

# Government to Government

## Understanding State and Tribal Governments

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June 2000



The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) serves the legislators and staffs of the nation's 50 states, its commonwealths, and territories. NCSL is a bipartisan organization with three objectives:

- To improve the quality and effectiveness of state legislatures,
- To foster interstate communication and cooperation,
- To ensure states a strong cohesive voice in the federal system.

The Conference operates from offices in Denver, Colorado, and Washington, D.C.



The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was founded in 1944 in response to termination and assimilation policies that the United States forced upon tribal governments in contradiction of their treaty rights and status as sovereigns. NCAI stressed the need for unity and cooperation among native governments for the protection of their treaty and sovereign rights. Since 1944, the National Congress of American Indians has been working to inform the public and Congress on the governmental rights of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Now as in the past, NCAI serves to:

- Secure to ourselves and our descendants the rights and benefits to which we are entitled,
- Enlighten the public toward the better understanding of the Indian people,
- Preserve rights under Indian treaties or agreements with the United States, and
- Promote the common welfare of the American Indians and Alaska Natives.

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ISBN 1-58024-110-7

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# PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A joint project between the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) attempts to promote intergovernmental cooperation between states and tribes by researching, assessing and disseminating information about how devolution will affect Indian tribes and the state-tribal relationship.

States and tribes have mutual interests: to use public resources effectively and efficiently, to provide comprehensive services to their respective citizens, to protect the natural environment, and to sustain economies. These mutual interests have, at times, created jurisdictional disputes that historically have been solved through litigation. The purpose of this project, however, is to facilitate state-tribal cooperation.

State legislators and tribal leaders have not been previously provided with a consistent neutral forum to address these issues. Providers of information to both state and tribal leaders generally may be biased or suspect for a variety of reasons. State and tribal leaders may not feel entirely comfortable dealing with one another due to lack of cultural or procedural (e.g., the state legislative process) understanding. In addition, state and tribal leaders may not realize that cooperative measures are possible to deal with many mutual issues.

Based on recognizing mutual needs and increasing causes for intergovernmental relations between states and tribes highlighted by devolution, overarching goals of this project include the following:

- Promote an understanding of tribal sovereignty and governance by state legislators, and promote an understanding among tribal leaders regarding issues and processes of state governance, in an attempt to alleviate some of the basic and historical mistrust that tribes may feel toward states.
- Create and maintain neutral forums that are comfortable for and conducive to fostering improved state-tribal leader relationships.
- Understand how to form effective state-tribal agreements to meet mutual interests (what works, what doesn't).
- Create and institutionalize resource networks.

This publication provides information for state legislators about tribal governments and for tribal leaders about state governments. Primary barriers to good relations are lack of knowledge and misunderstandings, resulting in an inability for tribal and state governments to simply relate to one another.

Much, if not all, of this information is published in various formats. It is gathered in this publication to assist tribal and state elected officials who have many concurrent issues and limited time to address them—to provide some basic information that officials of both states and tribes often lack about one another.

Although this guide does not provide comprehensive information about existing models of state-tribal cooperation, it does include a chapter about why working with neighboring governments is important for both governments.

An advisory council to this project provided conceptual support and editorial comments on drafts of this document. We would like to thank the following advisory council members:

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Thanks to Karen Quigley, executive director of the Oregon Legislative Commission on Indian Services; NCSL Legislative Management Program Director Brian Weberg and staff Tim Storey; Dr. Eddie F. Brown, associate dean, George Warren Brown School of Social Work; Cyndi Holmes, self governance director, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe; and Heather Wood, NCAI staff assistant for reviewing drafts of this document; NCSL editorial staff Leann Stelzer and Scott Liddell for editing and formatting; and NCSL Publications Director Karen Hansen and Executive Director Bill Pound for their understanding. Thanks also to Sam Deloria and the American Indian Law Center for the years of work in tribal-state relations and all the information he provided to us.

Finally, special thanks to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, for realizing the importance of and funding this effort.

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

This guidebook was produced jointly by the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI).

At NCSL, Susan Johnson is the project manager and Jeanne Kaufmann is a research analyst for the state-tribal relations project.

At NCAI, John Dossett and Sarah Hicks are co-managers, and Andrea Howard is a research analyst for the state-tribal relations project.



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

State and tribal governments have common purposes: to use public resources effectively and efficiently, to provide comprehensive services to their respective citizens, and to protect the natural environment, all while sustaining healthy economies. Neighboring governments, as a practical matter, share many aspects of their respective economic and social systems, and are connected through political and legal relationships. Although these mutual interests have created jurisdictional disputes that historically have been solved through litigation, there is an increasing need for cooperation. Public resources are an issue for all governments, and states and tribes can benefit by collaborating and pooling resources to the fullest extent possible.

As tribal governments continue to build their capabilities and exercise their powers of self-government, and as the federal government continues to devolve responsibilities to them, states and tribes must address policy questions that concern jurisdiction and shared governance. Tribal and state governments exercise many of the same sovereign powers: taxing, licensing and regulation, and making and enforcing laws. States and tribes also are responsible for governmental services such as education, environmental protection and basic infrastructure.

*Tribal and state governments exercise many of the same sovereign powers.*

State-tribal relations have focused primarily on executive branches in the states through issue-specific relations with particular agencies and, increasingly, on a broader scale through commissions and government-to-government agreements with

*State legislatures can be a powerful forum in which to deal with state-tribal relations.*

governors. However, state legislatures can be a powerful forum in which to deal with state-tribal relations, because they have the primary responsibility to develop state policies governing resource allocations and give authority and direction to agencies to carry out programs and provide services.

If legislators are uninformed or misinformed about the unique circumstances and needs of Indian communities, those tribal citizens will not be adequately served. If tribal governments do not understand state governance concerns and positions, or do not believe that working with states can be beneficial, then opportunities for cooperation will not be realized. State and tribal leaders may not feel entirely comfortable or confident dealing with one another because of past history or lack of understanding of the other. If the tribes and states are to work together successfully, they will want to overcome these problems of trust and other barriers. An understanding of government structures and procedures—as well as cultural issues—is necessary for both tribes and states.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## **Indian Nations and States: Sovereign Governments, Mutual Interests and Common Concerns**

The U.S. Constitution recognizes Indian nations as governments, and hundreds of treaties, federal laws and court cases have repeatedly affirmed that American Indian nations retain the inherent powers to govern themselves. The concept of state sovereignty arises from the Constitution's Tenth Amendment, which states: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

State governments and tribal governments have far more in common than they have in conflict. Both types of government have a primary interest in protecting the health and welfare of their people. Both want to promote the economy, provide jobs, protect natural resources and the environment, and provide governmental services. Both tribes and states have to balance these issues, and their budgets, in order to meet the needs and demands of their constituents. The ongoing devolution of federal programs to the state and tribal levels also has increased the number of common concerns that states and tribes have.

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## Interactions Between States and Tribes Are Changing

Across the 35 states where there are many federally recognized tribes, tribal governments are increasing their capabilities and exercising their powers of self-government on matters ranging from natural resource management to economic development to social services programs to judicial responsibilities. These activities sometimes generate friction with state governments, but more often bring new opportunities for cooperation and mutually beneficial relations. Some states have encountered legal difficulties when dealing with tribes, but other states can provide examples of cooperative agreements and enabling legislation for negotiation processes, commissions, committees and special activities.

In recent years, more state legislatures have established forums—separate from those of the executive branches—to address Indian affairs. Some states have hybrid commissions or committees (see appendix A). Regardless of what forum exists, there are some common sense reasons why state legislators and tribal leaders may want or need to work together.

### Cooperation and Mutual Respect Leads to Positive Results for Both Tribes and States

*Tribal governments, state governments and local governments are finding innovative ways to work together to carry out their governmental functions.*

Many tribes and states are discovering ways to set aside jurisdictional debate in favor of cooperative government-to-government relationships that respect the autonomy of both governments. Tribal governments, state governments and local governments are finding innovative ways to work together to carry out their governmental functions. New intergovernmental institutions have been developed in many states, and state-tribal cooperative agreements on a broad range of issues are becoming commonplace.

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## Cooperative Agreements Protect Jurisdiction and Avoid Expensive Legal Conflicts

Cooperation does not mean that either a state or a tribe is giving away jurisdiction or sovereignty. Some areas of disagreement may always exist, as they may with any neighboring governments. Certainly, both states and tribes will preserve their ability to litigate over jurisdictional, legal and constitutional rights when it is in their best interest to do so. However, many costly and unproductive legal conflicts can be avoided and many beneficial results can be obtained through efforts by both states and tribes to understand each other and resolve conflicts. This guide is intended to help states and tribes understand each other and begin the process of exploring new avenues for improvement of governmental service for the citizens of both tribes and states.

Because devolution may result in overlapping or parallel responsibilities for state and tribal governments, there is mutual interest in coordinating services and authorities to eliminate duplication and to maximize limited resources. State and tribal governments can establish lines of communication, and can work toward coordinated governing. Devolution, in giving greater responsibility to state and tribal governments, not only has increased opportunities for conflict but also has increased opportunities for meaningful and mutually beneficial cooperation.

*Devolution has increased opportunities for meaningful and mutually beneficial cooperation.*

### *Devolution*

A major impetus for the increased need for improved tribal-state relations is devolution—the transfer of resources and responsibilities, often through federal block grants or other funding mechanisms, to state, local or tribal governments. This shifting of power and authority away from the federal government is intended to “bring government closer to the people,” and make government more responsive to local needs. Response to local needs is much more difficult to accomplish through a large federal bureaucracy. In recent years, service

programs (welfare reform, child care, social support) and environmental programs have been increasingly devolved from the federal government to states and tribes.

### ***Devolution's Effect on Tribal Governments***

Devolution disproportionately affects tribal governments. Depending on the mechanism through which programs are devolved (generally through federal law), tribal governments may or may not be recognized as units of government with authority to directly receive the resources and administer the specific program. Although some authorizing laws—like many environmental laws and the welfare reform law—recognize tribal governments as capable program administrators, other federal laws do not. For instance, sections of the Social Security Act authorize only state governments to administer Medicaid, Medicare and Children's Health Insurance Programs. Even when tribes are authorized to administer programs similar to state programs, tribes often are afforded proportionally fewer resources and subjected to greater oversight than are states. Federal devolutionary policies are inconsistent in regard to the sovereign status of tribal governments and their capacity to carry out governmental programs.

*Federal devolutionary policies are inconsistent in regard to the sovereign status of tribal governments and their capacity to carry out governmental programs.*

Before or in the early stages of the current devolutionary trend, many tribal governments and the federal government embraced the concept of shifting federal programs and services to tribal control. The Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 gave Indian tribes the authority to contract for federal resources and administer federal programs as a basic exercise of tribal sovereignty and self-determination. Since 1975, the self-determination programs have been expanded several times, and the Self-Governance Act of 1994 gave tribes even greater flexibility in reprogramming Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Services resources to meet tribal needs. The premise of the self-determination and self-governance programs is that tribal governments have the option to negotiate an agreement to receive the federal resources and perform the services themselves. This ability of each tribe to negotiate an arrangement that will meet its unique needs is

key to the success of the self-determination and self-governance programs; it is lacking in other forms of federal devolution.

Devolutionary policies also raise questions about whether devolution will diminish the federal trust responsibility to tribes and reduce federal oversight and concern for tribal needs. The trust responsibility is the obligation of the federal government to protect tribal self-governance, tribal lands, assets, resources, and treaty rights, and generally to ensure that the basic needs of tribal communities are met (discussed in more detail in chapter 2). The self-determination and self-governance acts clearly guard the federal trust responsibility, but other forms of federal devolution do not. Because of the inconsistent history of federal Indian policy, tribes are hesitant to rely upon policies that attempt to make them self-sufficient. Such policies often have been accompanied by efforts to remove the federal protection of tribal self-government and the federal responsibility for tribal needs.

So, while tribal governments generally welcome the opportunity for increased authority and flexibility, they also question the long-term effects of devolutionary policies and their differential acknowledgment of tribal governments. As a result, tribal acceptance of devolved programs has varied greatly. Tribes generally desire that both the federal and the state governments give greater consideration to tribal self-government and unique tribal needs as devolved programs are developed and implemented.

### ***Common Concerns***

In spite of some disparate treatment, state and tribal governments have many similar interests in devolutionary policies. Both states and tribes have wrestled with the new responsibilities and federal limitations, and have consistently sought greater flexibility. Tribes and states have a great interest in collaborating to ensure that services are efficiently provided to all citizens—both inside and outside reservation boundaries—and in minimizing service overlap.

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*Some devolved programs have limited program and policy development flexibility.*

State and tribal governments similarly struggle to have an opportunity to provide input into congressional processes that develop the structure and limitations with which programs are devolved. Adequate resources to provide services also are of concern, particularly because fixed federal block grants may be inadequate in times of economic distress or downturn. Finally, some devolved programs have limited program and policy development flexibility, unrealistic programmatic performance measures, lack administrative resources and have overburdensome reporting requirements, all which are problematic for both states and tribes. In the era of devolution, state and tribal governments have many common interests and communication and collaboration are increasingly necessary.



## 2. STRUCTURE AND OPERATION OF TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

More than 558 federally recognized “Indian tribes” (variously called tribes, nations, bands, pueblos, communities and native villages) exist in the United States. About 226 of these are located in Alaska; the rest are located in 34 other states. Tribes are ethnically, culturally and linguistically diverse.

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution reads, “The Congress shall have power to...regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.” Thus, the supreme law of the United States clearly recognizes the governmental status of Indian tribes and creates the basis for the unique federal relationship with tribal governments. The Supreme Court, the president and the Congress have repeatedly affirmed that Indian tribes retain their inherent powers of self-government.

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To understand today’s tribal governments, it is helpful to know the basic history of federal policy toward Indian tribes.

### Federal Policy Toward Indian Nations

**Pre-1492** *Pre-Columbian Period*—Indian people lived in organized societies with their own forms of government for thousands of years before contact with Europeans.

*Colonial governments treated with Indian tribes as governments, setting the precedent for future relations.*

**1492-1828** *Colonial Period*—The proliferation of European colonies created a dominant presence on the East Coast of North America. These colonies acquired some Indian lands under the doctrine of discovery and also signed treaties with the tribes for additional land. Colonial governments treated with Indian tribes as governments, setting the precedent for future relations. Following the Revolutionary War, the newborn United States took pains to maintain peace with neighboring tribes, but pressure from settlers resulted in increasing encroachment and conflict.

**1828-1887** *Removal, Reservation and Treaty Period*—As the U.S. population and military strength grew, so did pressure by the U.S. government on eastern tribes to move west, resulting in forced migration and the creation of treaty reservations. Later, the U.S. government embarked on an aggressive military policy throughout the West and established Indian reservations through treaties, acquiring more Indian land. In general, the treaties traded land for the right to tribal self-governance on reservations under the protection of the United States.

**1887-1934** *Allotment and Assimilation Period*—Settlers' increasing desire for the land within reservations and the push to assimilate Indians into mainstream American life led to the General Allotment Act of 1887 (also known as the Dawes Act), which dictated the forced conversion of communally held tribal lands into small parcels for individual Indian ownership. More than 90 million acres—nearly two-thirds of reservation land—were taken from tribes and given to settlers, most often without compensation to the tribes.

**1934-1945** *Indian Reorganization Period*—The federal government, under the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, was prevented from carrying out further allotment. It began to restore Indian lands to tribes and attempted to help tribes reform their governments. The federal government created programs and projects to rehabilitate Indian eco-

conomic life. These efforts were critical in reestablishing tribal economies and formed a basis for renewed tribal autonomy, but too often forced European/Anglo values and government structures upon tribes, thereby damaging traditional values and governance.

**1945-1968** *Termination Period*—Congress decided that federal assistance to more than 100 tribes should be terminated. Public Law 280, passed in 1953, imposed state criminal and civil jurisdiction on many tribes in California, Minnesota, Nebraska, Oregon and Wisconsin. These policies created economic disaster for many tribes, and millions of acres of valuable natural resource land were removed through tax forfeiture sales. Federal policy emphasized the physical relocation of Indians from reservations to urban areas.

**1968-present** *Self-Determination Period*—A resurgence of tribal government activity in Congress and in the federal courts ended the termination era and pushed U.S. policy toward self-determination and self-governance. Policies emerged that favored tribal control over their destinies. With control over their lands and resources, tribes have made great strides toward reversing the economic blight that resulted from previous federal policies, and have revived their unique cultures and societies. Under the self-determination and self-governance acts, tribal governments have been managing many federal programs that are intended to serve Indian people.

## Tribal Sovereignty

The essence of tribal sovereignty is the ability to govern and to protect the health, safety and welfare of tribal citizens within tribal territory. Tribes are separate and distinct peoples with unique histories that predate the United States as a political entity. Recognition of and respect for tribal sovereignty has strong roots that date to the earliest contact between the indigenous peoples of North America and the first European

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settlers. Settlers and the tribal leaders dealt with each other as separate sovereigns, and that relationship is the foundation of all interactions that have taken place between the United States and Indian tribes throughout the history of the nation. This policy of respect for tribal sovereignty is found in the U.S. Constitution, nation-to-nation treaties, federal statutes, case law, executive orders and other administrative policies.

Just as the United States deals with states as governments, it also deals with Indian tribes as governments, not as special interest groups, individuals or some other type of non-governmental entity. Many state governments also have explicitly recognized the governmental status of Indian tribes through various state recognition processes.

Tribal governments have the inherent right to develop their own form of government, to determine their own citizenship, to establish their own civil and criminal laws and be ruled by them in tribal courts, to tax, to license and regulate, and to exclude people from tribal lands. Tribal governments are responsible for a broad range of governmental activities on tribal lands, including education; law enforcement; justice systems; environmental protection; and basic infrastructure such as roads, bridges, sewers, solid waste treatment and disposal, and public buildings.

Congress and the federal courts have placed some significant limitations on the exercise of tribal sovereignty, particularly with regard to jurisdiction over non-Indians. For example, tribal jurisdiction over non-Indians on criminal matters was sharply limited in the 1978 Supreme Court decision in *Oliphant vs. Suquamish Indian Tribe*. However, federal law is particularly protective of tribes' authority over internal matters and their ability to protect the health and welfare of their people. Tribal sovereignty is inherent in the status of Indian tribes, and the law assumes that tribes have sovereign authority unless a federal statute has specifically removed that authority or a federal court has determined that the tribe's exer-

*Federal law is particularly protective of tribes' authority over internal matters*

cise of authority is completely inconsistent with the tribal status within the federal framework.

The status of Indian nations as governments and the preservation and protection of tribal history, language, culture and traditions are at the heart of almost every issue that touches Indian Country and often are misunderstood or not considered by non-Indians. Self-government is essential for tribal communities to continue to protect their unique cultures and identities, and tribal cultures and traditions provide the foundation upon which Indian communities are governed.

## Relationship to State Sovereignty

The Constitution gives authority in Indian affairs to the federal government, not to the state governments. Tribal governments are not subservient to state governments, and retain the right to create laws that are stricter or more lenient than state laws. State laws cannot be applied where they interfere with the right of a tribe to make its own laws protecting the health and welfare of its citizens, or where it would interfere with any federal interest. In general, states may regulate only on matters that are exclusive to non-Indians and that do not affect tribal interests. In some limited instances, the federal government has delegated federal authority on Indian lands to the states.

The analysis of state-tribal relations often is described as a jurisdictional battle over when and how the state may regulate on tribal lands. However, this view of tribal-state relations is incomplete. With far less publicity, tribal governments and state governments for many decades have found ways to cooperate on a broad range of regulatory matters. Most often, the cooperation is in the form of an intergovernmental agreement, a state statute, or an informal arrangement regarding which government will cover certain functions.

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## Treaties

When European settlers came to America, they dealt with the tribes as sovereigns and often negotiated treaties. Exchanges of land and guarantees of peace were handled by treaty. The U.S. government continued to deal with the tribes through treaties until after the Revolutionary War.

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Hundreds of treaties between Indian nations and the United States have been negotiated by the president and ratified by two-thirds of the Senate. Indian treaties have the same status as treaties with foreign nations. Because such treaties are made under the U.S. Constitution, they take precedence over any conflicting state law. Terms of the treaties are upheld by the Supreme Court, although the Court has ruled that treaties may be unilaterally abrogated by Congress. However, Congress must show a “clear and plain” intent to abrogate a treaty (*Lone Wolf vs. Hitchcock, 1903*).

Treaties vary widely in their terms and provisions. They commonly included a guarantee of peace, a provision on land boundaries, a guarantee of hunting and fishing rights (often on lands outside the reservation lands) and a statement that the tribe recognized the authority of the United States and, in return, received a promise from the United States of protection.

Indian treaty making effectively ended in 1871 when Congress passed a legislative rider that attempted to limit the power of the president to enter into treaties with Indian nations. Although some question the constitutionality of this legislation, it nevertheless made clear that no further treaties would be ratified. As a result, not all tribes have a treaty. Although the U.S. Senate did ratify 370 Indian treaties between 1778 and 1871, at least another 45 were negotiated with tribes but never ratified. As determined by the U.S. Court of Claims, some of these unratified treaties have taken legal effect. After official treaty making ended, many tribes have been federally recognized through executive order or statute.

## Trust Relationship

The federal trust responsibility, one of the most important doctrines in federal Indian law, derives from the treaties and the European law of nations. It is the obligation of the federal government to protect tribal self-governance, tribal lands, assets, resources, and treaty rights, and to carry out the directions of federal statutes and court cases. The Supreme Court has defined the trust responsibility as “moral obligations of the highest responsibility and trust” (*Seminole Nation vs. United States, 1942*).

*The federal trust responsibility is the obligation of the federal government to protect tribal self-governance, tribal lands, assets, resources, and treaty rights.*

The trust responsibility can be broadly divided into two interrelated areas. The property-oriented trust duties concentrate upon a narrow but important aspect of the federal trust responsibility: protecting tribal property and assets where the title is held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the tribe. The second, more fundamental, federal trust obligation is to honor the federal guarantee of self-government and the promise that tribal lands must be preserved as the base for a separate culture. A permanent tribal community requires a secure land base to function upon and govern, water to irrigate the land, fish and game in the streams, and income from timber and mineral development. The federal trustee is under an obligation to protect those purposes.

The trust responsibility has also been acknowledged in the Snyder Act of 1921, which requires that the Bureau of Indian Affairs, under the supervision of the secretary of the Interior Department, “to direct, supervise, and expend such moneys as Congress may from time to time appropriate, for the benefit, care and assistance of Indians throughout the United States” for several purposes, including education; health; economic development and profitability of Indian property; development and maintenance of Indian water supplies and buildings; the hiring of government officials, physicians, Indian police, and Indian judges; and the suppression of drug and alcohol trafficking.

## The Structure of Tribal Governments

*The 558 federally recognized tribes in the United States today have governments that are diverse in structure and in decision-making processes.*

Traditional tribal governments existed long before European contact and have evolved over time. The 558 federally recognized tribes in the United States today have governments that are diverse in structure and in decision-making processes. Because some tribal constitutions were patterned after the model constitution developed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs—in response to the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) of 1934—some similarities exist among tribal governments. These standard tribal constitutions contain provisions describing tribal territory, specifying eligibility for citizenship, and establishing the governing bodies and their powers.

Most tribes give legislative authority to a tribal council. In some tribes, the tribal council members are elected by district; in others, they are elected at large. The council generally has authority to write tribal laws, and in some tribes the council members have administrative duties. Most tribal constitutions also provide for an executive officer, called a tribal chairman, president, governor or chief. In some tribes, the chief executive is elected by the tribal council, while in others he or she is directly elected by the voting citizens. In most cases, the duties and powers of the chief executive are not specified in the constitution, but are set in the bylaws. Consequently, the role of the chief executive varies greatly among tribes. Many tribes also have created their own court systems that administer codes passed by the tribal council. In many tribes, judges are elected by popular vote; in others, judges are appointed by the tribal council.

About 60 percent of tribal governments are based on Indian Reorganization Act constitutions. Tribes that have chosen other structures and constitutions frequently have made the decision to do so in favor of a government that is more traditional to the tribe, and do not necessarily follow the pattern outlined above. Such governments are diverse and range from the Navajo Nation to the pueblos of New Mexico. The Navajo Nation has no written constitution, but operates under a de-



tailed tribal code and has an elected council and president. Many of the pueblos operate entirely under unwritten customary law, with traditional leadership and a completely different government structure.

## **Tribal Lands**

Land is of great spiritual and cultural significance to Indian tribes, and many Indian communities continue to rely upon the land for subsistence through hunting, fishing and gathering. Land-based production such as agriculture, forestry, mining, and oil and gas production play a prominent role in tribal economies. Moreover, Indian lands are critical for the exercise of tribal self-governance and self-determination.

Between 1887 and 1934, the U.S. government took more than 90 million acres—nearly two-thirds of reservation lands—from the tribes and gave it to settlers, most often without compensation to the tribes. In addition, the termination era of the 1940s and 1950s resulted in the loss of huge amounts of reservation land.

Today, Indian tribes hold more than 50 million acres of land, approximately 2 percent of the United States. Most of these lands are in arid and remote regions. The largest reservation—the Navajo Nation—covers an area as large as West Virginia. Some reservations are as small as a few acres, and some tribes hold no land at all. With the exception of Metlakatla in Southeast Alaska, no reservations exist in that state. Alaska Native lands title is outlined in the Alaska Native Settlement Claims Act of 1971.

### *Trust Lands*

Title to most tribal lands is held by the federal government in trust for the benefit of current and future generations of tribal citizens. Most often, this land is within the boundaries of a reservation. Although trust land falls under tribal government authority and generally is not subject to state laws, it also is

*Title to most tribal lands is held by the federal government in trust.*

subject to limitations on the use of the land and requires federal approval for most actions. As a result of allotment, a great deal of land is held in trust status for individuals.

*Trust status can be conferred only by the secretary of interior or the U.S. Congress by statute.*

Under the 1934 Indian Reorganization Act, the federal government and the tribes can acquire additional land in trust in an effort to "... conserve and develop Indian lands and resources" and to rehabilitate Indian economic life. This land usually is purchased by the tribe or acquired from federal surplus lands. Trust status can be conferred only by the secretary of interior or the U.S. Congress by statute.

Since 1934, the secretary has taken about 9 million acres back into trust status—about 10 percent of the total amount of land lost. The vast majority of reacquired lands have been within the boundaries of existing reservations. However, it is sometimes necessary for tribes to acquire land outside reservation boundaries. This is particularly true for tribes that have extremely small reservations, for those in remote areas far from the mainstream of economic life, and for those tribes where reservations were diminished during the allotment or termination periods.

Regulations require that the secretary notify state and local governments before making a determination on taking land into trust status, and the secretary must specifically consider the effect on state and local governments of removal of the land from the tax rolls. State and local governments have the right to appeal a secretarial decision both within the Department of Interior and in the federal courts.

Much stricter limitations exist on acquiring land into trust if that land is to be used by a tribal government for gaming purposes. The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 (25 U.S.C. §2719) prohibits gaming on off-reservation lands that were acquired in trust after 1988, unless the governor of the state concurs and the secretary determines that gaming would not be detrimental to the surrounding community.

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## *Non-Indian Fee Lands*

One of the chief issues regarding Indian lands is the effect of former federal land policies—including allotment—that left many tribes with scattered and fractionated parcels intermixed with lands held by non-Indians. This landholding pattern, often called “checkerboarding,” creates two primary problems. The first is that it may render the tribal land base unusable for agriculture, grazing, timber or mining.

The second problem that arises is the jurisdiction over non-Indian fee land within reservation boundaries. Some non-Indians do not want a tribal government to have jurisdiction over their land, and tribal governments resent the intrusion of state jurisdiction within tribal boundaries. In general, the Supreme Court has confirmed the authority of tribal governments to exercise civil authority over the conduct of non-Indians on fee lands within a reservation when that conduct threatens the political integrity, the economic security, or the health and welfare of the tribe (*Montana vs. U.S., 1981*). In practice, jurisdictional matters on checkerboard lands offer a prime opportunity for increased coordination and the development of cooperative agreements between tribal, state and local officials.

*Jurisdictional matters on checkerboard lands offer a prime opportunity for increased coordination between tribal, state and local officials.*

## **Answers to Frequently Asked Questions About Indian Nations**

*Why are Indian tribal citizens treated differently than racial minority groups such as African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans and others?*

American Indians and Alaska Natives are members or citizens of tribal governments. The tribal government has a special legal and political relationship with the federal government, and certain services are provided by the U.S. government because the person is a citizen of the tribe. American Indians

and Alaska Natives also are citizens of the United States and their states, with rights to vote and run for office.

*What are the requirements for tribal citizenship?*

*American Indians and Alaska Natives are citizens of the United States and their states, with rights to vote and run for office.*

Like any government, tribal governments determine their own criteria for citizenship. Usually there is some blood quantum requirement, such as 1/4, or a requirement of lineal descent from a tribal citizen. Individual tribes can answer specific questions. Some federal agencies also have criteria for determining eligibility for programs and services. About 2.3 million Native people in the United States are enrolled citizens of federally recognized tribes.

*Does the federal government provide all the necessary funding for Indian tribes?*

Like state governments, tribal governments receive some federal funding for the programs they operate. The federal government has an obligation to tribal governments that is based on numerous treaties and on the overall trust responsibility. Despite these obligations, federal funding is inadequate as are the services and infrastructure of many tribal governments on Indian reservations.

*Does the federal government pay all expenses—health care, housing and college tuition—for individual Indians?*

In general, no. The federal government provides basic health care for all Indian people through the Indian Health Service. Unfortunately, these health programs have been inadequately funded for many decades, and Indian people have the worst health status of any group in the country. The Department of Housing and Urban Services provides some housing on Indian reservations, but Indians have the highest rate of homelessness and overcrowding. The federal government provides some educational assistance to tribal colleges, but higher education generally is not provided and remains beyond the reach of most Indian people.

*Do Indian people pay taxes?*

Individual American Indians and Alaska Natives and their businesses pay federal income tax just like all other Americans. The exception is that the income an Indian receives directly from a treaty or trust resource such as fish or timber is not federally taxed. States cannot tax tribal citizens who live on and derive their income from tribal lands, but those who work or live outside tribal lands generally are subject to state income, sales and other taxes.

*Do tribal governments pay federal taxes?*

Tribal government revenues are not taxed, just as state and local government revenues are not taxed. This long-standing federal policy with Constitutional support prevents interference with the ability to raise revenue for government functions.

*Tribal government revenues are not taxed, just as state and local government revenues are not taxed.*

*Do tribal governments pay state taxes?*

States cannot directly tax a tribal government. The Supreme Court has held that state governments can collect excise taxes on sales to non-tribal citizens that occur on tribal lands, so long as the tax does not fall directly on the tribal government. States and tribes have developed a variety of methods for collecting these taxes, such as intergovernmental agreements or pre-taxing at the wholesale level.

*Why do tribes have immunity from lawsuits?*

Government or sovereign immunity applies to state, local and federal—as well as tribal—governments. Government immunity protects government funds and discretionary government functions. Like other governments, tribes provide for insurance and limited waivers of their sovereign immunity, taking responsibility for the actions of tribal employees. No government could successfully operate without sovereign immunity to protect the discretionary actions of government officials.

*Gaming has done little to change the depressed economic conditions found on most reservations.*

*Aren't all Indian tribes getting rich from casinos?*

The media coverage of tribal gaming has left the impression that all tribes have grown rich on casino money and that poverty has been eradicated in Indian communities. In fact, only a small number of Indian tribes have found economic success through gaming. Of the 558 tribes, only 198 are engaged in gaming, and 22 of those tribes collect 56 percent of the revenue. In reality, gaming has done little to change the depressed economic conditions found on most reservations.

*Does the federal government regulate Indian gaming?*

In 1988, Congress formally recognized but limited the right of Indians to conduct gaming when it passed the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA). The IGRA created the National Indian Gaming Commission to regulate Indian gaming. The IGRA generally allows tribes to use Class II games such as bingo, so long as these games are not criminally prohibited by the state. For Class III casino gaming, however, tribes first must negotiate compacts with states concerning the games to be played and the regulation required for the games.

*How do Indian nations use the revenues from Indian gaming?*

Like state and local governments, tribes use revenues from any source as a tax base to fund essential services such as education, law enforcement, tribal courts, health care and other social services, economic development, and infrastructure improvement. In fact, Indian tribes are required by IGRA to use their gaming revenues for such purposes. Tribal government gaming—enterprises run by government entities to raise revenues for essential government functions—is more akin to state lotteries than to commercial for-profit businesses.

# 3. STATE GOVERNMENTS: FOCUS ON THE LEGISLATURES

## The State-Federal Relationship

The relationships between the states and the federal government were first recognized in the Articles of Confederation in 1781. The U.S. Constitution was drafted in 1787, but it was in 1791 that the Tenth Amendment was drafted.

The federal government ensures some minimum cohesiveness or commonality in the way programs and government functions are carried out across the nation, but implementation and adaptation of these programs and functions generally are left to the states. Relations between state governments and the federal government are not so simple. A complex web of responsibilities and jurisdictions often confuses the issue of where federal control ends and state control begins.

*A complex web of responsibilities and jurisdictions often confuses the issue of where federal control ends and state control begins.*

Geography, economics and other factors may influence the relationships states have with the federal government. States and state governments are as diverse as tribes and tribal governments. Rooted in the historical development of the country, western states, for instance, may be more independent or wary of the federal government despite—or because of—the vast federal land holdings in the west. But poorer states—wherever their location—may be more dependent on federal assistance.

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## The Structure of State Governments

Three branches of government exist within the states: legislative, executive and judicial. As the U.S. Constitution establishes the three branches of the federal government, state constitutions establish the three branches of state government. Having three distinct branches—a “separation of powers”—allows each to have its own responsibilities, but none to be more powerful than the others.

### *Legislative*

The legislative function is threefold: they write the state laws, appropriate the funding, and conduct oversight to ensure that the laws are enforced and the state agencies effectively perform their duties. Under state constitutions, legislatures have general lawmaking powers. Legislatures, rather than agencies, generally make the initial political decisions that balance competing interests such as economic development and environmental protection. Agency officials are not accountable in the same way to the citizens as are elected legislators and are not compelled to make the difficult policy choices that legislatures must make.

*Legislatures ultimately authorize all agency program budgets.*

All branches of state government are funded by citizen taxes that are appropriated by the legislatures—in this sense the three branches are linked by this annual or biennial process. State budget processes are complex and it often takes much of the year to develop the budget. In most states, the governor is legally responsible for developing proposed budgets. He or she does so with substantial input from state agency directors, who are responsible for reporting expenditures and forecasting budget needs for their individual agencies. Most legislatures have budget review offices or agencies that monitor state spending and help prepare appropriations bills for consideration by the legislatures. Some legislatures follow the governor’s budget, others may not follow it so closely. The legislatures ultimately authorize all agency program budgets and often au-



authorize specific spending for particular items by passing a budget bill, which then must be signed by the governor.

Understanding the budget process and the role of the legislature, the governor and the agencies can help neighboring governments to effectively work with the state government.

### *Executive*

The governor and the agencies make up the executive branch. The governor—the “chief executive” of the state—sets policy through executive orders or proclamations. Generally, a new governor can reverse those orders. The governor can propose legislation and also has veto authority over legislative actions, but legislatures, with a substantial majority, can override a governor’s veto. In most states, the governor appoints agency directors. The agencies carry out laws enacted by the legislative branch by providing services, implementing non-service programs, and practicing enforcement authority as granted by the legislature. State agencies handle specific issues and have defined areas of responsibility.

*Agencies carry out laws enacted by the legislative branch.*

### *Judicial*

The judiciary, or court system, in each state acts as a check on the other branches by ruling on controversies that may involve state laws and governing processes. (Most states are moving toward adopting merit systems to select judges; a few still use popular elections.) The legislature or governor can react to a court ruling with which they disagree by amending state law and policy, unless it is a constitutional issue.

## **The Structure of State Legislatures**

The 50 state legislatures have many similar elements. All have periodic elections, establish legislative leadership and committee systems, and employ staff who assist individual members and the legislative process to run smoothly.

Forty-nine states have bicameral legislatures made up of two chambers or legislative houses called the senate and the house of representatives. In a few states, the house is officially called the assembly or house of delegates. Of the two houses, the house is generally the larger body, and members serve shorter terms than their senate counterparts. The sizes of legislatures—established in state constitutions—also vary greatly, from New Hampshire’s 400-member House to Alaska’s 20-member Senate.

### Legislative Districts

There are 7,424 state legislators in the United States and the number of legislators who serve in each state varies dramatically. States are divided into districts, and legislators are elected from these areas to represent the district at the state legislature.

District boundaries are redrawn every 10 years based on population data and demographic information provided by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. A series of U.S. Supreme Court rulings and the federal Voting Rights Act require that a state’s legislative election districts have equal population and that each district’s racial and ethnic makeup does not preclude minority groups from the potential to elect candidates of their choice.

In most states, the redrawing of legislative districts—redistricting—is done by the state legislature. A state commission performs this role in a few states.

Nebraska is the only unicameral state legislature in the nation, and legislators there are called senators. The Nebraska Legislature also is unique because it is the only state legislature where members are elected on a nonpartisan basis.

Most legislatures meet every year with the exception of Arkansas, Kentucky, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon and Texas, which meet biennially, or once every two years. Session length varies from state to state—

anywhere from 30 days to several months or, in some states, until the business is done. California, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Wisconsin and the District of Columbia meet throughout the year.

## Legislative Diversity

Although each state legislature is unique, there are three general types of state legislatures, based on the population of the

state, the length of the session, the size of the legislative staff, and legislative salary. These three types are referred to as 1) full-time legislatures; 2) citizen legislatures; and 3) mixed or hybrid legislatures that fall somewhere between type 1 and type 2.

In full-time legislatures more legislators work only in the legislature, have larger staff, and receive higher salaries. This type of legislature is typical in larger states that have long sessions. Citizen legislatures are those where the legislators are part-time (they usually have full-time employment elsewhere), have small staffs that also may be part-time, and are paid lower salaries. This type of legislature is typical of smaller states or low-population states that have short sessions. The third category is a combination of the full-time and citizen legislatures. These legislatures generally have medium-sized staffs and receive a moderate salary. Session lengths vary among these largely Midwestern states.

Diversity exists among legislators as well. Education, subject matter expertise and experience are as varied as that of the general population. Minority groups are gaining representation in the legislatures. Political and geographical labels do not necessarily tell all about a particular legislator. Rural members are not necessarily ultra-conservative and Democrats are not necessarily liberal, for instance.

*Legislators' education, subject matter expertise and experience are as varied as that of the general population.*

## Term Limits

Most state house members are elected every two years, except in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Maryland, where the members serve for four years. Most senators are elected to four-year terms, except in 12 states where they have two-year terms. A recent trend in some state legislatures has been to set limits on how many terms a person may hold office as a representative or senator. Eighteen states have various term limits (most states also limit the number of terms that the governor can serve). The length of term limits varies in each of the 18 states.

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## Legislative Leadership

Certain members hold leadership positions in their respective legislative chambers. The top positions are the speaker for the house of representatives and the president, president pro tem or majority leader for the senate. These leaders—elected by the members of the entire chamber or a majority of their party members—usually decide committee assignments and set the overall session agendas. Leadership also can have significant influence over particular legislation.

Each chamber also has a majority (the political party with the most seats in the legislature) leader who is elected by his or her political party or appointed by the speaker or president of the respective chamber. These leaders, who are primarily responsible for scheduling bills for consideration and controlling the debate when the bill reaches the floor, work closely with the speaker or the president. Minority (the political party with less seats than the majority in the legislature) leaders represent their political party in the senate or house. Finally, majority and minority “whips” in both chambers serve as liaisons between leadership and members, and perform various functions related to their political party. Informal or unspoken power structures may include legislators who although they have no formal leadership position, serve as part of the “inner circle” of those who may wield legislative power among colleagues.

## Legislative Committees

Legislative committees hear most of the debate on proposed bills. Committee hearings are open to the public, and offer an opportunity for citizens to voice opinions and explain the pros and cons of specific topics that may affect their community. Legislators depend on these hearings to learn enough about the proposed legislation to make informed decisions to vote for or against it.

*Committee hearings  
are open to the public,  
and offer an  
opportunity for  
citizens to voice  
opinions.*

All committees are either comprised of legislators from one house only, or are “joint” committees with members from both houses. Occasionally non-legislators will sit on committees. The three main types of legislative committees are standing, interim and select. Standing committees deal with broad topics such as education, local government, finance, human services and environment. They meet during the legislative session and continue from year to year. These committee members review, debate and refine legislation before any action is taken on the legislation by the entire body. Interim committees are akin to study groups that meet between sessions. They generally have a narrower focus. Select committees are similar to interim committees in that they meet on specific subjects or proposals, but they dissolve when the task is done. Both interim and select committees often are authorized at the end of the session to look at issues that were debated but not enacted.

*Committee members review, debate and refine legislation before any action is taken on the legislation by the entire body.*

Committees are chaired by legislators who have some expertise in or knowledge of the topic area, and are supported by legislative staff. By virtue of their jurisdiction, some committees are more powerful than others. Appropriations, ways and means, finance, and rules are among the more influential committees in most states.

## Legislative Staff

The importance of staff in the legislative process should not be underestimated, because they provide information to and thus influence the legislators. Non-partisan legislative staff offices provide year-round research and legal capabilities dedicated to the legislative branch. These offices are independent of the executive branch. They provide background information on bills, respond to information requests from the members and may staff various committees of the legislature. Staff also may draft bills out of these offices or from separate legislative drafting offices. Fiscal and audit staff analyze budgets and evaluate programs.

*Staff are responsible for assisting legislators in carrying out their duties.*

An increasing number of professional and partisan legislative staff are being hired by state legislatures. Partisan legislative staff work exclusively for majority or minority leadership or Democratic or Republican caucuses and focus generally on developing party positions. Personal legislative staff—those who work for only one legislator—are common in larger states. All staff are responsible for assisting legislators in carrying out their duties, and some may have considerable influence on legislative action.

Chief staff officers in each chamber—the secretary of the senate and the clerk of the house—are responsible for reading bills upon introduction, preparing chamber calendars, tracking amendments, recording votes, publishing journals that reflect floor action, posting committee hearing schedules, and engrossing and enrolling bills.

Committee staff record votes and prepare minutes, amendments and committee reports. They often brief the members on the issue(s) and may assist in preparing questions that members will ask of witnesses to clarify points or address specific concerns.

## **Legislative Mechanisms for Addressing Tribal Issues**

Legislatures have various forums and methods to address tribal issues. Several states have legislative committees—both standing and interim—dedicated to Indian affairs. These committees generally are comprised of legislators only, but they hear testimony from any interested party.

Some states have councils, committees or commissions that include appointed representatives from state administrative and legislative branches, and often from the tribes. A few states have issue-specific committees or councils, such as gaming or fisheries commissions. Finally, many states have Indian affairs commissions that are solely mechanisms of the executive

branches and generally do not include legislative involvement. A complete listing of state committees and commissions is included in appendix A.

Maine has a unique mechanism. Under the state's House Rule 525, one representative each from the Penobscot Nation and the Passamaquoddy Tribe are granted seats on the floor of the house with speaking privileges. They can serve on committees, and have other legislative rights and privileges except for voting. They also may sponsor or cosponsor legislation that specifically relates to Indians and Indian land claims.

Some states have “Tribal Government Day” or “Indian Day” at the legislatures where, for instance, tribal leaders may be invited to address the legislature. Annual or regularly scheduled meetings between tribal and state legislative representatives also may be scheduled.

Lastly, legislatures have addressed Indian issues by enacting laws directing agencies or local governments to enter into intergovernmental agreements with tribes. This legislation may address the general principles and processes of entering into agreements, and may include direction to agencies or the governor to enter into agreements on specific issues in such areas such as tax, law enforcement, gaming, human services or environmental protection.

*Legislatures have addressed Indian issues by enacting laws directing agencies or local governments to enter into intergovernmental agreements with tribes.*

## Answers to Frequently Asked Questions About State Legislatures

*Who can submit legislative proposals to the state legislature?*

A legislator must introduce bills and other proposals to the legislature as a whole. Anyone, however, may suggest a proposal to a legislator, who then, can present it to the body. Some states have deadlines—usually soon after the beginning of the session—for submitting proposals to the legislature to

reduce the sheer number of proposals submitted and the amount of interruption of regularly scheduled business.

*How are state legislative proposals written?*

Proposals generally take the form of resolutions, memorials or bills. Proposals generally are written by legal specialists or lawyers on the legislature's staff. Bills drafted by people outside the legislature must be reviewed by legislative staff to ensure that they follow the correct format.

*What is a bill sponsor?*

A bill sponsor is a legislator who supports an idea and requests that a bill be drafted for introduction or introduces a bill that already is drafted. Many states limit the number of bills a member can introduce. Cosponsors are other legislators who agree with and support the sponsor of a bill they believe would be a good law.

*What happens once a bill is introduced?*

After a member introduces a bill in his or her chamber, it is assigned a number and then is referred to a committee(s) that may hold hearings and either report the bill back to the chamber without any changes, report an amended version, or recommend that the bill not be passed. Once through committee, a bill is placed on a calendar in the house or the senate, where it is debated and passed or defeated by a majority vote. It then is sent to the other chamber where the same process is followed. If it passes both chambers, the bill goes to the governor, who either signs or vetoes the legislation. Anywhere during this process, the bill may be defeated, amended or substituted by another bill.

*Anywhere during the process, a bill may be defeated, amended or substituted by another bill.*



*How do you find out about committee times, agendas and bill status?*

Committees meet in various rooms throughout the state capitol. The times and locations are posted in various places within the capitol, on the state legislative web site, and may be advertised in the statewide newspapers.

Calendars and agendas are the schedules of business for each day in each chamber and for committees. Floor calendars are set by the speaker of the house or the senate president. Committee chairs set committee agendas. To obtain notices regarding the agendas for a particular day's floor session or a committee meeting, contact the legislative information number (appendix D) for referral to the correct office in that state.

Bill status can be obtained by calling the bill status phone numbers (appendix D). In addition, most state legislative web sites can be searched for bills in each session by subject, keyword, sponsor or bill number. Some state web pages are more up-to-date than others.

*Who can address a senate or house of representatives?*

Unlike legislative committee hearings, only legislators and staff generally are allowed access to the floor of either chamber to address the members. Simple introductions by a legislator of a guest either on the floor or in the gallery (the public seating area above the floor) are common. However, it is extremely rare that a non-legislator is allowed to address the floor. The only way to obtain permission to address a chamber of the legislature is to approach a legislator or the presiding officer—the speaker or the president—and make a request. Such requests must be made well in advance and may very well be rejected. Even the governor can address a chamber only by special invitation.

*Only legislators and staff generally are allowed access to the floor of either chamber to address the members.*

## 4. WORKING WITH NEIGHBORING GOVERNMENTS

Often, the knowledge of how an entity is structured and why it operates as it does is not enough to help understand why and how to actually work with that entity. This chapter offers not only considerations of the potential reasons to work together and the benefits of collaboration, but also provides suggestions about how to initiate contact and build relationships.

### Why Work With Tribal Governments?

*In areas of overlapping or adjacent jurisdiction, states and tribes can realize significant benefits from cooperation.*

As sovereign governments, tribes and states often have similar issues of concern. Both are responsible for their constituencies—providing needed programs and services, using limited resources effectively, and promoting sustainable development. In areas of overlapping or adjacent jurisdiction, states and tribes can realize significant benefits from cooperation.

Tribal governments know their constituents; they provide a variety of programs and services. Tribal governments often can more successfully provide effective, appropriate services to tribal citizens and can coordinate state-provided services with services that already are provided on the reservation to ensure comprehensive, non-duplicative services. Tribal governments themselves are the fundamental source of authority in Indian

Country, and it is best to contact them directly regarding concerns or questions about a tribal matter. NCAI and other tribal organizations can serve as a resource, but are no substitute for direct communication with tribal governments.

## How to Work Effectively With Tribal Governments

The more than 558 tribal governments are listed in appendix C. A complete list of federally recognized tribes with addresses and phone numbers also is available on the NCAI web site ([www.ncai.org](http://www.ncai.org)). If your state has a commission, office or committee on Indian affairs (appendix A) or an intertribal association (appendix B), these can serve as key resources to assist in contacting tribal officials and understanding the governmental structure and protocols that are unique to each tribe.

In general, it is best to communicate and coordinate with tribal governments on a *government-to-government* basis, in a manner similar to the relationships between other state or federal government agencies. It is recommended that coordination take place as early as possible and before any official notifications are made. A key is ongoing, long-term relationships, where communication continually is shared and updated. Several states have developed agreements and protocols on state-tribal communication and coordination that have been helpful in regularizing the contacts between states and tribes.

*It is best to communicate and coordinate with tribal governments on a government-to-government basis.*

In contacting a tribal government, it is generally appropriate to contact (by letter, phone or fax) the chief executive of the tribe. In matters concerning a particular issue (i.e., roads, social service delivery or natural resources), it also is also appropriate to contact the responsible tribal program director, but it is important to understand the structure of each tribe, and to notify the chief executive of the tribe in regard to all important issues.

Beyond these general observations, it is essential to understand the structure of the tribal government in order to successfully coordinate with a specific tribe. For example, some tribal governments have distinct executive and legislative branches, so it may be important to communicate with both branches. Other tribes have a system more akin to parliament, where the chief executive also is the chair of the tribal council. In these cases, communicating with the chairperson may be effective for communicating with the entire tribal government.

Tribal governments share many characteristics with other forms of government so the process of initiating contacts should be familiar. Because tribal officials have been elected or appointed to serve their citizens, it is entirely appropriate to open communication on matters that may be of concern to the tribal community.

## Why Work With State Legislators?

*Many issues can and should be addressed at the legislative level.*

Many tribal representatives may be used to working with state executive branch officials, whether with the governor or with agency personnel. However, many issues can and should be addressed at the legislative level. In a nutshell, here are some reasons to get to know state legislators and legislatures.

- Indian issues can be addressed through legislation that is drafted by people familiar with the issues. Legislation that is drafted by those who have inadequate knowledge or information about an issue may have unintended adverse effects on tribes and may fail to accomplish the intended goals.
- Legislative policy is likely to be longer lasting than executive branch policy, which can change with every administration.
- Individual legislators are accessible.
- Legislators are close to the people, have a relatively small member-to-constituent ratio, and have a working knowledge of local conditions.

- Mutual education—of tribal leaders about the legislative process and of legislators about tribal government and the realities of Indian country—is facilitated by state legislator-tribal leader relationships.
- Legislatures are responsible for appropriating funds for all state-funded programs.

Specifically, individual legislators sponsor, amend and vote on bills that provide services to and appropriations for the entire state. Legislative staff can be instrumental in the process because they conduct the research, may draft the bills and amendments, and are responsible for the smooth operation of the legislature during its sessions. In many states, legislative staff specialize in particular topic areas.

Legislators are elected to represent their constituents' best interests. The current trend of devolution means the states—and, in some cases, the tribes—are taking on different and additional responsibilities. This will affect not only Indian tribes and communities, but also the state-tribal relationship. The legislatures are in a key position to enact effective (or ineffective) policies.

If individual legislators are unaware of particular needs within their district or the state as a whole, they cannot address the problem through legislation. Knowing the legislators who represent your district and knowing the state legislative lead-

#### A Note on State Agencies

For the majority of state government issues that tribes might encounter, a state agency is designated to handle the matter. State agencies are created by state legislatures to handle the day-to-day business of state government. For transportation projects, building inspections, emergency response planning, leaking underground storage tanks, Medicaid reimbursement, discriminatory lending practices, tax collection, job training, tourism promotion, criminal enforcement, and a host of other specific issues, a state agency or commission generally is responsible, and there may be a local office that can deal with your issue. In many instances, it is most efficient and effective to work through the appropriate state agency, as long as the legislature has granted that agency the authority and funding to handle the particular issue.

State agency addresses and phone numbers are listed in the blue pages of the phone book, or usually can be found on the state web site at "www.state.(two letter state initials).us". It is worth the time to learn about the state agencies, their functions, and the services they can provide.

ership are first steps in establishing the necessary working relationships.

## How to Work Effectively With State Legislators

Understanding the legislative process—much of which is described in chapter 3—is imperative to successful working relationships. Equally as important is an understanding of the politics of the state in general and within the legislature. Political party and individual legislator agendas, the make-up of the legislature in terms of party divisions, and any dissension between or within the parties all are useful to understand. If there are party differences or other sources of disagreement between the legislature and the governor know who must sign bills. Work with members of both the majority and minority, and be aware of election dates. The closer to an election, the more likely legislators will follow partisan platforms.

*It is especially important to work on building personal relationships with legislators and staff,*

Personal contact with legislators often is the most effective. Visits at the capitol during session might be necessary, but legislators often are more accessible when the legislature is not in session. It is especially important to work on building personal relationships with legislators and staff, instead of visiting them only when their support is needed.

Understand the committee process as well as what happens to bills on chamber floors. Be aware of committee meetings or hearings on topics relevant to you or your community, so that you can attend them, voice your opinion, and clearly state why you support or oppose a proposal. Be prepared and well-versed so that you can state your concerns clearly. Prepare a short written summary of your position so that legislators can take it with them to review later. The more you work with the committees, the better the legislators will get to know you and understand your positions, as well as the common goals and needs that your tribe shares with the state.

This advice is applicable to any person or group who has a stake in the outcomes of the legislative process. Tribal leaders will want to consider how the legislature may perceive those tribal representatives who act in a lobbying capacity before the legislature. Appearing as a special interest, although at times unavoidable in protecting your communities, may not afford you the same respect as if you were to approach the legislature on a government-to-government basis. Some legislative mechanisms that may assist in developing a government-to-government relationship are discussed in chapter 3.

Tribal governments deal with many issues about which state governments also are concerned. Although many issues tribes have may be more effectively dealt with at the agency level, the agency may not have either the authority or the direction to work with tribes. Being involved in the legislative process is a good way to begin to coordinate with the state on issues that are of concern to all.

*Being involved in the legislative process is a good way to begin to coordinate with the state on issues that are of concern to all.*

## 5. CONCLUSION

Misunderstandings often arise from a lack of understanding. A first step to good relations is knowing how neighboring governments operate and what issues are important to them. The primary prerequisite for cooperation between governments is a mutual understanding of the unique circumstances, needs and overall culture within which each government operates. The National Conference of State Legislatures and the National Congress of American Indians are working toward mutual education on governmental function and structure. This guide represents a beginning. Additional efforts of these organizations and many others—as well as state and tribal leaders themselves—ultimately will promote greater state-tribal cooperation in general, and also in substantive program areas such as protecting the environment, managing natural resources and implementing welfare reform.

*An increased tribal and state capacity to address mutual issues will result in more open and productive long-term relationships.*

The pace of state-tribal activity is expected to increase due to the devolution of the federal government's historical responsibilities to state and tribal governments. There are several ways to address the current situation and prepare for the future consequences of this trend. The compilation and dissemination of information, dialogue among state and tribal leaders who have common interests, and an increased capacity of tribes and states to address mutual issues will result in more open and productive long-term relationships.

It is important that all stakeholders work toward institutionalization of the positive relationships that exist and continue



to be formed. Changing social and economic conditions and political turnover threaten any political relationship, but permanent forums and communication channels can help state and tribal leaders face challenges of mutual interest. No government can operate effectively unless it coordinates with neighboring governments. By collaborating on issues of mutual concern, states and tribes have the opportunity to improve governance and better serve their respective constituents.

*No government can operate effectively unless it coordinates with neighboring governments.*



# APPENDIX A. STATE COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

## **Alabama**

Indian Affairs Commission  
(334) 242-2830  
Darla F. Graves, Executive Director  
<http://www.archives.state.al.us/agencies/indicom.html>

## **Alaska**

Rural Government Task Force  
Staff, [Andy\\_Ebona@gov.state.ak.us](mailto:Andy_Ebona@gov.state.ak.us)

## **Arizona**

House Rural and Native American Affairs  
Committee (L)  
<http://www.azleg.state.az.us/committe/44leg/hrnaa.min.htm>

Commission on Indian Affairs  
(602) 542-3123  
Ron S. Lee, Executive Director  
<http://www.indianaffairs.state.az.us>

## **Arkansas**

None

## **California**

Assembly Select Committee on Indian  
Gaming (L)  
Assembly Select Committee on Native American  
Repatriation (L)

Native American Heritage Commission  
(916) 653-4082  
Larry Myers, Executive Secretary

Office of Native American Affairs  
(877) 860-2863  
Olin Jones, Director

## **Colorado**

Commission of Indian Affairs  
(303) 866-3027  
Karen D. Wilde-Rogers, Executive Secretary  
[http://www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/ltagov/indian/indian.htm](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/ltagov/indian/indian.htm)

## **Connecticut**

Office of American Indian Affairs  
(860) 424-3066  
Ed Sarabia, Indian Affairs Coordinator

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This list is available and updated on NCSL's web site at <http://www.ncsl.org/programs/esnr/stlegcom.htm>. For legislative committee ("L") phone numbers, call the general information numbers listed for the legislatures in appendix D.

**Delaware**

Nanticoke Indian Association  
(302) 945-3400  
Kenneth Clark, Director

**Florida**

Governor's Council on Indian Affairs Inc.  
(850) 488-0730  
(800) 322-9186  
Joe A. Quetone, Executive Director  
<http://www.fgcia.com>

**Georgia**

Council on American Indian Concerns  
(404) 656-6527  
Billy Thompson  
Nealie McCormick, Chairman

**Hawaii**

House Committee on Judiciary and  
Hawaiian Affairs (L)

Senate Committee on Water, Land and  
Hawaiian Affairs (L)

Office of Hawaiian Affairs  
(808) 594-1888  
Randall K. Ogata, Administrator

**Idaho**

Council on Indian Affairs  
Mike McConnell, staff  
(208) 334-2475

**Illinois**

American Indian Center  
(773) 275-5871  
<http://www.mcs.net/~aic>  
Maxine Spatari, Executive Director

**Indiana**

Civil Rights Commission  
(317) 232-6549  
(800) 628-2909  
<http://www.ai.org/icrc>  
Sandra D. Leek, Director

**Iowa**

None

**Kansas**

Joint Committee on State-Tribal Relations (L)

Native American Affairs  
(785) 368-7319  
Brad Hamilton, Director

**Kentucky**

None

**Louisiana**

Governor's Office of Indian Affairs  
(225) 219-7556  
Pat Arnould, Deputy Director  
<http://www.indianaffairs.com/>

**Maine**

Indian Tribal State Commission  
(207) 622-4815  
Diane C. Scully, Executive Director

**Maryland**

Commission on Indian Affairs  
(410) 514-7653  
Elaine Eff, Acting Administrator

**Massachusetts**

Commission on Indian Affairs  
(617) 727-6966  
John A. Peters Jr. Executive Director

**Michigan**

American Indian Affairs Office  
(517) 241-7748  
Donna Budnick, American Indian Specialist

**Minnesota**

Indian Affairs Council  
(218) 755-3825  
Joe Day, Executive Director  
<http://www.indians.state.mn.us>

**Mississippi**

None

**Missouri**

None

**Montana**

Law, Justice &amp; Indian Affairs Committee (L)

Office of Indian Affairs

(406) 444-3713

**Nebraska**

Commission on Indian Affairs

(402) 471-3475

Judi Morgan, Executive Director

**Nevada**

Indian Commission

(775) 688-1347

<http://www.ael.org/eric/ned/ned287.htm>

Sherrada James, Executive Director

**New Hampshire**

None

**New Jersey**

Commission on Native American Affairs

(609) 777-2869

**New Mexico**

Joint (House/Senate) Indian Affairs Committee (L)

Senate Indian and Cultural Affairs Committee

(L)

Joint Legislative Committee on Compacts (L)

Office of Indian Affairs

(505) 827-6440

Regis Pecos, Executive Director

**New York**State Office of Children and Family Services—  
Indian Affairs

(716) 847-3123

Kim M. Thomas, Indian Affairs Specialist

**North Carolina**House Military, Veterans, and Indian Affairs  
Committee (L)

Commission on Indian Affairs

(919) 733-5998

<http://www.doa.state.nc.us/cia/welcome.htm>

Gregory Richardson, Executive Director

**North Dakota**

Indian Affairs Commission

(701) 328-2428

<http://www.health.state.nd.us/ndiac/>

Cynthia Mala, Executive Director

**Ohio**

None

**Oklahoma**

Joint Committee on State-Tribal Relations (L)

Indian Affairs Commission

(405) 521-3828

<http://www.state.ok.us/~oiac>

Barbara A. Warner, Executive Director

**Oregon**

Legislative Commission on Indian Services (L)

(503) 986-1068

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/cis/cisset.htm>

Karen Quigley, Executive Director

**Rhode Island**

Joseph S. Larison Jr.

Governor's Executive Counsel

(401) 222-2080

**South Carolina**

None

**South Dakota**

State-Tribal Relations Interim Committee (L)

Office of Tribal Government Relations

(605) 773-3415

Webster Two Hawk Sr. Commissioner

**Tennessee**

Commission of Indian Affairs

(615) 532-0745

<http://www.state.tn.us/environment/cia/index.html>

Toye Heape, Executive Director

**Texas**

None

**Utah**

Native American Legislative Liaison Committee

(L)

Division of Indian Affairs

(801) 538-8808

[http://www.dced.state.ut.us/Indian/About\\_us/staff.html](http://www.dced.state.ut.us/Indian/About_us/staff.html)

Forrest S. Cuch, Executive Director

**Vermont**

Governor's Advisory Commission on Native American Affairs

(802) 868-4033

Jeff Benay, Chairman

**Virginia**

Council on Indians

(804) 697-6342

<http://www.indians.vipnet.org/index.html>

Chief Barry Bass, Acting Chairman

**Washington**

Working Group on State-Tribal Legislative Relations

Alan Parker

(360) 866-6000

Governor's Office of Indian Affairs

(360) 753-2411

Kimberly Craven, Executive Director

**West Virginia**

None

**Wisconsin**

Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations (L)

**Wyoming**

Indian Affairs Council

(307) 432-0380

Gary Maier, Wyoming Community Services Manager and Indian Affairs Councilman

# APPENDIX B. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS

## National Tribal Organizations

American Indian Higher Education Council  
(703) 838-0400  
[www.aihec.org](http://www.aihec.org)

American Indian Resources Institute  
(510) 834-9333

Council of Energy Resource Tribes  
(303) 282-7576

First Nations Development Institute  
(540) 371-5615  
[www.firstnations.org](http://www.firstnations.org)

Indian and Native American Employment and Training Coalition  
(907) 265-5975

Inter-Tribal Agricultural Council  
(406) 259-3525

Inter-Tribal Timber Council  
(503) 282-4296  
[www.teleport.com/~itc1/index.html](http://www.teleport.com/~itc1/index.html)

Inter-Tribal Transportation Association  
(918) 287-1128

National American Indian Court Judges Association  
(860) 396-6319  
[www.naicja.org](http://www.naicja.org)

National American Indian Housing Council  
(202) 789-1754  
[naihc.Indian.com](http://naihc.Indian.com)

National Congress of American Indians  
(202) 466-7767  
[www.ncai.org](http://www.ncai.org)

National Indian Business Association  
(202) 547-0580

National Indian Child Care Association  
(918) 758-1463  
[www.nicca.org](http://www.nicca.org)

National Indian Child Welfare Association  
(503) 222-4044  
[www.nicwa.org](http://www.nicwa.org)

National Indian Council on Aging  
(505) 292-2001  
[www.nicoa.org](http://www.nicoa.org)

National Indian Education Association  
(703) 838-2870  
www.niea.org

National Indian Gaming Association  
(202) 546-7711  
www.niga.org

National Indian Health Board  
(303) 759-3075  
www.nihb.org

National Indian Justice Center  
(707) 762-8113  
nijc.indian.com

National Native American AIDS Prevention  
Center  
(510) 444-2051  
www.nnaapc.org

National Tribal Environmental Council  
(505) 242-2175  
www.ntec.org

Native American Rights Fund  
(202) 785-4166  
www.narf.org

## Regional Inter-Tribal Organizations

Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians  
(503) 241-0070  
www.atni.org

Alaska Inter-Tribal Council  
(907) 563-9334  
www.aipc.org

Alaska Federation of Natives  
(907) 274-3611  
www.ankn.uaf.edu

All Indian Pueblo Council  
(505) 881-1992

Association of Village Council Presidents  
(907) 543-3521

California Council of Tribal Governments  
(530) 244-2994

California Indian Manpower Consortium  
(916) 920-0285

Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council  
(715) 588-3324  
www.newnorth.net/glitc/glitc.htm

Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes  
(918) 756-8700

Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada  
(702) 355-0600  
www.itcn.org

Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona  
(602) 248-0071  
www.primenet.com/~itca

Inter-Tribal Council of California  
(916) 973-9581

Michigan Inter-Tribal Council  
(906) 632-6896

Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes  
(320) 532-4181

Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council  
(406) 252-2550  
tlc.wtp.net

Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board  
(503) 228-4185  
www.npaihb.org



Oklahomans for Indian Opportunity  
(405) 329-3737

Southern California Tribal  
Chairman's Association  
(760) 749-0910

United Tribes of Texas, Kansas and  
Oklahoma  
(918) 968-3526

United South and Eastern Tribes  
(615) 872-7900  
[one/web.org/oneida/uset/uset.html](http://one/web.org/oneida/uset/uset.html)

# APPENDIX C. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL STATE ORGANIZATIONS AND WEB SITES

## General State Organizations and Web Sites

American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC)  
(202) 466-3800  
[www.alec.org](http://www.alec.org)

Data Web Sites for the 50 States  
[www.prb.org/news/stateweb.htm](http://www.prb.org/news/stateweb.htm)

Governing Magazine  
[www.governing.com/state.htm](http://www.governing.com/state.htm)

Council of State Governments (CSG)  
(859) 244-8000  
[www.statesnews.org](http://www.statesnews.org)

National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG)  
(202) 326-6000  
[www.naag.org/index2.html](http://www.naag.org/index2.html)

National Association of Secretaries of State  
(202) 624-3525  
[www.nass.org/](http://www.nass.org/)

National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)  
(303) 830-2200  
[www.ncsl.org/](http://www.ncsl.org/)

National Governors' Association (NGA)  
(202) 624-5346  
<http://nga.org>

Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments  
(513) 621-6300  
[www.oki.org/](http://www.oki.org/)

Politics: Project Vote Smart  
[www.vote-smart.org/](http://www.vote-smart.org/)

State Courts Directory  
[www.piperinfo.com/pl03/statedir.html](http://www.piperinfo.com/pl03/statedir.html)

State Law  
[www.alllaw.com/state\\_resources/state\\_law\\_search/](http://www.alllaw.com/state_resources/state_law_search/)

Stateline (PEW Research Center)  
[www.stateline.org/](http://www.stateline.org/)

States.org  
[www.states.org/](http://www.states.org/)

Western Governors Association (WGA)  
 (303) 623-9378 or (202) 624-5402  
[www.westgov.org](http://www.westgov.org)

## Subject-Specific Organizations and Web Sites

American Association of State and Highway Transportation  
 (202) 624-5800  
[www.aashto.org/](http://www.aashto.org/)

Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)  
 (202) 884-7799  
<http://arc.gov/>

Education Commission for the States  
 (303) 299-3600  
[www.ecs.org/ecs/ecsweb.nsf/](http://www.ecs.org/ecs/ecsweb.nsf/)

Environmental Council of the States  
 (202) 624-3660  
<http://www.sso.org/ecos/>

Federation of State Medical Boards  
 (817) 868-4000  
[www.fsmb.org/](http://www.fsmb.org/)

Governors' Interstate Indian Council (GIIC)  
[www.state.ok.us/~oiac/giic.html](http://www.state.ok.us/~oiac/giic.html)

Great Lakes Commission  
 (734) 665-9135  
[www.glc.org](http://www.glc.org)

Hate Crimes Statutes (Hate Crimes Prevention Center)  
[www.civilrights.org/lcef/hateam/](http://www.civilrights.org/lcef/hateam/)

Insurance News Network: State Insurance Gateway  
 (860) 233-2800  
[www.insure.com/states/index.html](http://www.insure.com/states/index.html)

Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission  
 (405) 525-3556  
[www.iogcc.oklaosf.state.ok.us/](http://www.iogcc.oklaosf.state.ok.us/)

Multistate Tax Commission  
 (202) 624-8699  
[www.mtc.gov/](http://www.mtc.gov/)

National Assembly of State Art Agencies  
 (202) 347-6352  
[www.nasaa-arts.org/](http://www.nasaa-arts.org/)

National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners  
 (202) 898-2200  
[www.naruc.org/](http://www.naruc.org/)

National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers  
 (606) 276-1147  
[www.sso.org/nasact/nasact.htm](http://www.sso.org/nasact/nasact.htm)

National Association of State Budget Officers  
 202-624-5382  
[www.nasbo.org/](http://www.nasbo.org/)

National Association of State Departments of Agriculture  
 (202) 296-9680  
[www.nasda-hq.org/](http://www.nasda-hq.org/)

National Association of State Information Resource Executives  
 (859) 231-1971  
[www.nasire.org/](http://www.nasire.org/)

National Center for State Courts  
(757) 253-2000  
[www.ncsc.dni.us/](http://www.ncsc.dni.us/)

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
(843) 571-4366  
[www.safmc.nmfs.gov/](http://www.safmc.nmfs.gov/)

State Libraries  
(608) 266-2127  
[www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dlcl/pld/statelib.html](http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dlcl/pld/statelib.html)

State Science and Technology Institute (SSTI)  
(614) 901-1690  
[www.ssti.org/](http://www.ssti.org/)

Women Executives in State Government  
(202) 628-9374  
[www.wesg.org/contact.htm](http://www.wesg.org/contact.htm)

State Genetics Laws (NCSL)  
[www.ncsl.org/programs/employ/Genetics/sg-law.htm](http://www.ncsl.org/programs/employ/Genetics/sg-law.htm)

# APPENDIX D. STATE LEGISLATIVE PHONE NUMBERS

## **Alabama**

Alabama State House  
11 S. Union St.  
Montgomery, AL 36130  
House info. (334) 242-4759  
House bill status (334) 242-7627  
Senate info. (334) 242-7800  
Senate bill status (334) 242-7825

## **Alaska**

State Capitol  
120 4<sup>th</sup> St.  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
General Info. and bill status (907) 465-4648

## **Arizona**

State Capitol  
1700 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
General info. (602) 542-4900  
House bill status (602) 542-4221  
Senate bill status (602) 542-3559

## **Arkansas**

State Capitol  
1500 W. Capitol Ave.  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
General info. (501) 682-3000  
House bill status (501) 682-7771  
Senate bill status (501) 682-2902

## **California**

State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
General info. (916) 657-9900  
House bill status (916) 445-3614  
Senate bill status (916) 445-4251

## **Colorado**

State Capitol  
200 E. Colfax Ave.  
Denver, CO 80203  
General info. (303) 866-5000  
Bill status (303) 866-3055 or (303) 866-3521

## **Connecticut**

State Capitol  
Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106  
General info. (860) 240-0100  
Bill status (860) 566-4601

## **Delaware**

Legislative Hall  
P.O. Box 1401  
Dover, DE 19901  
General info. (302) 739-4114  
Bill status (302) 739-4114

**Florida**

The Capitol  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
General info. (850) 488-1234  
Bill status (850) 488-4371

**Georgia**

State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA 30334  
General info. (404) 656-2000  
House bill status (404) 656-5015  
Senate bill status (404) 656-5042

**Hawaii**

State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
General info. (808) 587-0221  
Bill status (808) 587-0700

**Idaho**

State Capitol Building  
P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83270  
General info. (208) 332-1000  
Bill status (208) 334-3175

**Illinois**

State House  
2<sup>nd</sup> & Capitol St.  
Springfield, IL 62706  
General info. (217) 782-2000  
Bill status (217) 782-3944

**Indiana**

State House  
200 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
General info. (317) 232-1000  
Bill status (317) 232-9856

**Iowa**

State Capitol  
Des Moines, IA 50319  
General info. (515) 281-5011  
Bill status (515) 281-5129

**Kansas**

State Capitol Building  
300 SW 10<sup>th</sup> St.  
Topeka, KS 66612-1504  
General info. (785) 296-0111  
Bill status (785) 296-3296

**Kentucky**

State Capitol  
Capitol Ave.  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
General info. (502) 564-2611  
Bill status (502) 564-8100

**Louisiana**

Secretary of State  
P.O. Box 94125  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9125  
General info. (225) 342-4479  
Bill status (225) 342-2456

**Maine**

State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0002  
General info. (207) 287-1692  
Bill status (207) 287-1692

**Maryland**

State House  
State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991  
General info. (410) 841-3000  
Bill status (410) 946-5400

**Massachusetts**

State House  
Boston, MA 02133  
General info. (617) 722-2000  
House bill status (617) 722-2356  
Senate bill status (617) 722-1276

**Michigan**

State Capitol  
100 Capitol Ave.  
Lansing, MI 48909  
General info. (517) 373-0184  
Bill status (517) 373-0169

**Minnesota**

State Capitol  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606  
General info. (651) 296-6013  
House bill status (651) 296-6646  
Senate bill status (651) 296-0504

**Mississippi**

State Capitol Building  
P.O. Box 1018  
Jackson, MS 39215-1018  
General info. (601) 359-3770  
Bill status (601) 359-3719 or (601) 359-3358

**Missouri**

State Capitol  
201 W. Capitol Ave.  
Jefferson City, MO 65101  
General info. (573) 751-2000  
Bill status (573) 751-4633

**Montana**

Montana Legislative Services Division  
State Capitol, Room 138  
P.O. Box 201706  
Helena, MT 59620-1706  
General info. (406) 444-2511  
Bill status (406) 444-4800 or (406) 444-3064

**Nebraska**

2018 State Capitol  
P.O. Box 94604  
Lincoln, NE 68509  
General info. (402) 471-2271  
Bill status (402) 471-2709

**Nevada**

Legislative Office Building  
401 S. Carson St.  
Carson City, NV 89701-4747  
General info. (775) 687-6825  
Bill status (775) 687-5545 or (775) 687-6827

**New Hampshire**

State House  
107 N. Main St.  
Concord, NH 03301  
General info. (603) 271-1110  
Bill status (603) 271-2239

**New Jersey**

State House  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0068  
General info. and bill status (800) 792-8630  
Bill status (609) 292-4840

**New Mexico**

State Capitol  
Santa Fe, NM 87501  
General info. and bill status  
(505) 986-4600

**New York**

State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224  
General info. (518) 474-2121  
Bill status (518) 455-7545

**North Carolina**

State Legislative Building  
16 W. Jones St.  
Raleigh, NC 27601  
General info. (919) 733-4111  
Bill status (919) 733-7779

**North Dakota**

State Capitol  
600 E. Boulevard Ave.  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0360  
General info. (701) 328-2000  
Bill status (701) 328-2900 or (701) 328-2916

**Ohio**

State House  
Columbus, OH 43215  
General info. (614) 466-2000  
Bill status (614) 466-8842

**Oklahoma**

State Capitol  
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105  
General info. (405) 521-2011  
Bill status (405) 521-5642

**Oregon**

State Capitol  
900 Court St., NE  
Salem, OR 97310  
General info. (503) 986-1848  
Bill status (503) 986-1180

**Pennsylvania**

Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
General info. (717) 787-2121  
Bill status (717) 787-2342

**Rhode Island**

State House  
Providence, RI 02903  
General info. (401) 222-2653  
Bill status (401) 751-8833

**South Carolina**

State House  
1200 Gervais St.  
Columbia, SC 29201  
House general info. (803) 734-2010  
Senate general info. (803) 212-6200  
Bill status (803) 734-2060

**South Dakota**

State Capitol  
500 E. Capitol Ave.  
Pierre, SD 57501  
General info. (605) 773-3011  
Bill status (605) 773-4498

**Tennessee**

Legislative Plaza  
Nashville, TN 37243  
General info. (800) 443-8366  
Bill status (615) 741-3511

**Texas**

House  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, TX 78768  
General info. (512) 463-0845

**Senate**

P.O. Box 12068  
Austin, TX 78711-2068  
General info. (512) 463-0100

Bill status (512) 463-2182 or (512) 463-1252

**Utah**

State Capitol  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114  
General info. (801) 538-3000  
Bill status (801) 538-1588

**Vermont**

State House  
115 State St. Drawer 33  
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301  
General info. (802) 828-2331  
Bill status (802) 828-2231

**Virginia**

State Capitol  
P.O. Box 406  
Richmond, VA 23218  
General info. (804) 786-0000  
Bill status (804) 698-1500

**Washington**

House  
P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600  
General info. (360) 786-7750



**Senate**

P.O. Box 40482

Olympia, WA 98504-0482

General info. (360) 786-7550

Bill status (800) 562-6000 or (360) 786-7573

**West Virginia**

State Capitol

Charleston, WV 25305

General info. (304) 558-3456

Bill status (304) 347-4836

**Wisconsin**

State Capitol

Madison, WI 53702

General info. (608) 266-2211

Bill status (608) 266-9960

**Wyoming**

State Capitol

Cheyenne, WY 82002

General info. (307) 777-7881

Bill status (307) 777-6185 or (307) 777-7881

# APPENDIX E. LIST OF FEDERALLY AND STATE- RECOGNIZED TRIBES

## Alabama

### *Federally Recognized*

Poarch Band of Creeks

### *State-Recognized*

Mowa Band of Choctaws

Echota Cherokees

Cherokees of S.E. Alabama

MaChis Lower Alabama Creek Tribe

Star Clan-Muscogee Creek Tribe

Cherokees of N.E. Alabama

## Alaska

### *Federally Recognized*

Village of Afognak

Native Village of Akhiok

Akiachak Native Community

Akiak Native Community

Native Village of Akutan

Village of Alakanuk

Alatna Village

Native Village of Aleknagik

Algaaciq Native Village (St. Mary's)

Allakaket Village

Native Village of Ambler

Village of Anaktuvuk Pass

Yupit of Andreafski

Angoon Community Association

Village of Aniak

Anvik Village

Arctic Village (See Native Village of Venetie  
Tribal Government)

Native Village of Atka

Asa'carsarmiut Tribe (formerly Native Village of  
Mountain Village)

Atqasuk Village (Atkasook)

Village of Atmautluak

Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional  
Government (formerly Native Village of  
Barrow)

Beaver Village

Native Village of Belkofski

Village of Bill Moore's Slough

Birch Creek Village

Native Village of Brevig Mission

Native Village of Buckland

Native Village of Cantwell

Native Village of Chanega (Chenega)

Chalkyitsik Village

Village of Cheformak

Chevak Native Village

Chickaloon Native Village

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Native Village of Chignik	Hughes Village
Native Village of Chignik Lagoon	Huslia Village
Chignik Lake Village	Hydaburg Cooperative Association
Chilkat Indian Village (Kluckwan)	Igiugig Village
Chilkoot Indian Association (Haines)	Village of Iliamna
Chinik Eskimo Community (Golovin)	Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope
Native Village of Chistochina	Iqurmuut Traditional Council (formerly Native Village of Russian Mission)
Native Village of Chitina	Ivanoff Bay Village
Native Village of Chuathbaluk (Russian Mission, Kuskokwim)	Kaguyak Village
Chuloonawick Native Village	Organized Village of Kake
Circle Native Community	Kaktovik Village (Barter Island)
Village of Clark's Point	Village of Kalskag
Native Village of Council	Village of Kaltag
Craig Community Association	Native Village of Kanatak
Village of Crooked Creek	Native Village of Karluk
Curyung Tribal Council (formerly Native Village of Dillingham)	Organized Village of Kasaan
Native Village of Deering	Native Village of Kasigluk
Native Village of Diomedede (Inalik)	Kenaitze Indian Tribe
Village of Dot Lake	Ketchikan Indian Corporation
Douglas Indian Association	Native Village of Kiana
Native Village of Eagle	Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove
Native Village of Eek	King Island Native Community
Egegik Village	Native Village of Kipnuk
Eklutna Native Village	Native Village of Kivalina
Native Village of Ekuk	Klawock Cooperative Association
Ekwok Village	Native Village of Kluti Kaah (Copper Center)
Native Village of Elim	Knik Tribe
Emmonak Village	Native Village of Kobuk
Evansville Village (Bettles Field)	Kokhanok Village
Native Village of Eyak (Cordova)	New Koliganek Village Council (formerly Koliganek Village)
Native Village of False Pass	Native Village of Kongiganak
Native Village of Fort Yukon	Village of Kotlik
Native Village of Gakona	Native Village of Kotzebue
Galena Village (Louden Village)	Native Village of Koyuk
Native Village of Gambell	Koyukuk Native Village
Native Village of Georgetown	Organized Village of Kwethluk
Native Village of Goodnews Bay	Native Village of Kwigillingok
Organized Village of Grayling (Holikachuk)	Native Village of Kwinhagak (Quinhagak)
Gulkana Village	Native Village of Larsen Bay
Native Village of Hamilton	Levelock Village
Healy Lake Village	Lesnoi Village (Woody Island)
Holy Cross Village	Lime Village
Hoonah Indian Association	Village of Lower Kalskag
Native Village of Hooper Bay	Manley Hot Springs Village

Manokotak Village	Native Village of Point Hope
Native Village of Marshall (Fortuna Ledge)	Native Village of Point Lay
Native Village of Mary's Igloo	Native Village of Port Graham
McGrath Native Village	Native Village of Port Heiden
Native Village of Mekoryuk	Native Village of Port Lions
Mentasta Traditional Council (formerly Mentasta Lake Village)	Portage Creek Village (Ohgsenakale)
Metlakatla Indian Community, Annette Island Reserve	Pribilof Islands Aleut Communities of St. Paul and St. George Islands
Native Village of Minto	Qagan Toyagungin Tribe of Sand Point Village
Naknek Native Village	Rampart Village
Native Village of Nanwalek (English Bay)	Village of Red Devil
Native Village of Napaimute	Native Village of Ruby
Native Village of Napakiak	Village of Salamatoff
Native Village of Napaskiak	Organized Village of Saxman
Native Village of Nelson Lagoon	Native Village of Savoonga
Nenana Native Association	Saint George (See Pribilof Islands Aleut Communities of St. Paul and St. George Islands)
New Stuyahok Village	Native Village of Saint Michael
Newhalen Village	Saint Paul (See Pribilof Islands Aleut Communities of St. Paul and St. George Islands)
Newtok Village	Native Village of Scammon Bay
Native Village of Nightmute	Native Village of Selawik
Nikolai Village	Seldovia Village Tribe
Native Village of Nikolski	Shageluk Native Village
Ninilchik Village	Native Village of Shaktoolik
Native Village of Noatak	Native Village of Sheldon's Point
Nome Eskimo Community	Native Village of Shishmaref
Nondalton Village	Native Village of Shungnak
Noorvik Native Community	Sitka Tribe of Alaska
Northway Village	Skagway Village
Native Village of Nuiqsut (Nooiksut)	Village of Sleetmute
Nulato Village	Village of Solomon
Native Village of Nunapitchuk	South Naknek Village
Village of Ohogamiut	Stebbins Community Association
Village of Old Harbor	Native Village of Stevens
Orutsararmuit Native Village (Bethel)	Village of Stony River
Oscarville Traditional Village	Takotna Village
Native Village of Ouzinkie	Native Village of Tanacross
Native Village of Paimiut	Native Village of Tanana
Pauloff Harbor Village	Native Village of Tatitlek
Pedro Bay Village	Native Village of Tazlina
Native Village of Perryville	Telida Village
Petersburg Indian Association	Native Village of Teller
Native Village of Pilot Point	Native Village of Tetlin
Pilot Station Traditional Village	
Native Village of Pitka's Point	
Platinum Traditional Village	

Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes

Traditional Village of Togiak

Native Village of Toksook Bay

Tuluksak Native Community

Native Village of Tuntutuliak

Native Village of Tununak

Twin Hills Village

Native Village of Tyonek

Ugashik Village

Umkumiute Native Village

Native Village of Unalakleet

Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska

Native Village of Unga

Village of Venetie (See Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government)

Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government (Arctic Village and Village of Venetie)

Village of Wainwright

Native Village of Wales

Native Village of White Mountain

Wrangell Cooperative Association

Yakutat Tlingit Tribe

## Arizona

### *Federally Recognized*

Ak Chin Indian Community

Cocopah Tribe

Colorado River Indian Tribes (Arizona and California)

Fort McDowell Mohave-Apache Community

Fort Mojave Indian Tribe (Arizona, California and Nevada)

Gila River Indian Community

Havasupai Tribe

Hopi Tribe

Hualapai Indian Tribe

Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians

Navajo Nation (Arizona, New Mexico and Utah)

Pascua Yaqui Tribe

Quechan Tribe (Arizona and California)

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

San Carlos Apache Tribe

San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe

Tohono O'odham Nation

Tonto Apache Tribe

White Mountain Apache Tribe

Yavapai-Apache Nation

Yavapai-Prescott Tribe

## California

### *Federally Recognized*

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

Alturas Indian Rancheria

Augustine Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians

Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria

Berry Creek Rancheria of Maidu Indians of California

Big Lagoon Rancheria

Big Pine Band of Owens Valley Paiute Shoshone Indians

Big Sandy Rancheria of Mono Indians

Big Valley Rancheria of Pomo and Pit River Indians

Blue Lake Rancheria

Bridgeport Paiute Indian Colony

Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians

Cabazon Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians

Cachil DeHe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community

Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians

Cahto Indian Tribe

Campo Band of Diegueño Mission Indians

Capitan Grande Band of Diegueño Mission Indians

Barona Group of Capitan Grande Band of Mission Indians

Viejas (Baron Long) Group of Capitan Grande Band of Mission Indians

Cedarville Rancheria

Chemehuevi Indian Tribe

Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community

Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians

Cloverdale Rancheria of Pomo Indians

Cold Springs Rancheria of Mono Indians

Colorado River Indian Tribes (Arizona and California)

Cortina Indian Rancheria of Wintun Indians

Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians

- Cuyapaipe Community of Diegueño Mission Indians  
 Death Valley Timbi-Sha Shoshone Band  
 Dry Creek Rancheria of Pomo Indians  
 Elem Indian Colony of Pomo Indians of the Sulphur Bank Rancheria  
 Elk Valley Rancheria  
 Enterprise Rancheria of Maidu Indians  
 Fort Bidwell Indian Community  
 Fort Independence Indian Community of Paiute Indians  
 Fort Mojave Indian Tribe (Arizona, California and Nevada)  
 Greenville Rancheria of Maidu Indians  
 Grindstone Indian Rancheria of Wintun-Wailaki Indians  
 Guidiville Rancheria  
 Hoopa Valley Tribe  
 Hopland Band of Pomo Indians  
 Inaja Band of Diegueño Mission Indians  
 Ione Band of Miwok Indians  
 Jackson Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians  
 Jamul Indian Village  
 Karuk Tribe  
 Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewart's Point Rancheria  
 La Jolla Band of Luiseño Mission Indians  
 La Posta Band of Diegueño Mission Indians  
 Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians  
 Lytton Rancheria  
 Manchester Band of Pomo Indians  
 Manzanita Band of Diegueño Mission Indians  
 Mechoopda Indian Tribe  
 Mesa Grande Band of Diegueño Mission Indians  
 Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians  
 Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians  
 Morongo Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians  
 Northfork Rancheria of Mono Indians  
 Paiute-Shoshone Indians of the Bishop Community  
 Paiute-Shoshone Indians of the Lone Pine Community  
 Pala Band of Luiseño Mission Indians  
 Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians  
 Pauma Band of Luiseño Mission Indians  
 Pechanga Band of Luiseño Mission Indians  
 Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians  
 Pinoleville Rancheria of Pomo Indians  
 Pit River Tribe (includes Big Bend, Lookout, Montgomery Creek and Roaring Creek Rancherias and XL Ranch)  
 Potter Valley Rancheria of Pomo Indians  
 Quartz Valley Indian Community  
 Quechan Tribe (Arizona and California)  
 Ramona Band or Village of Cahuilla Mission Indians  
 Redding Rancheria  
 Redwood Valley Rancheria of Pomo Indians  
 Resighini Rancheria (formerly known as the Coast Indian Community of Yurok Indians of the Resighini Rancheria)  
 Rincon Band of Luiseño Mission Indians  
 Robinson Rancheria of Pomo Indians  
 Round Valley Indian Tribes (formerly known as the Covelo Indian Community)  
 Rumsey Indian Rancheria of Wintun Indians  
 San Manual Band of Serrano Mission Indians  
 San Pasqual Band of Diegueño Mission Indians  
 Santa Rosa Indian Community  
 Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians  
 Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians  
 Santa Ysabel Band of Diegueño Mission Indians  
 Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians  
 Sheep Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians  
 Sherwood Valley Rancheria of Pomo Indians  
 Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians  
 Smith River Rancheria  
 Soboba Band of Luiseño Mission Indians  
 Susanville Indian Rancheria  
 Sycuan Band of Diegueño Mission Indians  
 Table Bluff Reservation-Wiyot Tribe  
 Table Mountain Rancheria  
 Torres-Martinez Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians  
 Tule River Indian Tribe  
 Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians  
 Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Luiseño Mission Indians  
 United Auburn Indian Community  
 Upper Lake Band of Pomo Indians  
 Utu Utu Gwaitu Paiute Tribe

Washoe Tribe (Carson Colony, Dresslerville  
Colony, Woodfords Community, Stewart  
Community and Washoe Ranches)  
(California and Nevada)

Yurok Tribe

## Colorado

*Federally Recognized*

Southern Ute Indian Tribe

Ute Mountain Ute Tribe (Colorado,  
New Mexico and Utah)

## Connecticut

*Federally Recognized*

Mashantucket Pequot Tribe

Mohegan Indian Tribe

*State-Recognized*

Golden Hill Paugussett Tribe

Paucatuck Eastern Pequot Tribe

Schaghticoke Bands

## Florida

*Federally Recognized*

Miccosukee Tribe of Indians

Seminole Tribe (Dania, Big Cypress, Brighton,  
Hollywood and Tampa reservations)

## Georgia

*State-Recognized*

Georgia Tribe of Eastern Cherokee

Lower Muscogee Creek Tribe

Cherokee of Georgia Tribal Council

## Idaho

*Federally Recognized*

Coeur D'Alene Tribe

Kootenai Tribe

Nez Perce Tribe

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes

## Iowa

*Federally Recognized*

Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi

## Kansas

*Federally Recognized*

Iowa Tribe (Kansas and Nebraska)

Kickapoo Tribe of Indians

Prairie Band of Potawatomi Indians

Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri (Kansas and  
Nebraska)

## Louisiana

*Federally Recognized*

Chitimacha Tribe

Coushatta Tribe

Jena Band of Choctaw Indians

Tunica-Biloxi Indian Tribe

*State-Recognized*

Caddo Indian Tribe

Choctaw-Apache of Ebarb

Clifton Choctaw

Louisiana Choctaw

United Houma Nation

## Maine

*Federally Recognized*

Aroostook Band of Micmac Indians

Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians

Passamaquoddy Tribe

Penobscot Tribe

## Massachusetts

*Federally Recognized*

Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)

*State-Recognized*

Hassanamisco

**Michigan***Federally Recognized*

Bay Mills Indian Community of the Sault Ste. Marie Band of Chippewa Indians  
 Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians  
 Hannahville Indian Community  
 Huron Potawatomi, Inc.  
 Keweenaw Bay Indian Community of L'Anse and Ontonagon Bands of Chippewa Indians  
 Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians  
 Little River Band of Ottawa Indians  
 Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians  
 Match-she-be-nash-she-wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians of Michigan (Gun Lake Band)  
 Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians  
 Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe  
 Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

*State-Recognized*

Burt Lake Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians  
 Gun Lake Band of Grand River Ottawa Indians  
 Swan Creek Black River Confederated Ojibwa Tribes  
 Grand River Band of Ottawa Indians

**Minnesota***Federally Recognized*

Lower Sioux Indian Community of Minnesota  
 Mdewakanton Sioux Indians  
 Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (Six component reservations: Bois Forte Band [Nett Lake], Fond du Lac Band, Grand Portage Band, Leech Lake Band, Mille Lacs Band and White Earth Band)  
 Prairie Island Indian Community of Minnesota  
 Mdewakanton Sioux Indians  
 Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians  
 Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (Prior Lake)  
 Upper Sioux Indian Community

**Mississippi***Federally Recognized*

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians

**Missouri***State-Recognized*

Northern Cherokee  
 Chickamauga Cherokee

**Montana***Federally Recognized*

Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes  
 Blackfeet Tribe  
 Chippewa-Cree Indians  
 Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes  
 Crow Tribe  
 Fort Belknap Indian Community  
 Northern Cheyenne Tribe

**Nebraska***Federally Recognized*

Iowa Tribe (Kansas and Nebraska)  
 Omaha Tribe  
 Ponca Tribe  
 Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri (Kansas and Nebraska)  
 Santee Sioux Tribe  
 Winnebago Tribe

**Nevada***Federally Recognized*

Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation (Nevada and Utah)  
 Duckwater Shoshone Tribe  
 Ely Shoshone Tribe  
 Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes (Nevada and Oregon)  
 Fort Mojave Indian Tribe (Arizona, California and Nevada)  
 Las Vegas Tribe of Paiute Indians of the Las Vegas Indian Colony



Lovelock Paiute Tribe of the Lovelock Indian Colony  
 Moapa Band of Paiute Indians  
 Paiute-Shoshone Tribe  
 Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe  
 Reno-Sparks Indian Colony  
 Shoshone-Paiute Tribes  
 Summit Lake Paiute Tribe  
 Te-Moak Tribes of Western Shoshone Indians  
 (Four constituent bands: Battle Mountain, Elko, South Fork and Wells)  
 Walker River Paiute Tribe  
 Washoe Tribe (Nevada and California) (Carson Colony, Dresslerville Colony, Woodfords Community, Stewart Community and Washoe Ranches)  
 Winnemucca Indian Colony  
 Yerington Paiute Tribe  
 Yomba Shoshone Tribe

## New Jersey

*State-Recognized*  
 Rankokus

## New Mexico

*Federally Recognized*  
 Jicarilla Apache Tribe  
 Mescalero Apache Tribe  
 Navajo Nation (Arizona, New Mexico and Utah)  
 Pueblo of Acoma  
 Pueblo of Cochiti  
 Pueblo of Jemez  
 Pueblo of Isleta  
 Pueblo of Laguna  
 Pueblo of Nambe  
 Pueblo of Picuris  
 Pueblo of Pojoaque  
 Pueblo of San Felipe  
 Pueblo of San Juan  
 Pueblo of San Ildefonso  
 Pueblo of Sandia  
 Pueblo of Santa Ana  
 Pueblo of Santa Clara

Pueblo of Santo Domingo  
 Pueblo of Taos  
 Pueblo of Tesuque  
 Pueblo of Zia  
 Ute Mountain Tribe (Colorado, New Mexico and Utah)  
 Zuni Tribe

## New York

*Federally Recognized*  
 Cayuga Nation  
 Oneida Nation  
 Onondaga Nation  
 Seneca Nation  
 St. Regis Band of Mohawk Indians  
 Tonawanda Band of Seneca Indians  
 Tuscarora Nation

*State-Recognized*  
 Poospatuck  
 Shinnecock

## North Carolina

*Federally Recognized*  
 Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

*State-Recognized*  
 Coharie  
 Haliwa-Saponi  
 Lumbee  
 Meherrin  
 Waccamaw-Siouan

## North Dakota

*Federally Recognized*  
 Spirit Lake Tribe (formerly known as the Devil's Lake Sioux Tribe)  
 Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (North and South Dakota)  
 Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation  
 Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians

## Oklahoma

### *Federally Recognized*

Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians  
 Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town  
 Apache Tribe  
 Caddo Indian Tribe  
 Cherokee Nation  
 Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes  
 Chickasaw Nation  
 Choctaw Nation  
 Citizen Potawatomi Nation  
 Comanche Indian Tribe  
 Delaware Tribe of Indians  
 Delaware Tribe of Western Oklahoma  
 Eastern Shawnee Tribe  
 Fort Sill Apache Tribe  
 Iowa Tribe  
 Kaw Nation  
 Kialegee Tribal Town  
 Kickapoo Tribe  
 Kiowa Indian Tribe  
 Miami Tribe  
 Modoc Tribe  
 Muscogee (Creek) Nation  
 Osage Tribe  
 Ottawa Tribe  
 Otoe-Missouria Tribe  
 Pawnee Indian Tribe  
 Peoria Tribe  
 Ponca Tribe  
 Quapaw Tribe  
 Sac and Fox Nation  
 Seminole Nation  
 Seneca-Cayuga Tribe  
 Thlopthlocco Tribal Town  
 Tonkawa Tribe  
 United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians  
 Wichita and Affiliated Tribes (Wichita, Keechi,  
 Waco and Tawakonie)  
 Wyandotte Tribe

## Oregon

### *Federally Recognized*

Burns Paiute Tribe  
 Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower  
 Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians  
 Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde  
 Community  
 Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Reservation  
 Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation  
 Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs  
 Reservation Coquille Tribe  
 Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians  
 Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes  
 (Nevada and Oregon)  
 Klamath Indian Tribe

## Rhode Island

### *Federally Recognized*

Narragansett Indian Tribe

## South Carolina

### *Federally Recognized*

Catawba Indian Nation (Catawba Tribe)

## South Dakota

### *Federally Recognized*

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe  
 Crow Creek Sioux Tribe  
 Lower Brule Sioux Tribe  
 Oglala Sioux Tribe  
 Rosebud Sioux Tribe  
 Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe  
 Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (North Dakota and  
 South Dakota)  
 Yankton Sioux Tribe

## Texas

### *Federally Recognized*

Alabama-Coushatta Tribes  
 Kickapoo Traditional Tribe  
 Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo

## Utah

### *Federally Recognized*

Confederated Tribes of the Goshute  
Reservation (Nevada and Utah)  
Navajo Nation (Arizona, New Mexico and  
Utah)  
Northwestern Band of Shoshoni Nation  
(Washakie)  
Paiute Indian Tribe  
Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians  
Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray  
Reservation  
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe (Colorado,  
New Mexico and Utah)

## Virginia

### *State-Recognized*

Eastern Chickahominy  
Chickahominy  
Mattaponi  
Monacan  
Nansemond  
Pamunkey  
Rappahannock  
Upper Mattaponi

## Washington

### *Federally Recognized*

Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis  
Reservation  
Confederated Tribes of the Colville  
Reservation  
Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama  
Indian Nation  
Hoh Indian Tribe  
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe  
Kalispel Indian Community  
Lower Elwha Tribal Community  
Lummi Tribe  
Makah Indian Tribe  
Muckleshoot Indian Tribe  
Nisqually Indian Tribe  
Nooksack Indian Tribe

Port Gamble Indian Community  
Puyallup Tribe  
Quileute Tribe  
Quinault Tribe  
Samish Indian Tribe  
Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe  
Shoalwater Bay Tribe  
Skokomish Indian Tribe  
Snoqualmie Indian Tribe  
Spokane Tribe  
Squaxin Island Tribe  
Stillaguamish Tribe  
Suquamish Indian Tribe  
Swinomish Indians  
Tulalip Tribes  
Upper Skagit Indian Tribe

## Wisconsin

### *Federally Recognized*

Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of  
Chippewa Indians  
Forest County Potawatomi Community  
Ho-Chunk Nation (formerly known as the  
Wisconsin Winnebago Tribe)  
Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior  
Chippewa Indians  
Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior  
Chippewa Indians  
Menominee Indian Tribe  
Oneida Tribe  
Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa  
Indians  
Sokaogon Chippewa Community of the Mole  
Lake Band of Chippewa Indians  
St. Croix Chippewa Indians  
Stockbridge-Munsee Community of Mohican  
Indians

## Wyoming

### *Federally Recognized*

Arapahoe Tribe  
Shoshone Tribe



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