EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PROCLAMATION

Today marks the 57th annual celebration of California Native American Day, "Recognizing 100 Years of Citizenship and the Fight for the Right to Vote 1924-2024." This year's California Native American Day commemorates the moment when – 100 years ago – Native Americans were conferred citizenship in the United States of America, and with it, the right to vote in the State of California.

This important milestone is not without controversy – Congress' act was in furtherance of assimilationist policy during a period marked by the forced removal of Native children from their families, the seizure and sale of Native lands and prohibitions on languages Native people spoke since time immemorial.

By 1924, California Native Americans had lost almost all of their lands to relentless acts of dispossession. Their spiritual practices were almost entirely cut off, their waters diverted, sustenance depleted and sacred grey wolf, grizzly bear, beaver and condor populations decimated. Where tribal nations' exercise of diplomacy and their associated values went long ignored, citizenship and the right to vote provided another path by which Native peoples could begin to restore what was lost. Since that time, Native engagement in the democratic process has demonstrated the power of the Native voice to force attention to the unique needs and concerns of California Indian Country.

In these last 100 years, we have witnessed California tribal nations and Native American individuals fully embracing their potential in this collective democracy. As a result, California is once again benefitting from the values, leadership and stewardship of the first people of this place – from the reintroduction of traditional burning, sustainable harvesting and cultivation practices, to the largest river restoration in the United States. We have seen the first California Native American elected to the state legislature and heard Native languages echoing in the halls of the State Capitol. We have welcomed back condor, beaver and wolf populations on California tribal lands. And we have seen dynamic Native leaders reclaiming their place throughout this state on local and county boards, in judicial offices and as University of California regents.

This California Native American Day, I encourage all Californians to learn more about the ways California Native peoples throughout the state are cultivating a new generation of leaders and empowering their communities to build a sustainable future for all.

NOW THEREFORE I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim September 27, 2024, as "Native American Day."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 25th day of September 2024.

GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

SHIRLEY N. WEBER, Ph.D.
Secretary of State