



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR VENDORS

## **A Pocket Guide for Sidewalk Vendors in Los Angeles County**

### **SB 946 (2019)**

Legalized street vending statewide. You can vend on sidewalks in all cities across California.

### **SB 972 (2023)**

Categorizes street food vendors as Compact Mobile Food Operations, making it easier to obtain health permits.

**WHERE CAN I VEND?**

You can vend on sidewalks and in residential areas, but there may be limits depending on your city. Restrictions may apply near swap meets, farmer's markets, sporting venues, and other special events.

**WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS IF I GET A FINE?**

You cannot be charged late fines beyond the original fine limits, and you can request fine reduction to 20% if you are low-income. The Department of Public Health can issue higher fines for public health violations, which may not be reducible after the first citation.

**CAN I BE CHARGED WITH A MISDEMEANOR?**

You cannot be charged with a misdemeanor or criminal infraction for vending. Only non-criminal administrative fines can be issued for local vending and public health violations. If charged with a crime for vending, you can request dismissal of pending violations.

**CAN I SELL FOOD ON THE SIDEWALK?**

Yes, you can sell food on the sidewalk. Health Permits are required for selling food, except for pre-packaged store-bought items or whole fruits/veggies (under 25 sq ft space). The Local Department of Public Health may inspect your operation. You have the right to request the inspector's identification.