



Choctaw Nation Election Board

MEETING MINUTES

The Election Board met on August 16, 2023, at 1:14 pm in the Ibaiachvffa (Membership) Conference Room #1251 at the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO) Headquarters Building in Durant, Oklahoma.

The meeting was called to order by Secretary, Candace Perkins.

Invocation was given by Alternate, Wayne Tipps.

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

Virginia Kay Green, Chairperson (participated via phone)

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Meeting Minutes from the June 28, 2023, Regular Meeting were provided for review to all Board Members and Alternates at this meeting.

Secretary Perkins called for Approval of Minutes.

Secretary Perkins made a Motion to Approve the Meeting Minutes from the June 28, 2023, Regular Meeting. – Seconded by Member Parent.

Secretary Perkins called for voice vote; **MOTION PASSED.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.



Choctaw Nation Election Board

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):
 - As of August 9, 2023, the review by Secretary Perkins is complete. All language suggestions and questions by Glenn Coffee and Associates are pending legal review by the CNO Legal Division.
- Operational Updates including:
 - Legal and Compliance:
 - On July 13, 2023, Secretary Perkins emailed the official General Election Results to Eddie Streater, the Regional Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). In accordance with the Election Ordinance, the Secretary must provide notification of the official election results to the BIA upon certification by the Election Board.
 - Record Management:
 - On August 14, 2023, a copy of Gary Batton's Campaign Financial Disclosure Statement was requested by Anthony Dillard and the administrative fee was paid. A certified copy will be provided to requestor by Friday, August 18, 2023.
 - Marketing and Communications:
 - The following public notices and information have been recently published to the Tribal Elections webpage:
 - Election Board Meeting Minutes June 21, 2023.
 - An after-election review was scheduled for Secretary Perkins with the Board's MARCOM Support Team on Thurs, August 10, 2023. The Market Summary Research Report will be provided to the Board at this meeting.
 - Information Technology
 - An after-election review is scheduled for Secretary Perkins with the Board's IT Support Team for Wed, August 16, 2023, to go over project successes, lessons learned and opportunities for the future.
 - Facility Management:
 - On July 13, 2023, Secretary Perkins met with CNO Facilities Management to relocate the Board's temporary office equipment and the ballot transfer cases to the Board's storage facility. Election materials will be stored for 90 days after election results certification and then they will be destroyed by the Secretary.
 - Human Resources:
 - As of August 14, 2023, all stipend and mileage payments to the Voting Location Board have been processed through the Finance Department. If there are any



Choctaw Nation Election Board

location board members who have not received payment, then they should contact Secretary Perkins.

- Candidates:
 - On July 11, 2023, District 11 Candidate, Nellie Meashintubby sent an email to Secretary Perkins that outlined a list of concerns. She did not file a formal contest as outlined in the Election Ordinance, but she wanted to express her concerns regarding the elections. Secretary Perkins responded that her questions would be given to the Election Board at its next meeting.
 - During discussion of the questions, the Board agreed that Secretary Perkins should issue a certified letter to directly address the candidate's list of concerns.

(1) Many tribal citizens failed to receive a ballot. What will be done to rectify this issue?

Encourage tribal voters to contact the Voter Registration Department to check their voter registration status as early as possible. If their mailing and physical address has changed, then it should be updated as soon as possible. If time does not allow for a mail ballot to be sent through the United States Postal Service, then encourage voters to go to any open voting locations to have a ballot printed. Same Day Registration is offered at all open voting locations.

(2) There were several complaints that Lois (Battons cousin and a Karr supporter) was watching over people as they voted and stood by them while they put their ballot in the machine (to see how they voted). She was intimidating people and made them feel very uncomfortable. Why was she there? The people in the voting location need to be neutral and have no connection to the District or incumbents.

The Election Board did not receive any formal allegations regarding the behavior and/or conduct of individual Voting Location Board members. On Saturday, July 8, 2023, the Election Board Secretary did receive a phone call from District 11 candidate, Nellie Meashintubby, stating that she was contacted by voters who expressed their discomfort with how close location Inspector, Lois Witt, was standing to tabulator at the Community Center in McAlester, OK. The Board inquired with the election service provider and other voting location board members at the location of any suspicious behavior on Lois' part and there was no documented evidence for allegations.

To serve on the Voting Location Board, a tribal member must meet the eligibility guidelines outlined in the Chief and Tribal Council Election Ordinance, Article XII, Section 2. The Voting Location Board are comprised of our own Chahta tribal members who are trained to remain neutral when they are working at an open voting location. There is a close kinship proximity between our Chahta people so the Election Ordinance specifically states that no person shall serve on the Voting Location Board "if he or she is related within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity, including through adoption, to a candidate..."

(3) There were no watchers at the voting location. Did she (Lois) or they tamper with the numbers? Did she have access to her phone and was she reporting information to the incumbent or his followers or chief? Was there surveillance in the room? If so, can that surveillance be reviewed by the candidate?

Watchers are commissioned by candidates, per Election Ordinance, Article XIV. The Election Board does not designate watchers at each voting location since the Voting Location Board is on location to hold each other accountable and surveillance protocols are enacted at each location. Surveillance footage from each location is used for administrative purposes of the Election Board and is not a public record. Voting Location Board members report directly to the Election Board and each member has the direct phone number to the Election Board to use as needed.



Choctaw Nation Election Board

The Election Board did not receive any formal allegations against any Voting Location Board member.

(4) Why were tribal citizens being threatened with tribal police?

The Election Board did not receive any formal allegations of tribal citizens threatened with tribal police. The Election Board worked with Public Safety to create a reference guide for the Voting Location Board and officer's use on election days that followed the Chief and Tribal Council Election Ordinance, Article XIII, §2-3.

(5) Who is the company that provided the ballot machine? Do they have a history of manipulating elections?

The election service provider is Automated Election Services (AES) from Albuquerque, NM. AES has extensive contracts with many organization, governments/tribal nations, including The Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma and Navajo Nation, and maintained its election service agreement with the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma for many years.

(6) Ballots being picked up daily from the post office is a concern. Will you provide the letter that justifies this MAJOR change in this election? Ballots being in the Tribes possession leaves room for ballot tampering. How do we ensure that those Ballots are not accessible to noone? Wherever there is a key then anyone can enter.

The letter from the USPS Postmaster in Durant, OK is an administrative record and not available for public inspection.

The Contingent Procedures for Mail-In Ballot Retention and Security for the 2023 General Election is available to the public on the tribal election webpage at www.choctawnation.com/elections.

(7) Incumbents having access to all tribal citizens information including phone numbers, emails, while candidates only get the voters list with around half of the addresses provided. This puts the candidate at a disadvantage at the very beginning.

All candidates received the same Voter List for their respective districts having an election. The Voter List is in created in compliance with the Election Ordinance, Article IX. The Voter List contains only the names of voters eligible to vote in the designated district and includes the addresses of voters who have authorized the release of their addresses to candidates at the time of voter registration.

There were no formal allegations against any candidate having access to all tribal members' information. District 3 candidate, Kae Haering, did contact the Election Board Secretary to inquire if she could receive a mailing list from Circulation, a Choctaw Nation Executive Branch department, because a source told her that she could. The Board Secretary responded she could only speak for the Election Board and Voter Registration and only the Voter Registration Department was responsible for providing a Voter List to qualified candidates. The Board Secretary stated that Kae was welcome to contact the Circulation Department and inquire about the information, but Choctaw Nation policy prohibits departments from freely giving the personal information of tribal members to the public.

(8) Tribal councilmen and chief actively campaigning at the community centers for the incumbent. They were brought to the community centers to speak. Everyone knows what they are doing. Do they think tribal citizens are dumb? If they are allowed to act this way then candidates need to have the same privilege. There is a perception these elections are fair but in reality they are far from it. It is time to stop oppressing our tribal citizens. What will the election board do to improve this situation?

The Election Board did not receive any formal allegations related to use of the community centers for campaign purposes. The Election Board's jurisdictional powers are defined by the Election Ordinance, and it does not have



Choctaw Nation Election Board

the authority to independently authorize candidate forums or debates. If a tribal citizen desires to see a change to the Election Ordinance, we suggest contacting Tribal Council regarding those suggested changes.

(9) Voters list was not updated. There were several people who had moved, houses weren't there, died (but did they vote) and etc. We have many programs and the chahta achvffa portal that have updated information on tribal citizens. Why isn't the list updated prior to an election? This is another disadvantage that the candidate has at the very beginning. The solution would be for an accurate list of all addresses for tribal citizens registered to vote be given to candidates. A candidate is wasting money on mail outs and postage when incorrect information is given to them.

Voter information is updated each time there is a change documented on a Voter Registration Form received in its office. In December 2022, the Voter Information tab was released on the Chahta Achvffa portal so that voters could view their information on record at any time but Online Voter Registration is not available at this time. The Election Board is working on a future solution of online voter registration.

(10) How did the incumbents mail outs arrive on the same day as the ballot? Was his mailers mailed with the ballots? Who mailed out the ballots? This election appears to be very suspicious in several areas.

The Election Board released public notices through various communication methods, including the tribal newspaper, that stated all voters affiliated with a Council District having an election will start receiving ballots in the mail beginning the week of June 12th. The timeline for the initial mail ballot disbursement is stated in the Election Ordinance, Article XVII and the actual deadline for the initial distribution, June 17th, is noted in the General Election Calendar found on the tribal elections webpage: www.choctawnation.com/elections.

Ballots were issued and mailed from the mail center at the Board's service provider, Automated Election Services, in Albuquerque, NM. There were no additional materials in the envelopes other than the designated ballot pack, comprised of the ballot, affidavit envelope, secret envelope, and instruction sheet with sticker.

- Election Board Meeting Schedule for CY2023:
 - Next meeting is Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at 1pm.
- Secretary Perkins made a motion to approve the meeting schedule for calendar year (CY) 2024. – Seconded by Alternate Tipps.
Secretary Perkins called for a voice vote; **MOTION PASSED.**
- An overview of current activities that are ongoing with the CNO Voter Registration (VR):
 - As of August 15, 2023, we have a total of 49,161 registered voters which is 28.37% of the tribal membership eligible to vote.

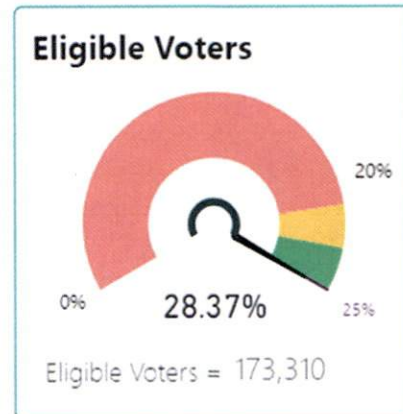


Choctaw Nation Election Board



Voter Count by District

Voter District	Out Of Nation	In Nation	Grand Total
1	536	749	1285
2	903	1137	2040
3	1235	857	2092
4	453	1697	2150
5	758	1061	1819
6	536	1190	1726
7	1147	1391	2538
8	1415	1380	2795
9	3062	2283	5345
10	678	1065	1743
11	1330	2115	3445
12	1030	749	1779
Unaffiliated	20404	0	20404
GrandTotal	33487	15674	49161



Executed At 8/15/2023 1 14 15 PM

Executed By CHOCTAWNATION\cperkins

Page 1 Of 1

8/15/23 2:02:08 AM

- The Voter Participation Report is nearly complete and will be posted publicly by October 1, 2023 on the Tribal Elections Webpage: www.choctawnation.com/elections.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Secretary Perkins called for voice vote; **MOTION PASSED.**

Meeting adjourned at 2:32 pm.

Certification of Meeting Minutes:

X *Candace Perkins*

Candace Perkins
Secretary

approved 11-08-2023