

## The Tribal Sovereignty Oath

A simple oath: The First Nations of this land predate the republic itself. Sovereignty is not a gift from the United States — it is inherent, sacred, and enduring. This nation pledges to honor tribal sovereignty with real commitments to health, education, land, and justice.

### Why It Matters

- Indigenous nations face higher rates of poverty, illness, and underfunded services due to centuries of broken treaties and systemic neglect.
- Many reservations lack basic infrastructure such as broadband, healthcare facilities, and quality schools.
- Sacred lands and resources are threatened by extraction and development without consent.
- Generations carry the wounds of forced removals, assimilation policies, and cultural erasure.

Our belief: A just America requires not only recognition but repair — honoring sovereignty with investment, protection, and respect for self-determination.

### What We're Saying

This is not symbolic acknowledgment. It is an oath: to respect the sovereignty of tribal nations and to guarantee their right to self-govern, prosper, and thrive with dignity.

### What It Guarantees

- **Healthcare Access:** Full and equitable healthcare funding and services for tribal communities.
- **Broadband & Infrastructure:** Universal broadband access and modern infrastructure in every tribal nation.
- **Education Equity:** Investment in tribal schools, language preservation, and higher education opportunities.
- **Land & Resource Protections:** Consent-based development, protection of sacred lands, and restoration of stolen lands where possible.

- **Reparative Justice:** Truth-telling, reconciliation initiatives, and federal commitments to reparative action.

### Programs You'll See

- **National Sovereignty Council:** A permanent body of tribal leaders and federal representatives to oversee commitments.
- **Tribal Health Equity Act:** Full funding of the Indian Health Service and expansion of local clinics.
- **Broadband for Nations:** A federal-tribal partnership to achieve universal connectivity.
- **Education Renewal Grants:** Support for tribal colleges, immersion schools, and cultural programs.
- **Sacred Land Protections:** Federal laws requiring tribal consent before extraction or development.
- **Truth & Healing Commission:** National process to confront histories of forced removal, boarding schools, and broken treaties.

### How We'll Make It Real

#### 0–100 Days

- Convene the National Sovereignty Council with representation from every recognized tribe.
- Launch broadband and healthcare infrastructure audits in tribal communities.

#### Year 1

- Pass the Tribal Health Equity Act.
- Begin broadband installation and infrastructure upgrades across high-need nations.

#### Years 2–3

- Expand Education Renewal Grants and fund tribal colleges and language programs.

- Launch the Truth & Healing Commission.

#### Years 4–5

- Guarantee universal broadband, modern healthcare, and renewed education opportunities across all tribal nations.
- Embed sacred land protections into federal law.

#### Accountability & Measures

- **Healthcare:** % of tribal citizens with full healthcare access and outcomes equal to national averages.
- **Broadband:** Universal internet connectivity in tribal communities.
- **Education:** Graduation and higher education rates in tribal schools.
- **Land Protections:** # of projects requiring and obtaining tribal consent.
- **Justice:** Progress reports from the Truth & Healing Commission and reparative actions taken.

#### Guardrails & Values

- **Sovereignty First:** Decisions led by tribes, not imposed by federal agencies.
- **Consent Principle:** No development without free, prior, and informed consent of tribes.
- **Equity & Repair:** Investments tied to historic harms and structural inequities.
- **Cultural Respect:** Protection and revitalization of Indigenous languages, traditions, and knowledge.
- **Transparency:** Public, tribal-led reporting on federal commitments and progress.

#### Who This Helps (Snapshots)

- *Aiyana (14):* Attends a tribal language immersion school with full resources and cultural support.
- *Daniel (33):* Gains high-speed internet on his reservation, allowing him to work remotely and launch a business.

- *Elder Joseph (71)*: Receives consistent healthcare at a fully funded local clinic.
- *Marisol (48)*: Serves on the Truth & Healing Commission, sharing her family's story of boarding school survival.
- *The Standing River Nation*: Successfully blocks harmful extraction on sacred lands under new consent laws.

## **What Success Looks Like**

### **In 24 Months**

- Broadband installation underway in every tribal nation.
- Full funding secured for tribal healthcare expansion.

### **In 5 Years**

- All tribal communities connected to modern infrastructure, healthcare, and education.
- Truth & Healing Commission delivers first reparative justice actions.

### **In 10 Years**

- Sovereignty fully respected in law and practice. Tribal nations thrive with dignity, self-determination, and prosperity.

## **The Commitment**

The Tribal Sovereignty Oath is a pledge: to honor America's First Nations not in word alone but in action — by enshrining sovereignty, repairing harm, and guaranteeing dignity and prosperity for generations to come.

## **Historical Reference & Value**

From the very beginning, tribal sovereignty was recognized in treaties between Native nations and the U.S. government — yet these agreements were repeatedly broken. The Indian Removal Act of 1830 led to the Trail of Tears, a forced displacement that remains one of America's greatest injustices. The Dawes Act of 1887 fractured tribal landholdings and undermined communal ownership. The era of boarding schools attempted to erase Indigenous languages and cultures. Later,

the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 began restoring tribal self-governance, and the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 empowered tribes to manage their own programs. Despite progress, underfunding and federal overreach continue to undermine sovereignty. The Tribal Sovereignty Oath builds on this history by pledging repair, investment, and true respect for Indigenous nations as co-equal sovereigns.

### Referenced Acts & Initiatives (Guiding Frameworks)

- **National Sovereignty Council Act:** Establishes a permanent body of tribal leaders and federal officials to oversee commitments and ensure accountability.
- **Tribal Health Equity Act:** Fully funds the Indian Health Service and expands local healthcare infrastructure.
- **Broadband for Nations Program:** Guarantees universal broadband access through federal-tribal partnerships.
- **Education Renewal Grants Act:** Provides funding for tribal colleges, immersion schools, and cultural preservation programs.
- **Sacred Land Protections Act:** Requires tribal consent for all extraction or development on sacred and ancestral lands.
- **Truth & Healing Commission Act:** Creates a national body to confront and address the legacy of forced removals, boarding schools, and treaty violations.

### Sealing Line

So it is pledged: that sovereignty will no longer be broken or symbolic — but lived, honored, and upheld as the enduring foundation of justice between America and its First Nations.