

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, the right of self-expression by democratic representation is central to who we are as individuals and as the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma;
- WHEREAS, the right to vote—that inviolable right to be heard individually—serves as the foundation of our liberty;
- WHEREAS, that inalienable right to self-expression has been secured to the Choctaw Nation people by our customs and traditions and enshrined in the many Choctaw Constitutions as the right to vote—most recently in 1983 in Article III of the Constitution of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma;
- WHEREAS, the right to vote in American elections was not extended to Native Americans until after brave Choctaw Code Talkers contributed to America’s victory in World War I;
- WHEREAS, the right for Native Americans to vote in American elections was ultimately enshrined in the Oklahoma State Constitution, and the Constitution of the United States of America, after the passage of the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924;
- WHEREAS, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma recognizes that the only safeguard against future abuses within the American federal system is an informed citizenry and encourages the promotion of the same;
- WHEREAS, as federal self-governance policies changed the American political landscape, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma has always chosen a path of self-governance based on our strong belief that tribal self-governance promotes public safety and economic prosperity for our members and non-members who live within the Choctaw Reservation and elsewhere throughout Oklahoma and abroad;
- WHEREAS, as American citizens, the federal Constitution enshrines our individual rights of suffrage while reminding us of our equally sacred duty, as individuals, to actually vote;
- WHEREAS, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma recognizes the importance of American politics and its associations with our self-governance policies;
- WHEREAS, with self-governance as its guiding principle, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma has achieved friendships and partnerships across the country and abroad and those partnerships, with other groups and people who promote tribal sovereignty, have brought increased public safety and greater prosperity to all of Oklahoma—but especially to the Southeastern corner of that State that falls under our care and control;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gary Batton, Chief of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, acting under the power vested in me under the Constitution of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma do hereby designate and proclaim the first full week, from Monday to Monday, of every October occurring in an even numbered year as

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Voter Registration and Voter Education Week

By such proclamation, I remind and encourage the Choctaw people—both now and in the future—to return their thoughts regularly to increasing the political power of the sovereign Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma within the American federal framework by encouraging educated Choctaw and Choctaw-aligned voter participation in local, State, and Federal elections.

FURTHER, by such proclamation, I express gratitude to our Members, Associates, friends, family members, and partners who continue to protect the Choctaw right to self-governance and promote Choctaw culture, and I call upon those allies to continue building coalitions throughout the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and abroad which will promote Tribal self-governance as a proper path to increased public safety and greater economic growth across Southeastern Oklahoma and throughout the Nation;

FURTHER, I call upon the sovereign Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, our Members, Associates, friends, family members, and partners everywhere to utilize “Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Voter Registration and Voter Education Week,” to regularly renew our bonds of friendship and forge new partnerships across Oklahoma and elsewhere committed to the unified proposition, “Nan achukma il ahni atokosh il atokoli (We care so we vote).”

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand to this instrument on this 3rd day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-two.




Gary Batton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma