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# INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL



# 2024 MEMBERSHIP

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PACKET



## INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL

PO Box 958, Billings MT 59103



Dear Tribal Leader,

Each year the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) hosts formal regional caucus meetings composed of stakeholders and membership tribal delegates representing 12 regions, to establish IAC's priorities for the upcoming year. All 574 federally recognized Tribes are considered IAC's general membership. For a Tribe to establish a voting delegate, the delegate must be selected by the governing body of a member Tribe and the Tribe must submit the appropriate documentation. For more information, see the form linked at [www.indianag.org/membership](http://www.indianag.org/membership).

To be considered by the voting delegates, caucus issues should be submitted through IAC's online caucus issue submission form before the in-person caucus meetings. Regional caucuses issues raised in person during the annual caucus meetings during the IAC Annual Conference, may also be considered. **All caucus issues must be received by 9:00 am (PST) on Monday, December 2, 2024, to be considered by the voting delegates.**

Prior to the conclusion of the regional caucus meeting, delegates will vote on the adoption of submitted issues. Those issues that receive a majority vote will advance to the 2024 Annual Membership Meeting scheduled for Date TBD for full-membership consideration. Caucus issues ratified during the IAC Membership Meeting are incorporated into IAC's playbook as organizational priorities during the following year.

All Tribes are encouraged to designate voting delegates through the established process found in the voting delegate guide. Membership supports Tribal producers nationwide by advancing priorities identified by IAC members that advance policy, technical assistance, and support for the management and development of Indian agriculture and food systems.

Issues offered for consideration at the regional caucus by registered conference participants from that region, who are not voting delegates, will not be considered if no duly appointed voting delegate moves to support the prospective caucus issue. Such issues will not be discussed, nor included in the caucus report to be offered to the membership for consideration. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact IAC staff Nicole Charley at [nicole@indianag.org](mailto:nicole@indianag.org).

Respectfully,

Kari Jo Lawrence, IAC Chief Executive Officer

# 2024 VOTING DELEGATE GUIDE

INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL



## BACKGROUND

IAC was founded in 1987 to pursue and promote the conservation, development, and use of our agricultural resources for the betterment of our people. Tribal leaders, in a true expression of self-determination, identified and delegated their representation within the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) Charter, comprising the voting membership that remains in existence today. This organizational leadership structure uniquely positions the IAC to inform policy and USDA programmatic implementation, simultaneously redefining and rebuilding our self-determined Tribal food systems.

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## ELIGIBILITY

All Federally recognized Tribes and Native Alaskan Tribes, as defined in the Self Determination Act, (PL93-638) with an interest in the management and development of Indian agricultural resources are eligible for general membership.

## APPLY TO BECOME A VOTING DELEGATE TRIBE

The application process requires a formal resolution from each respective Tribe, which includes designation of a voting delegate (and alternate) to represent the Tribe's interest (see sample resolution and letter at this link). General membership on the Council is vested with the Tribes and not with any specific individual. Once approved, the voting delegate participates in regional caucuses to bring actionable items forward to the annual Membership Meeting, both of which occur in December during IAC's Annual Conference.

**FOLLOW THE LINK TO APPLY: [bit.ly/IAC-member-application](https://bit.ly/IAC-member-application)**

*\* Membership dues are set at \$200 annually.*

# 2024 VOTING DELEGATE GUIDE

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## GOOD STANDING

Tribal membership “in good standing” is based on two criteria:

- Paying annual dues for the current year and
- Designating an official tribal delegate to the Council.

A Member “in good standing” grants its delegate full participation rights, including introducing new business and voting. Conversely, Members “not in good standing” haven’t paid their dues and have limited participation rights – they can discuss but not initiate new business or vote. Member delegates “not in good standing” are not eligible to stand for Council Executive Board, to any committee of the Council or to any office of the Council.

## ATTEND THE IAC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The 2024 Membership Meeting is scheduled for Date TBD. Registration for the 2024 IAC Annual Conference and Membership Meeting will be announced later in the year.

# CAUCUS PROTOCOL

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Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) Tribal member delegates vote on issues raised during caucus each year in December at the IAC Annual Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. Tribes may raise caucus issues via resolution, or by completing the online caucus form: [bit.ly/IAC-caucus-issue](https://bit.ly/IAC-caucus-issue). These issues are then advanced during the annual in-person membership meeting where Tribal delegates vote to include the issue as one of IAC's work priorities for the upcoming year. Delegates are selected by the governing body of a member Tribe.

The right to vote on these issues through IAC processes is open to all 574 federally recognized Tribes with an interest in the management and development of Indian agricultural and food systems resources.

**Membership runs from January 1 through December 31.**

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- **The Board Member or Alternate for your region is responsible for presiding over the Caucus meeting.**
  - An IAC staff member will be in attendance to record the actions in our preferred format.
  - Staff members, may not offer issues for consideration, but may offer their perspective on issues raised, when asked to do so.
  - It is generally accepted that all conference participants are invited to attend the meeting, and may raise issues for consideration.
  - Issues may be offered for caucus consideration by registered conference participants from that region, however, if no duly appointed delegate(s) move to support the issue it will not be discussed, nor included in the caucus report offered to the membership.
  - The Board Member from that region will present the regional caucus issues report to the General Membership at the annual Membership Meeting on December 14, 2023 for consideration of adoption as IAC Policy for the year.

Issues not receiving consensus approval at the in person caucus may be voted on in a manner as determined by the presiding officer, for reporting out to the Membership Meeting.

A majority of the duly appointed delegates attending the caucus may approve an issue, or the caucus report in its entirety.

# CAUCUS AGENDA FRAMEWORK

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## ROLES SUMMARY

- IAC Board Member Facilitates Meeting
- IAC Technical Assistance staff (TA) takes notes, offers context on USDA resources as necessary, fields pertinent questions- does not direct conversation or have the floor for any length of time

## INTRODUCTIONS (IAC BOARD MEMBER)

- Delegates: Name, Tribal Affiliation, Role/Operation/Business
- General Attendees (only if size of caucus permits and this will not take away from primary scope of this meeting): Name, Tribal Affiliation, Role/Operation/Business

## REVIEW OF PREVIOUS CAUCUS ISSUES (IAC BOARD MEMBER/TA)

- Present TA accomplishments relevant to caucus issues raised last year

## REVIEW OF PRESUBMITTED CAUCUS ISSUES (IAC BOARD MEMBER/TA TAKES NOTES)

- Review background
- Consider actionable solutions

## ROUND TABLE DELEGATE DISCUSSION (IAC BOARD MEMBER/TA TAKES NOTES)

- State name, Tribal affiliation, issue or concern, possible remedy or solution
- Review background
- Consider actionable solutions

## VOTE ON CAUCUS ISSUES RAISED (IAC BOARD MEMBER/TA)

- Clarify notes in support of generating the caucus report

## FINAL THOUGHTS (IAC BOARD MEMBER)

## ADJOURN

## SAMPLE RESOLUTION

INTERTRIBAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL



### SAMPLE RESOLUTION FOR BECOMING A VOTING TRIBAL DELEGATE

Therefore be it resolved....Hereby appoints \_\_\_\_\_ as its delegate to the Intertribal Agriculture Council, and appoints \_\_\_\_\_ as the alternate delegate.

Be it further resolved.....hereby offers the following caucus issues for consideration in the regional caucus.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

### SAMPLE APPOINTMENT LETTER FOR DELEGATE OR ALTERNATE

Dear IAC Chief Executive Officer:

The \_\_\_\_\_ Tribal Council has designated \_\_\_\_\_ to the Intertribal Agriculture Council as the official Tribal Delegate and \_\_\_\_\_ as the alternate affording all privileges of member representatives.

### SAMPLE CAUCUS ISSUE

**ISSUE:** Less than 40 Tribes are able to utilize FRTEP due to the funding limitation to the program. Member Tribes request an increase in funding directly to their congressional representatives to \$10 M.

**PROPOSED SOLUTION:** IAC advocacy for 2023 Farm Bill will include mandatory funding for 100 FRTEP agents.



**Please remit payment to:**  
Intertribal Agriculture Council  
Attn: Accounts Receivable  
PO Box 958, Billings MT 59103

**For information on wiring your membership payment,  
please contact:**  
Audrey Ellien, Finance Specialist at [audrey@indianag.org](mailto:audrey@indianag.org)

**IAC membership information can be found at:**  
[www.indianag.org/membership](http://www.indianag.org/membership)



Scan the QR code or contact  
Nicole Charley, Executive Assistant  
at [nicole@indianag.org](mailto:nicole@indianag.org) to  
learn more. We look forward to  
collaborating with your Tribe.

**BECOME A MEMBER**  
[bit.ly/IAC-member-application](http://bit.ly/IAC-member-application)



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