



Choctaw Nation Election Board

MEETING MINUTES

The Election Board met on May 10, 2023, at 1:03 pm in the Ibaichvffa (Membership) Conference Room #1251 at the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO) Headquarters Building in Durant, Oklahoma.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Virginia Kay Green.

Invocation was given by Alternate, Wayne Tipps.

Secretary, Candace Perkins, called the roll and the following individuals were present:

Virginia Kay Green, Chairperson

Jane Parent, Member

Candace Perkins, Secretary

Sylvia Sigler, Alternate

Wayne Tipps, Alternate

Jennifer Johnson-Williams, Secretary Alternate

The following individuals were absent: 0

Three (3) voting members of the Board answered roll call – a quorum was established.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Meeting Minutes from the April 25, 2023, Regular Meeting were provided for review to all Board Members and Alternates at this meeting.

Chairperson Green called for Approval of Minutes.

Alternate Tipps made a Motion to Approve the Meeting Minutes from the April 12, 2023, Regular Meeting. – Seconded by Alternate Sigler.

Chairperson Green called for voice vote; **MOTION PASSED.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.



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SECRETARY'S REPORT

Chairperson Green called for the Secretary's Report.

Secretary Perkins provided the following information to the Board:

- Financial Updates including:
 - A financial snapshot of FY23 operating expenses for cost center.
 - Reminder of the approved timeline to complete planning for the FY2024 budget.
- Strategic Updates including:
 - Election Management System (project with Information Technology):
 - No new updates.
- Operational Updates including:
 - Legal and Compliance:
 - No new updates.
 - Record Management:
 - No new updates.
 - Marketing and Communications:
 - The following public notices and information have been recently published to the Tribal Elections webpage:
 - Withdrawal of Candidacy Form.
 - First Public Notice of Open Voting Locations for the Choctaw Nation General Election 2023.
 - Public Notice of Qualified Candidates Appearing on the Choctaw Nation General Election Ballot for 2023.
 - Tribal Candidate Guide 2023.
 - As of May 4, 2023, Secretary Perkins is waiting on Biskinik to provide creative for the Tribal Election Guide (June 2023) to review and approve.
 - Secretary Perkins asked to do an additional campaign push around June 17th to provide public with a reminder that mail ballots are being distributed at that time and timeline to return ballots.
 - Secretary Perkins will provide a sample ballot to be used in this additional campaign.
 - Facility Management:
 - On April 27, 2023, Secretary Perkins emailed notification to all community center representatives at selected voting locations with a tentative timeline for equipment setup and voting days at their centers.
 - On April 27, 2023, Secretary Perkins emailed notification to Chief Batton, Assistant Chief Austin Jr, Speaker Williston, and copied General Legal Counsel of the Choctaw



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Nation of Oklahoma that the Board had issued the first public notice of open voting locations.

- On May 9, 2023, Secretary Perkins met with contacts at the Choctaw Nation Judicial Center to begin planning operations during election weekend at their facility. A task schedule was provided to all support teams.
 - Public Safety made a request for a guidance document that their officers could use as a reference during voting days. Secretary Perkins agreed to provide a guidance document.
 - Secretary Perkins asked that surveillance provider invoice all costs to the Election Board instead of Choctaw Nation IT.
- Human Resources:
 - No new updates.
- Service Providers:
 - Secretary Perkins is in regular contact with Terry Rainey at Automated Election Services and received the first ballot proof on April 28, 2023. On May 2, 2023, Secretary sent proof one (1) back for the following revisions and asked for a proof two (2):
 - Change all "absentee" terms to "Mail-In" since the election ordinance does not use that term anymore.
 - On May 8, 2023, Secretary Perkins stopped at Durant Post Office to contact Postmaster in person. Postmaster was not in office, so she left a message with the supervisor on duty who took her contact information. Supervisor is supposed to email Secretary Perkins and copy the Postmaster to initiate conversation. Secretary explained that she was trying to make contact so that a procedure discussion could occur about ballot handling. Secretary said that she could send a copy of the letter detailing process that was used in 2021 election.
- Candidates:
 - On April 26, 2023, Secretary Perkins received phone calls from Tribal Police Officers and concerned tribal members of Council District 11 about potential violations regarding campaign shirts. Secretary Perkins filtered through verbally reported information and determined that perceived "campaign shirts" did not meet the Board's definition of a campaign shirt at this time as specified in the Candidate Guide for 2023. Candidate and individual tribal member was not actively campaigning on tribal property. No documented complaints were received by the Secretary. Secretary Perkins emailed a copy of the Tribal Candidate Guide to Public Safety contacts to use as a reference source.
 - Member Parent initiated open discussion about campaign shirts. It was determined that this issue would be revisited again when the Guide is reviewed in one (1) year. Secretary Perkins asked the group to carefully consider what changes should be made to this administrative rule.



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CAMPAIGN SHIRTS

Administrative Rule, effective since 2019.

It is the decision of the Election Board that shirts where language is not soliciting a vote for a specific candidate shall not be designated as campaign material. Solicitation of a vote includes the following language but is not limited to:

- "Vote for"
- "I voted for".

Rule exceptions, include:

District appreciation shirts or apparel that state the Council District number and/or a current and/or former candidate's name is not a violation of campaigning except when worn within one hundred (100) yards of a voting location or the Election Board office on any day that voting is taking place.

- All Campaign Financial Disclosure Statements for the April reporting period (After Date Filed to April 30, 2023) have been received and filed with the Secretary prior to the last day to submit (May 5, 2023).
- There have been no voter eligibility challenges to GE I Voter List. The period to challenge voters on this specific list ends at 4:30pm on Thursday, May 11, 2023.
- The next date that candidates can request an additional voter list is on May 26, 2023.
- Election Board Meeting Schedule for CY2023:
 - Next meeting is Wednesday, May 17, 2023, from 1pm – 4pm.
- An overview of current activities that are ongoing with the CNO Voter Registration (VR):
 - As of May 9, 2023, the department has a total of 48,300 registered voters. The Voter Count by District Report shows the following:



Voter Count by District

Voter District	Out Of Nation	In Nation	Grand Total
1		533	749
2		894	1068
3		1202	718
4		454	1700
5		755	1064
6		535	1188
7		1146	1403
8		1400	1302
9		3061	2275
10		682	1057
11		1220	1932
12		1028	734
Unaffiliated	20200	0	20200
GrandTotal	33110	15190	48300



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- Voter Information API with Election Service Provider:
 - VR began sending information to the Election Service Provider on April 24, 2023.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairperson Green called for New Business.

Secretary Perkins made a Motion to Approve Mail-In Ballot Proof 2 as provided by Automated Election Services on May 3, 2023. Upon approval, Secretary will request sample ballots for distribution through the tribal newspaper and the Tribal Elections webpage. – Seconded by Alternate Sigler.

Chairperson Green called for voice vote; **MOTION PASSED.**

Secretary Perkins initiated discussion about guidelines regarding additional voter list requests.

One major point discussed is that unchallenged candidates who are qualified and uncontested that do not appear on a ballot are exempt from submitting additional campaign finance statements through General Election because those candidates are not actively campaigning for an election. Unchallenged candidates have already “won” their elective office, but that information is not sent to the Bureau of Indian Affairs until after the election results are certified by the Election Board (Election Ordinance, Article XXII, §5).

Secretary Perkins made a Motion to Approve an administrative rule to accompany Article IX, Voter List, §1 whereby the Board declares that unchallenged candidates who are qualified and uncontested will receive the initial voter list. Any candidate names not appearing on a tribal election ballot are ineligible to request additional voter lists once a public notice of qualified candidates is issued. – Seconded by Member Parent.

Chairperson Green called for voice vote; **MOTION PASSED.**

ADJOURNMENT

Secretary Perkins made a Motion to Adjourn the Meeting. – Seconded by Alternate Sigler.

Chairperson Green called for voice vote; **MOTION PASSED.**

Meeting adjourned at 2:28 pm.

Certification of Meeting Minutes:

May 10, 2023 - CNEB Meeting Minutes



Choctaw Nation Election Board

X Candace Perkins

Candace Perkins
Secretary

approved on 5-17-2023