

# Tribal Relations and Sovereignty

We must maintain a lasting and respectful relationship with Tribal Nations and oppose all attempts to diminish tribal sovereignty, tribal culture, natural resources, or the general welfare of tribes. We recognize this is essential to open and meaningful government-to-government relations. We recognize the status of Urban Indian populations, and that the Federal Trust responsibility expands beyond Tribal Reservation borders.

**We believe:**

**We Call For:**

National Level	State Level

- Recognizing that all Treaties signed under the authority of the United States, are the supreme law of the land;
- Upholding the Treaties, Executive Orders, Agreements, made between Tribal Nations and the Federal Government, which secured specific rights and privileges to sustain the future of Tribal Nations;
- Upholding the principles of Indian Self-Determination throughout State government;
- Federal, state, and local governmental action to remove barriers to the Native vote;
- Elevating the Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs to a Cabinet level agency with appropriate funding in order to properly respect the inherent sovereignty of Tribal Nations;
- Establishing and maintaining tribal consultation prior to proposing or supporting legislation or policies that impact Tribal Nations;
- Recognizing the right of Tribal Nations to prosecute non-tribal members committing a crime on Tribal land;
- Recognizing legislation that reaffirms the Congressional intent of the Indian Reorganization Act, authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for all federally recognized Tribal Nations;
- Amending the federal regulations to streamline the recognition process of Tribal Nations, and providing regulations for recognition of a Native Hawaiian Nation;
- Recognizing the principles in the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People;
- Supporting the rights of tribes to regulate and manage their own environment and natural resources, including the right to hunt, fish and gather in their traditional usual and accustomed places;
- Making a stronger effort to communicate and appoint tribal citizens to state boards and commissions in order to provide an equitable and fair representation in these policy and decision making entities;
- Streamlining state/federal funding and programs that support tribes having the flexibility to develop their economies;
- Working with tribes to remove economic barriers, such as state taxation, to increase capital development funds for Tribal Nations;

- Addressing the achievement gap and disparities in education of Native students;
- Upholding the vision and goals of Indian Education and Self-Determination in all aspects of Indian Education at the preschool through higher education and lifelong learning;
- Promoting the essential role of Native families and parent committees in the decision-making process of their children's education, health and well-being;
- Continuing the development of Tribal Compact Schools;
- Continuing the implementation of the state mandated "Since Time Immemorial" Tribal Sovereignty curriculum;
- Continuing meaningful consultation with state, local, tribal and federal Indian education programs;
- Acknowledging the high percentage of the push out/drop-out rate of Urban Natives students in middle and high school;
- Increased governmental efforts, including data collection, to identify American Indian and Alaska Native students who are multi-racial to address necessary education funding purposes and programs;
- Funding the American Indian Health Commission for Washington State and its work with four state agencies and the Health Benefit Exchange;
- Full implementation of the state law licensing mid-level dental professionals, such as dental health aide therapists, to address the lack of access to dental care;
- Supporting the construction of one or more tribal specialty care facilities to address the lack of access to medical specialists and shift health care costs from the state to the federal government to fulfill its trust responsibility;
- Funding the urban Indian health organizations to enable them to address more of the health needs of Native Americans in urban areas who do not have access to tribal health facilities;
- Funding cultural, health and mental health service organizations that advance the socio-economic conditions for on and off reservation tribal communities;
- Eliminating the harmful legacy of "Indian Mascots" in all sports;
- Declaring the second Monday in October as "Indigenous Peoples Day" in Washington State;
- Recognizing the unique history and cultural relationships of the lands, waterways, usual and accustomed areas in the state which are valued among Tribal Nations;
- Fully engaging and including tribes in discussions and actions regarding climate change, water appropriation, the repair of culverts, and land management plans;
- Recognizing the rights of Tribal members living in non-rural areas.
- Acknowledgement of Urban Indians who are enrolled in Federally Recognized Tribes across the United States;
- Acknowledgement of Urban Indians not enrolled due to the Indian Relocation Act of 1952, children lost to adoption prior to the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, Tribal members disenrolled and the United States policy to terminate Indian Tribes from mid-1940 thru mid-1960;
- Acknowledgment that the Federal trust responsibility that applies to Tribes do not follow Urban Indians when they leave traditional Tribal lands; whereby, Urban Indians have been systematically disenfranchised from Tribal systems and its resources, and must not remain invisible to local, State and Federal Governments;
- Including an Urban Indian Liaison as part of the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs to improve community relations with Urban Indians;
- Congress to lift the ban on inadequate Urban Indian Health Care funding from the Indian Health Service ("IHS") to fulfill its trust responsibility to Urban Indians, whereby, IHS funds should never be taken from the Federally Recognized Tribal allotment to fund Urban Indian Health Care;
- Congress to fund UIHP's 100% Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) payment for encounters with Urban Native Clients as part of the trust responsibility; FMAP funding would save on State Medicaid

spending that could be reinvested into the Indian Health Service, Tribal 638 Contracts, and UIH (I/T/U) system of care for better health outcomes of Urban Natives care;

- Recognizing that Urban Indians make up a disproportionate percentage of the homeless population;
- For Police Officer training on cross-cultural Urban Native communication to avoid discriminatory policing;
- Congress to fully fund the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and provide judicial training on the Act's Indian provisions;
- Providing judicial training on the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 and the Washington Indian Child Welfare Act of 2013 to eliminate the loss of Native children's ties and identities.

**We Oppose:**

- The abrogation of any tribal treaty or tribal agreement by any party;
- Forced assimilation and its distortion of United States History;
- The implementation of Public Law 280, which "establishes a method by which states can assume jurisdiction over reservation Indians."