



# Choctaw Nation Election Board

## MEETING MINUTES

The Election Board met on June 14, 2023, at 1:02 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 Jr, Alternate

Jennifer Johnson-Williams, Secretary Alternate

The following individuals were absent: None.

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

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## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*The Meeting Minutes from the June 7, 2023, Regular Meeting were provided for review to all Board Members and Alternates at this meeting.*

Chairperson Green called for Approval of Minutes.

Member Parent made a Motion to Approve the Meeting Minutes from the June 7, 2023, Regular Meeting. – Seconded by Secretary Perkins.

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

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## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chairperson Green called for Unfinished Business.

Secretary Perkins initiated a discussion about the daily Mail-In Ballot collection and asked for help from individual Board members with the daily collection when possible. The daily collection schedule has been added into the meeting schedule for CY2023. Jennifer Johnson-Williams will not be available to serve as the second member

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starting July 5, 2023, because she needs to be in the Voter Registration office preparing for Same Day Registration during election weekend. Secretary Perkins will follow up with each member at a later date to discuss which shifts can be covered.

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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 update.
- Operational Updates including:
  - Legal and Compliance:
    - On May 23, 2023, Secretary Perkins contacted Glenn Coffee & Associates to request their assistance in drafting a guidance document for Public Safety/Tribal Officer use in the community on voting days. This request is pending a response from the Board's legal team.
      - No new update.
    - In lieu of an agreement with the Durant Postmaster, the Election Board approved the Contingent Procedures for Mail-In Ballot Retention and Security, PolicyTech Ref# 9891 v2 by conference call on June 9, 2023. Version 2 included the modified provision that allows the opportunity for a Watcher to observe the daily transport of mail-in ballots from the post office to the Collection Location.
      - On Sat, June 10, 2023, Tribal Council adopted a Council Bill to approve the Contingent Procedures for Mail-In Ballot Retention and Security.
      - On Mon, 6/12/2023, Secretary Perkins emailed all candidates to notify of important tribal election changes that included the Contingent Procedures for Mail-In Ballot Retention and Security. The notification also outlined changes being made to the Tribal Candidate Guide that would be posted publicly later in week, including a daily schedule for collection. The deadline for candidates to commission watchers to observe the daily mail-in ballot collection is Noon on Thurs, June 15, 2023.
        - On Wed, June 14, 2023, Secretary Perkins emailed all candidates a reminder of the deadline for candidates to commission watchers to observe the daily mail-in ballot collection, which included the daily schedule with start times.





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- On June 14, 2023, Secretary Perkins participated in a livestream mock run with CNO Information Technology (IT) support teams for purpose of documenting the process as a future transparency tool for the Board's administrative hearings. Once the process is documented by CNO IT, it will be provided to the Board for future use.
- Record Management:
  - On June 9, 2023, District 3 Candidate, Marilyn Kay Haering, requested copies of the campaign financial disclosure statements for Robert Karr, Perry Thompson, and Tony Ward. Secretary Perkins packaged certified copies and notified Ms. Haering that copies would be ready for pick up on Wed, June 13, 2023. Ms. Haering stated that her estimated pickup and payment date is Wed, June 14, 2023.
  - On June 12, 2023, District 11 Candidate, Nellie Meashintubby, requested copies of the campaign financial disclosure statements for Robert Karr and Gary Batton. Secretary Perkins packaged certified copies and notified Ms. Meashintubby that copies would be ready for pick up on Tues, June 13, 2023. Estimated pick up and payment date is Fri, June 16, 2023.
- Marketing and Communications:
  - The following public notices and information have been recently published to the Tribal Elections webpage:
    - June 12, 2023 – Contingent Procedures for Mail-In Ballot Retention and Security 2023, PolicyTech REF# 9891 v2.
  - Secretary Perkins has confirmed that the deadline for the new information in the July edition of Biskinik is June 16, 2023. The Board needs to know this information to plan for the second and final public notice of open voting locations.
- Facility Management:
  - On June 10, 2023, Tribal Council adopted a Council Bill to request that the Secretary of the Election Board establish three (3) additional voting locations for Early Voting and Election Day for the 2023 tribal election cycle as follows: (1) the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Community Center in Battiest, Oklahoma; (2) the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Community Center in Smithville, Oklahoma; and (3) the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma WIC Building located at 501 West 1st Street, Heavener, Oklahoma 74937 with an alternative location being the Heavener Elementary School building located at 405 East Avenue G, Heavener, Oklahoma 74937.
  - On Mon, June 12, 2023, Secretary Perkins established a primary contact for locations and reserved election dates at the CNO Community Centers in Battiest, OK and Smithville, OK.
  - On Tues, June 13, 2023, Secretary Perkins established a primary contact for location and reserved election dates at the CNO WIC Building in Heavener, OK. This site is pending evaluation.
  - On June 13, 2023, Secretary Perkins notified the CNO IT Support Team about the three (3) additional CNO-owned properties will be added as voting locations. The WIC building will be evaluated to determine what other requirements will be needed to facilitate the Board's compliance measures.
- Human Resources:



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- As of June 13, 2023, Voter Registration Coordinators began contacting experienced Voting Location Board members to complete recruitment forms.
  - The following selections have been made and training letters will be mailed to the individuals by the end of the day on Friday, June 16, 2023:

<i>Name of Tribal Member</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Location</i>
Linda Benton	Inspector	Broken Bow, OK
Margaret Hernandez	Alternate	Broken Bow, OK
Rochelle Hicks	Clerk	Battiest, OK
Jeffrey Byington	Clerk	Talihina, OK
Josephine Johnson	Clerk	Talihina, OK
Jerry McKinney	Clerk	Smithville, OK
Aaron Scroggins	Clerk	Heavener, OK
Diane O'Connell	Alternate	McAlester, OK

- Service Providers:
  - On June 13, 2023, Secretary Perkins notified the Board's surveillance provider, Connections IT, that a site evaluation was needed for three (3) additional voting locations, per Tribal Council's request.
- Candidates:
  - Due date for Campaign Financial Disclosure Statements [reporting period: June 1, 2023 – June 30, 2023] is June 30, 2023. The last day to submit to Secretary Perkins is July 5, 2023.
- Election Board Meeting Schedule for CY2023:
  - Next meeting is Wednesday, June 21, 2023, from 1pm – 4pm.
- An overview of current activities that are ongoing with the CNO Voter Registration (VR):
  - On June 9, 2023, at the direction of Chief and Tribal Council, all candidates having an election were mailed a package containing reprinted copies of the Voter List they had last received that included zip codes that were previously missing. Packages were sent by restricted, certified mail with an estimated delivery date of Mon, June 12, 2023.
  - As of June 14, 2023, we have a total of 48,678 registered voters which is 28.23% of the tribal membership eligible to vote.

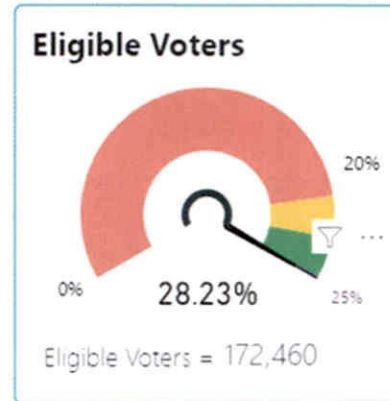


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## Voter Count by District

Voter District	Out Of Nation	In Nation	Grand Total
1	534	746	1280
2	896	1083	1979
3	1212	768	1980
4	455	1702	2157
5	757	1060	1817
6	533	1192	1725
7	1148	1401	2549
8	1406	1332	2738
9	3062	2274	5336
10	680	1061	1741
11	1296	2025	3321
12	1030	741	1771
Unaffiliated	20284	0	20284
GrandTotal	33293	15385	48678



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- Voter Registration API with Election Service Provider
  - As of June 13, 2023, AES pulled data to prepare for the initial ballot release. AES is tracking on time for ballot release.

## NEW BUSINESS

Chairperson Green called for New Business.

Secretary Perkins made a Motion to Approve the Second Public Notice of Open Voting Locations, as amended during this meeting, for immediate release. – Seconded by Alternate Sigler.

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

Secretary Perkins made a Motion to Approve the Voting Location Board Training Letter for release by Friday, June 16, 2023. – Seconded by Alternate Sigler.

Secretary Perkins asked for the Board's feedback regarding a change on the prefilled expense statements for the Voting Location Board. The Election Board will not require Voting Location Board members to track their starting and ending mileage for reimbursement. Instead, the Election Board Secretary will attach a map to each expense statement showing the roundtrip distance traveled from the home address to the training/voting site. If Voting Location Board members choose to carpool, then they will note on the statement that they traveled by carpool and identify the driver. The Election Board agreed with this recommendation which follows the Choctaw Nation Travel Department's internal policy.





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

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## ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:54 pm.

### Certification of Meeting Minutes:

X Candace Perkins  
Candace Perkins  
Secretary  
*approved 6-21-2023*