Through regulatory compliance and gaming integrity, we strive to assist tribes strengthen self-governance and build diversified economies.

- Chairman Jonodev Chaudhuri

The National Indian Gaming Commission is an independent federal regulatory agency within the Department of the Interior regulating gaming activities on Indian lands.

The Commission was established pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) of 1988 with broad authority to issue regulations in furtherance of the purposes of IGRA.

The Commission’s primary mission is to work within the framework created by IGRA for the regulation of gaming activities conducted by tribes on Indian lands to fully realize the Act’s goals of promoting tribal economic development, self-sufficiency and strong tribal governments; maintaining the integrity of the Indian gaming industry; and ensuring that tribes are the primary beneficiaries of their gaming activities.

Types of Gaming
Congress defined Class II gaming as bingo; and when played in the same location as bingo: pull tabs, lotto, punch boards, tip jars, instant bingo, other games similar to bingo, and non-house banked card games, such as poker, authorized or not explicitly prohibited by the state in which the tribal gaming operation is located. Class III gaming includes, but is not limited to baccarat, blackjack, slot machines, and electronic or electromechanical facsimiles of any game of chance. Class I gaming includes social or traditional native forms of gaming and is wholly regulated by a Tribal gaming commission.

Federal agencies with oversight relationships to gaming
The NIGC is responsible for reviewing and approving management contracts and tribal gaming ordinances; providing training and technical assistance, promulgating Indian gaming regulations and regulatory oversight; conducting background checks and processing fingerprint cards; conducting audits and investigations and has the authority to enforce civil penalties, impose fines and order closures. Other federal agencies that enforce laws relating to Indian gaming include the Department of Interior (Secretary of Interior, Office of the Inspector General, Solicitor, Bureau of Indian Affairs), Department of Justice (U.S. Attorney, U.S. Marshals, Solicitor General and FBI), Department of Treasury (IRS, Secret Service and Financial Crimes Enforcement Network).

Funding
The NIGC is a federal agency of the United States. Commission operations are solely funded through fees collected from Indian gaming operations under its jurisdiction. The agency bases fees on a percentage of net revenue of Class II and Class III operations. Thus the Commission operates proportionately to that of the Indian gaming industry.
Agency Structure and Gaming Operations
The Commission is comprised of a Chair, appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate and two additional commissioners appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. The Agency is headquartered in Washington, D.C. and is comprised of seven regions. The Portland Region includes 54 Indian gaming operations in the Pacific Northwest; the Sacramento Region has 72 operations located in California and Northern Nevada; the Phoenix Region has 59 operations that cover the Southwest; the St. Paul Region includes 142 operations encompassing nine Great Plains states; the Tulsa Region has 68 operations in Kansas and eastern Oklahoma; the Oklahoma City Region has 63 operations in Texas and western Oklahoma; and the Washington, DC Region includes 31 operations across four Gulf states and three eastern states.

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90 K St NE, Ste 200
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 632-7003

Portland Region
620 SW Main Street, Ste 212
Portland, OR 97205
(503) 326-5095

Sacramento Region
801 I Street, Ste 489
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 414-2300

Phoenix Region
3636 N. Central Ave., Ste 880
Phoenix, AZ 85012
(602) 640-2951

St. Paul Region
380 Jackson Street, Ste 420
St. Paul, MN 55101
(651) 290-4004

Tulsa Region
224 South Bolder, Ste 301
Tulsa, OK 74103
(918) 581-7926

Oklahoma Region
215 Dean A. McGee Ave, Ste 218
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90 K St NE, Ste 200
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“Indian gaming is an American success story for addressing the social and economic needs of Indian country.”
- Former Associate Commissioner Daniel Little

“IT is not or responsibility to ensure the economic viability of any market, but to have a statutory mission to ensure the integrity of gaming, which perpetuates economic viability.”
-Chairman Jonodev Chaudhuri

Information is current as of: August 2015