



# TEXAS BAND OF YAQUI INDIANS

Preserving our Legacy through Culture, Language, History and Ceremony

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### **Texas Yorimea Band of Yaqui Indians**

**Re: Our Status as a State-Recognized Native American Tribe in Texas**

**Date: February 17, 2026**

The Texas Yorimea Band of Yaqui Indians affirms for the public record that we are a state-recognized Native American Tribe in Texas. This notice summarizes the controlling government record, our functioning tribal government and sovereign authorities, government-to-government engagements, recognition by traditional Yaqui authorities in Mexico, how federal law treats that record, and our ongoing work toward federal acknowledgment.

### **Primary Government Documentary Record**

- Texas Senate — Senate Resolution 989 (84th Legislature, adopted May 27, 2015). The Senate of the State of Texas adopted SR 989 at the Texas State Capitol in Austin. That enrolled resolution is part of the permanent legislative record and is the State's formal legislative acknowledgment of the Texas Band of Yaqui Indians as a Native American tribal community with longstanding ties to Texas.
- United States Congress — 2016 Certificate of Congressional Recognition. In 2016, Congressman Randy Neugebauer, then a Member of the United States House of Representatives, issued an official Certificate of Congressional Recognition presented "To commemorate their recognition as a Native American Tribe in the State of Texas." This certificate is an official federal record that acknowledges the Tribe's status as a Native American tribe recognized by the State of Texas.

### **Status statement:**

The enrolled Texas Senate resolution recorded at the Texas State Capitol is the State of Texas's formal legislative acknowledgment of the Texas Yorimea Band of Yaqui Indians as a Native American tribe. The 2016 Certificate of Congressional Recognition, issued from Washington, D.C., is a corroborating federal record that expressly recognizes that Texas status. Together, these documents constitute the core, verifiable government evidence that the Texas Yorimea Band of Yaqui Indians is a state-recognized Native American Tribe in Texas.



### **Tribal Government, Sovereignty, and Legal Authority**

The Texas Yorimea Band of Yaqui Indians functions as a sovereign tribal government under its written Constitution and Bylaws, which establish an elected General Tribal Council, executive and legislative authorities, and a Tribal Court of Justice. The Constitution expressly references SR 989 as the basis for the Tribe's status as a "State Recognized Native American Tribe of Texas," and incorporates key external recognitions, including state and federal documents, into the Tribe's governing law. Under our governing law, the Tribe exercises its inherent sovereign powers to regulate internal affairs, adjudicate matters under tribal law through the Tribal Court of Justice, and conduct government-to-government relations with state and federal agencies.

### **Government-to-Government Engagement and Programmatic Recognition**

State and federal program records treat the Tribe as a state-recognized tribal government for planning, consultation, and service delivery. The State of Texas VAWA (STOP) Implementation Plan lists the Texas Band of Yaqui Indians as a state-recognized tribe and records that the Tribe became state recognized in 2015. Federal program offices and consultation processes, including the Department of Justice / Office for Victims of Crime (DOJ/OVC) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), have invited and treated the Tribe as a tribal government participant in consultations and rulemaking where state-recognized status is the operative category. The Tribe has engaged with the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in contexts where federal staff consult with or consider state-recognized tribes for program planning and regulatory input.

### **Recognition by Traditional Yaqui Authorities in Mexico**

Recognized Yaqui communities in Sonora, including Vicam Pueblo and Cocorit / Loma de Guamúchil, have formally acknowledged the Texas Yorimea Band of Yaqui Indians and affirmed our authority to conduct traditional ceremonies with validity before U.S. government agencies. These acknowledgments confirm our cultural and political ties to the broader Yaqui Nation in Sonora and support our status as a **transborder** Yaqui community based in Texas.



### **How Federal Law Treats This Evidence and Ongoing Federal Efforts**

Federal acknowledgment regulations, including 25 C.F.R. § 83.11, treat identification of a tribal community by State and Federal authorities and participation in government-to-government consultation as probative evidence of tribal status. The combined record of SR 989 (2015), the 2016 Certificate of Congressional Recognition, Texas's VAWA/STOP implementation plan, and DOJ/OVC and BIA consultation records falls squarely within the categories § 83.11 identifies as relevant evidence for federal acknowledgment review. We will rely on these records and on 25 C.F.R. § 83.11 in any federal acknowledgment process.

### **Current status and Ongoing Government Actions**

We are state-recognized in Texas; we are not federally recognized at this time. We are actively pursuing federal recognition through the appropriate administrative and legislative channels.

### **Guidance on Public Sources and Record Authority**

Official state and federal records (and formal letters from traditional Yaqui authorities) are the controlling public evidence of our status. Non-authoritative online sources, including anonymous edits on Wikipedia and non-peer-reviewed social media posts, are not authoritative over the State of Texas's enrolled legislative record, federal congressional commemorations, Texas.gov program documents, or federal consultation records. Public information stewards, researchers, and media outlets should rely on primary government and traditional documents when reporting or editing entries about the Tribe.

Affirmation

### **This notice is an authoritative affirmation of status:**

The Texas Yorimea Band of Yaqui Indians is a state-recognized Native American Tribe in Texas, as shown by the Texas Legislature's enrolled Senate Resolution 989, the 2016 Certificate of Congressional Recognition issued from Washington, D.C., programmatic and consultative records that treat the Tribe as a state-recognized tribal government, and formal recognition from traditional Yaqui authorities in Sonora, Mexico.

Signed,  
Texas Yorimea Band of Yaqui Indians