

**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
**Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee**  
**Charter**

**Background**

The relationship between the United States and Tribal Nations is one between sovereigns and is based in the United States Constitution. It is a "government-to-government" relationship that has helped to shape the long history of interactions between the Federal Government and Tribes. In recognition of this relationship and pursuant to Executive Order 13175 (November 6, 2000), Federal agencies are charged with engaging in regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with Tribal officials in the development of Federal policies that have Tribal implications.

**Purpose and Function**

The Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee's (STAC) purpose is to seek consensus and provide a forum to discuss ways to enhance the intergovernmental relationship between the United States and federally recognized Tribes. The STAC will accomplish this purpose by exchanging views, sharing information, providing advice, and otherwise facilitating interactions related to intergovernmental responsibilities or administration of Department of the Interior (DOI) programs, including those that arise explicitly or implicitly under treaty, statute, regulation, or Executive Order. The STAC will facilitate conversations between Federal officials and elected Tribal leaders in their official capacity or their designated employees with authority to act on their behalf.

**Duties**

The duties of the STAC are to:

- a. Identify evolving issues and barriers to access, coverage, and delivery of services to American Indians and Alaska Natives related to DOI programs.
- b. Identify evolving issues relating to trust assets; lands, waters, and treaty/subsistence resources; cultural resources; and governmental interests of federally recognized Indian Tribes.
- c. Propose clarifications and other recommendations and solutions to address issues raised at Tribal, regional, and national levels.
- d. Serve as a forum for Tribes and DOI to discuss these issues and proposals for changes to DOI regulations, policies, and procedures.
- e. Identify priorities and provide advice on appropriate strategies for Tribal consultation on issues at the Tribal, regional, and/or national levels.
- f. Ensure that pertinent concerns are brought to the attention of Tribes in a timely manner, so that timely Tribal feedback can be obtained.

g. Coordinate with DOI Regional Offices on Tribal consultation initiatives.

### **Membership**

The STAC will be composed of an elected Tribal member from each of the twelve Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Regions:

- Alaska Region
- Eastern Region
- Eastern Oklahoma Region
- Great Plains Region
- Midwest Region
- Navajo Region
- Northwest Region
- Pacific Region
- Rocky Mountain Region
- Southern Plains Region
- Southwest Region
- Western Region

Additionally, the Secretary of the Interior may, at his or her discretion, appoint elected Tribal leaders in their official capacity, or designated employees authorized to act on their behalf to the STAC, provided these individuals possess demonstrated knowledge or experience in one of the following areas: Tribal Economic Development, Energy Development, Public Safety, Education or Indian Probate of trust assets.

Members serve at the discretion of the Secretary and are appointed for terms not to exceed 3 years. The Secretary will send letters to Tribal leaders requesting nominations for a member in their respective BIA Region. Additionally, nominations may be requested for individuals who have proven knowledge or experience in areas such as Tribal Economic Development, Energy Development, Public Safety, Education, or Indian Probate of trust assets.

The names of nominated STAC members will be submitted to the Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs (IEA) in an official letter from the nominating Tribe. The Secretary's Chief of Staff and the Director of IEA will oversee the selection and finalization of STAC membership. Members should be an elected official in the respective Region for which they are being nominated or a designated employee authorized to act on their behalf, provided these individuals possess demonstrated knowledge or experience in the subject-matter areas listed above. Upon review of the nominations received, the Secretary retains sole discretion to appoint the individuals selected to serve on the STAC.

A vacancy on the STAC will be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

The Secretary, in consultation with the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs (Assistant Secretary), will designate one member of the STAC to serve as chair and one member to serve as vice chair.

Non-Federal members of the STAC serve without compensation. However, while away from their homes or regular places of business, non-Federal members engaged in STAC business may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, under 5 U.S.C. § 5703.

STAC members must make a good faith effort to participate in all meetings. If a STAC member does not participate in a meeting on two successive occasions, the Assistant Secretary will notify Indian Tribes in the respective region, or area of subject-matter expertise they are representing and ask the Tribe to nominate a replacement.

DOI representatives as determined by the Secretary or Assistant Secretary will be expected to attend meetings of the STAC.

**Meetings**

The STAC will meet up to two times per year to exchange views, information, or advice, and at such times as designated by the Secretary or the Assistant Secretary. Conference calls will be held as needed.

DOI will provide appropriate advance notice to STAC members of in-person and virtual meetings and conference calls.

**Termination**

The STAC will remain in existence until such time as the Secretary determines it appropriate to terminate and notifies the members of this determination.

  
Secretary of the Interior

June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
Date Signed