawnee, Potawatomi, and Delaware (Myaamiaki, Saawanwa, Bodwéwadmik, and Lenape) peoples [Indiana University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology <https://iumaa.iu.edu/about/acknowledgment.html>].

We offer gratitude for being present on and nourished by the land, and we recognize the inherent sovereignty and resilience of all native communities who have survived and still thrive to this day. We ask everyone to look beyond mere acknowledgment and to cultivate thoughtful relations of reciprocity with the land on which we live as well as with the many beings with whom we share it [wording adapted from remarks by Nicholae Cline, Indiana University].

This statement is meant as a starting point for a larger effort to understand the histories and realities of indigenous people and to commit to change, including by stewarding the land and by protecting and expanding voting rights and ensuring that everyone is represented in our democracy.