

We Are Partnering With Tribal Nations and Native Communities

Donald Trump challenged Tribal land rights and desecrated sacred lands

Vice President Kamala Harris and Governor Tim Walz will safeguard and strengthen the bonds between our nations, uphold our trust and treaty obligations, honor Tribal sovereignty, and ensure Tribal self-determination. They have made it a priority to improve health, education, and safety across Indian Country through enhancing the nation-nation relationship and partnering with Tribal Nations. Throughout her career, Vice President Harris has prioritized the well-being of Native women, children, and families, and throughout his career, Governor Walz has affirmed the right to self-governance and self-determination of the Minnesota Tribal Nations.

Vice President Harris and Governor Walz Have Taken Unprecedented Steps to Advance Tribal Sovereignty and Self-determination.

Vice President Harris and President Biden reinstated the White House Council on Native American Affairs, reinstated the Tribal Nations Summit, and appointed a historic number of Native Americans—including Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, U.S. Treasurer Marilyn Malerba, and over 80 appointees serving across the Biden-Harris Administration.

Vice President Harris and President Biden ushered in the next era of Tribal self-determination by signing an executive order affirming that Tribal governments must be treated as permanent, equal, and vital parts of America's overlapping system of government. This enables Tribal Nations to have greater autonomy over how they invest federal funding.

In Minnesota, Governor Walz signed legislation that codified government-to-government relations, and is the first governor in state history to visit all eleven Tribal Nations in Minnesota. He serves alongside Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan, currently the country's highest-ranking Native woman elected to executive office.

Vice President Harris is Working to Protect Tribal Lands and Water.

Vice President Harris and President Biden have created, restored, or expanded 10 National Monuments and signed more than 190 co-stewardship agreements. As a Senator, Kamala Harris championed the San Gabriel National Monument expansion, and this year celebrated the protection of an additional 106,000 acres.

Vice President Harris helped to advance settlements of Indian water rights claims and made placing land into trust easier, helping to right the wrongs of past federal policies.

The Biden-Harris Administration restored protections to Arctic waters and the Bering Sea, the Tongass National Forest, and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in support of conserving 30 percent of America's lands and waters by 2030.

Trump Actively Undermined Tribal Sovereignty Across the Country.

Trump never convened a White House Tribal Nations Conference, nor did he reestablish the Obama-Biden Administration's White House Council on Native American Affairs.

Trump ignored Tribal recommendations and took the unprecedented step of removing 85% of land from the first Tribally sponsored national monument protecting Bears Ears.

Trump reduced the amount of land placed into trust by the Interior Department from 560,000 acres to 75,000 acres.

Trump made it harder for Tribes to regain ancestral lands and even sought to disestablish the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's reservation.

Vice President Harris Has Helped Deliver Historic Tribal Investments.

Vice President Harris cast the tie-breaking vote that led to the single largest Tribal investment in history—\$32 billion—to help Tribal economies devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vice President Harris and President Biden made the largest investment ever in Tribal infrastructure through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law—\$13 billion—directly to Tribal communities for high-speed internet, roads, bridges, clean water, and improved sanitation.

The Biden-Harris Administration invested more than \$720 million specifically to support climate resilience, including drought mitigation, home electrification, clean energy development, and Tribal community-driven relocation efforts.

Vice President Harris and President Biden invested \$3.5 billion in and implemented a predictable funding method for the Indian Health Service (IHS).

Proposed the largest-ever investment in Tribal housing, including more than a billion dollars to support new housing and community development projects.

Trump Pushed Aside Tribal Nations.

Trump excluded many Tribal businesses from applying for the first round of the Paycheck Protection Program emergency relief funds. He favored well-connected big businesses.

Trump issued a rule to limit the power of states and Tribes to review the harmful effects of pipelines, dams, and other projects on Tribal lands.

Trump proposed cuts to IHS funding and tried to cancel funding for the CDC's health and wellness initiative.

Vice President Harris and Governor Walz Will Help Native-owned and Other Small Businesses Start, Innovate, and Expand. They:

Will provide a dramatic 10-fold expansion of tax relief for starting a small business by increasing the startup expense deduction from \$5,000 to \$50,000.

Will make it easier for small businesses to operate and expand by cutting unnecessary red tape, making it easier for small businesses to file taxes, and reducing barriers to getting occupational licenses across states.

Will help existing small businesses grow, by providing low-and no-interest loans to small businesses that want to expand, boost access to venture capital, and support innovation hubs and business incubators.

Have set a goal of 25 million new business applications in their first term, which would generate over 10 million more business applications than Trump saw during his term.

Vice President Harris and Governor Walz Strongly Supports Native Children and Women.

The Biden-Harris Administration successfully defended the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) in the U.S. Supreme Court. The law establishes minimum standards for the removal of Native American children from their families, as well as a preference for Native American children to be placed with extended family members or in Native foster homes. Vice President Harris knows the Indian Child Welfare Act well. As San Francisco's District Attorney and California's Attorney General, she used it to protect the rights of Native children.

Vice President Harris is standing up the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative, a comprehensive effort to recognize the troubled legacy of federal Indian boarding school policies and work with Tribal Nations to ensure victims of this legacy have redress.

Vice President Harris helped establish a Missing and Murdered Unit within the Department of the Interior focused on analyzing and solving missing and murdered cases involving American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Vice President Harris helped reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in 2022 which includes expanded criminal jurisdiction for Tribal courts to prosecute non-Native perpetrators of sexual assault, child abuse, stalking, and sex trafficking.

Under Vice President Harris and President Biden, the Department of Justice successfully defended the constitutionality of the Indian Child Welfare Act, a vital statute that protects Indian children, families and communities.

Under Governor Walz's leadership, Minnesota launched a first-of-its-kind Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Office to tackle the epidemic of cases in Native American communities.

Vice President Harris is a Strong Advocate for Cultural and Language Revitalization.

Under Vice President Harris and President Biden, the Department of the Interior created a systematic and streamlined process for returning human remains, collaborating on programming, resource development, and policy.

Some 40 federal agencies of the Biden-Harris Administration are revitalizing Native languages, collaborating on programming, resource development, and policy.

The Biden-Harris Administration released a first-of-kind guidance for federal agencies to better recognize, respect, and include Indigenous Knowledge in federal research, policy, and decision-making.

Vice President Harris helped enact the first-ever proclamation of Indigenous Peoples' Day.

In Minnesota, Governor Walz protects Native children's inherent right to their culture, language, and Tribal identities by investing in Native Language Revitalization Grants and expanding the Minnesota Indian Teacher Training Program.

Under Trump, Native People Endured Constant Attacks.

Trump destroyed Indigenous sacred sites and burial grounds, including Monument Hill in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, to construct his U.S.-Mexico border wall.

Trump repeatedly attempted to cut funding for Native education programs, including by slashing funding for the Bureau of Indian Education facilities.

Trump refused to reauthorize VAWA and repeatedly proposed cutting Tribal public safety and victim services budgets.