SB 946 is a California state law that decriminalizes sidewalk vending across the state, encourages the establishment of sidewalk vending programs by local cities and counties, and allows vendors to dismiss all pending criminal prosecutions and prior convictions for sidewalk vending violations. It took effect January 1, 2019.
GENERAL INFORMATION

You can vend on sidewalks across the State of California without fear of being arrested or charged with a crime.

Cities and counties must allow sidewalk vendors to be either roaming vendors or stationary vendors, but can have certain rules and restrictions governing each category of sidewalk vendor.

DEFINITIONS UNDER SB 946

ROAMING VENDORS
You are allowed to move around but you can only stop for someone to buy your product.

STATIONARY VENDORS
You are allowed to set up your operation in one place.

LOCALITY
This is a city, county, park agency, or any entity that has governing power over an area.

Note that **SB 946 does not require that a city or county have a permit system**; cities can regulate via rules and regulations or through a permit system. This means each city or county may have a different system or program. If there is no regulation system in place, it is against the law for an officer to give you a citation for violating any rule that is inconsistent with the standards of SB 946.

Speaking of citations...

A city or county can only issue you a citation (a fine) if you are not following the local rules regarding sidewalk vending.

Officers/Inspectors are not allowed to cite you for the following:

- Being one of many vendors on a block unless it is a safety precaution
- Vending in front of a private business without permission from the business owner
- Roaming vending in a park
- Roaming vending in residential areas

* Please confirm all applicable rules and regulations with your local authority.
You are allowed to vend on the sidewalk!

There can be restrictions around where and when you can vend on the sidewalk depending on your city or county. Check your local jurisdiction for specific requirements.

Restrictions on where you can vend can include Special Vending Districts, No-Vending Zones, and Residentially Zoned areas. But remember, if there is no system in place to regulate sidewalk vending, you cannot receive a ticket for violating any rule that is inconsistent with the standards of SB 946.

You have a right to vend in parks!

A locality may not completely prohibit roaming vending in parks.

Stationary vendors can vend in parks, subject to local rules about hours and location, as long as there is not an exclusive agreement with a concession stand in the park.

To find out if there is an exclusive concession agreement, ask a park employee or your local elected official.

Food Requirements

If you sell food, you must meet the requirements set by your local health enforcement agency. Usually, this is the Department of Public Health, typically a county or city-run entity.

Contact your local health enforcement agency to find out which requirements apply to your operation and whether you need a health permit.

Selling food without a health permit may still result in a citation or criminal charge.

What if you’ve been charged with a violation?

Sidewalk Vendors cannot get a misdemeanor or infraction for vending. Officers are only allowed to issue non-criminal administrative fines for violating local sidewalk regulations. If you are charged with a crime for sidewalk vending, you can request a dismissal of any pending violations from the court.

Things to remember

1. If the administrative citations (fines) are unaffordable for you, you can show proof of your income to bring down the fee to 20% of the cost.

2. You may be able to dismiss your criminal citation if the citation claims you violated a sidewalk vending rule.

3. You have the right to a dismissal of any pending misdemeanor or infraction charges against you for sidewalk vending.

4. You have the right to request dismissal of any prior sidewalk vending convictions on your criminal record.

*You can get more information on items in white from Public Counsel. Their phone number is on the back page.
RESOURCES

Still have questions about SB 946 and what your rights are in regards to the State Law?

Call any of the following organizations:

East LA Community Corporation (ELACC)
(323)269-4214

Los Angeles Food Policy Council (LAFPC)
(213) 473-3520

Public Counsel
(213) 385-2977

Leadership for Urban Renewal Network (LURN)
(323) 604-9765

For detailed information on how to go about dismissing a pending violation or how to get a prior conviction expunged, please contact Public Counsel.

LA STREET VENDOR CAMPAIGN
Feb. 2019