



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

April 2, 2025

Dear Tribal Leader:

As part of the 2021 White House Tribal Nations Summit, the U.S. Department of the Interior announced the formation of the [Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee \(STAC\)](#) to advance the Department's ongoing and future engagement with Tribal Nations. The Department's establishment of STAC creates a permanent forum to facilitate intergovernmental discussions between the Secretary, high-level agency officials, and elected Tribal representatives in furtherance of the United States government-to-government relationship with Tribal Nations. Secretary Doug Burgum is pleased to continue the important work of the STAC and looks forward to engaging with Tribes in this forum.

The purpose of the Department's STAC implementation is to advance a regular, meaningful, and consistent government-to-government relationship with elected Tribal representatives to strengthen the Department's efforts to share information, exchange ideas, provide recommendations, and facilitate robust discussions and interactions regarding intergovernmental responsibilities, administration of the Department's programs, and development of policies and initiatives in furtherance of Secretary Burgum's commitment to meaningful exchanges with Tribes.

In accordance with its implementation, the Department is requesting nominations from Tribal leaders to fill the vacant STAC position(s) to represent the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Region(s) including the:

PRIMARY MEMBER:
ALTERNATE MEMBER:

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION
SOUTHWEST REGION

Detailed information on STAC membership and nomination process is enclosed. Completed application packages can be sent directly to STAC@ios.doi.gov by the **application deadline on Wednesday April 23, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. ET.** If you have questions about the application process, send questions to STAC@ios.doi.gov and include in the subject line: "STAC Application – RMR [or] Southwest Region".

Sincerely,

Meghan Bishop

Senior Counselor to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs
Executive Director, Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee

Enclosure

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Membership

The Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC) will be composed of (1) Primary Tribal Representative from each of the 12 [Bureau of Indian Affairs \(BIA\) regions](#) and (1) Alternate Representative from each of the following: 1) Alaska Region; 2) Eastern Region; 3) Eastern Oklahoma Region; 4) Great Plains Region; 5) Midwest Region; 6) Navajo Region; 7) Northwest Region; 8) Pacific Region; 9) Rocky Mountain Region; 10) Southern Plains Region; 11) Southwest Region; and 12) Western Region.

Chair and Vice Chair

The appointed STAC membership will designate (1) appointed Primary member of the STAC to serve as Chairperson, and (1) Primary member of the STAC to serve as Vice Chairperson for the duration of their term limit, or other date requested by the majority of STAC membership.

Term Limits and Procedure

Appointed members serve at the discretion of the Secretary and selected to serve for the duration of their elected tribal term or appointment. STAC appointments will automatically end upon resignation, loss of Tribal election, competing appointment/assignment that conflicts with STAC duties, or removal by STAC membership as specified under section 7(c)(2) of the Rules of Order. The STAC will meet at least two times per year in-person with Department leadership. The Department will provide standard notice to STAC members of in-person meetings.

Compensation

Non-Federal members of the STAC serve without compensation but may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence while away from their homes or regular places of business.

Participation Requirements

STAC members must make a good faith effort to participate in all meetings. If a STAC member does not participate in a meeting on three successive occasions, the Executive Director of STAC will notify Indian Tribes in the respective area and ask them to nominate a replacement. Department representatives determined by the Secretary will be expected to attend meetings.

Required Nomination Packet Materials Packages

A nominee must be an elected or appointed tribal official that is qualified to represent the views of the Tribes in the respective BIA region for which they are being nominated. The Secretary will only consider completed member and alternate nomination packages for the primary and alternate positions.

A complete nomination package should include the following information about each nominee:

- The BIA region for which the nominee is being considered.
- The nominee's name, title, contact information, geographic location, and Tribal affiliation.
- Official date when elected/appointed to office.
- Date of next tribal election/appointment.
- A résumé that describes the nominee's qualifications and technical experience.

- A short personal statement of the reasons why the nominee wants to serve on STAC and commitment to attend the biannual in-person meetings.
- An official letter from the Tribe (cannot be applicant).
- (Optional) letters of recommendation(s), including letters from regional or national Tribal organization(s).

Priority

Nominations will be considered for selection in the following order with additional considerations for diverse applicants:

- 1) Tribal President/Chairperson/Governor, etc.
- 2) Tribal Vice-President/Vice-Chairperson/Lt. Governor, etc.
- 3) Elected or appointed Tribal official.

If there is more than one nomination in the priority list, individuals who had a letter of support from regional or national Tribal organization(s) will be taken into consideration when selecting the primary and alternate members.

Alternates

Each Primary representative will have an Alternate that will be selected for their BIA region. Should the selected Primary member be unable to attend a meeting, the Alternate will have full rights for participation and voting privileges during the absence of the Primary representative.

Submission Information

The names of each nominated STAC member and alternate must be submitted to the Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs in an official letter from the Tribe by **Wednesday April 23, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. ET** to the following e-mail: STAC@ios.doi.gov

Questions

If you have additional questions, contact Meghan Bishop; Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs and STAC Executive Director, at STAC@ios.doi.gov and please include “STAC Application – RMR [or] Southwest Region” in the subject line.