



# SB-793 & Tribal Communities

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW AT A GLANCE

### Can SB-793 be enforced in Tribal communities?

- No. California's SB-793 is a civil state law that cannot be enforced on Tribal lands. Tribes are sovereign nations and maintain control over their own internal affairs. They must adhere to federal laws but are not subject to civil state laws.

### What is Tribal Sovereignty?

- Tribal sovereignty means Tribes have the right to self-govern their own land, people, and resources. This right is not a privilege bestowed on Tribes—it existed before the formation of the United States government. Tribal leaders gave up millions of acres of land to secure their status as sovereign nations and protect their people. Hundreds of treaties between Tribes and the U.S. government are signed into law.

### How can state and local commercial tobacco control advocates support Tribal efforts?

- Learn about state and national history and its devastating impacts on Tribes.
- Advocate for Tribal communities to receive essential funding, support, and fair representation.
- Respect the decisions Tribal leaders make for their people.
- Develop meaningful relationships and open communication free from bias.
- Focus efforts on culturally appropriate strategies.
- Support Tribal youth.
- Share helpful tools, activities, and resources.
- Understand California Tribal communities received funding from the California Department of Public Health's Tobacco Control Program starting in 2019. They are new to these efforts and need the same time and opportunity as other communities to develop policies.

### What does this mean for Tribal communities and commercial tobacco control?

- Tribal leaders have the authority to adopt tobacco retail and other policies. States and local communities cannot enforce their laws on Tribal lands. Tribal tobacco control advocates and community members can work with their leaders to develop policies that address their wellbeing.

### How are Tribal economies affected by commercial tobacco control policies?

- Revenue from gaming, fuel, tobacco products, and other economic ventures are used to address the urgent needs of historically marginalized and underserved Tribal communities.
- Funded services support healthcare, housing, education, community infrastructure, and other important social services.
- Strong and healthy economies help Tribal members but also bring numerous benefits at the local and state level.
- Tribal economies are developing and need time to diversify and grow without interference.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
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