

**A COUNCIL BILL AMENDING THE CHIEF AND TRIBAL COUNCIL ELECTION ORDINANCE**

**IN THE TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE CHOCTAW NATION**

**RONALD PERRY INTRODUCED THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL BILL**

**A COUNCIL BILL**

**TO AMEND** the Chief and Tribal Council Election Ordinance by amending Article IV, Section 2; Article IX, Sections 1, 2, and 5; and Appendix Form D.

**WHEREAS**, Article IX, Section 4 of the Constitution of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (the "Nation") provides that the Tribal Council (the "Council") shall enact legislation, rules and regulations not inconsistent with the Constitution for the general good of the Choctaw Nation and for the administration and regulation of the affairs of the Choctaw Nation;

**WHEREAS**, this bill amends Article II, Section 1; Article VII, Section 3; Article XIV; Article XVII, Sections 4, 5, 6 and 7; Article XVIII, Sections 1, 2, and 6; Article XXVI, Sections 6 and 9; Article XXVII, Sections 2 and 6; Article XXVIII, Section 1; and Appendix Forms A, B, C and D of the Chief and Tribal Council Election Ordinance;

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the amendments contained in this Council Bill is to provide rules governing the protection of certain confidential voter information for classes of people;

**WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council finds it is in the best interest of the Nation to allow the Secretary of the Election Board to promulgate rules keeping confidential the residence and mailing address, upon application, of individual registered voters that belong to certain classes by amending the Chief and Tribal Council Election Ordinance as follows; and

**WHEREAS**, the amendments contained in this Council Bill further the Nation's strategic goal of supporting service delivery and increasing Member quality of life by protecting confidential voter information for certain classes of people.

**THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED** by the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma that this Bill be cited as approval for the Chief and Tribal Council Election Ordinance, Article II, Section 1; Article VII, Section 3; Article XIV; Article XVII, Sections 4, 5, 6 and 7; Article XVIII, Sections 1, 2, and 6; Article XXVI, Sections 6 and 9; Article XXVII, Sections 2 and 6; Article XXVIII, Section 1; and Appendix Forms A, B, C and D of the Chief and Tribal Council Election Ordinance to be amended and read as follows:

**ARTICLE II. DEFINITIONS**

**SECTION 1.** For the purpose of this Ordinance, the following words shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them in this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

- (a) "Ballot measure" means an initiative petition proposed by the members or a legislative referendum referred by the Tribal Council for a vote of the members as provided in Article XVI of the Constitution of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma;

- (b) "Campaign" means any organized or active work toward a goal of influencing votes including but not limited to, public speaking directed to persons in support of or in opposition to a candidate or prospective candidate, asking for votes or contributions for a candidate or preparing or distributing written or broadcast campaign materials, campaign literature or campaign items of any kind, excluding those relating to an election provided by the Election Board. A campaign shall be deemed to begin on the earlier of the first date that a person accepts a contribution or makes an expenditure or the date of filing a declaration of candidacy, and shall be deemed to end upon the later of the date of certification of the election results or on the last date that a person accepts a contribution or makes an expenditure;
- (c) "Candidate" means a tribal member who has filed a declaration of candidacy with the Election Board, paid the appropriate fee for such filing and has been determined by the Election Board to be an eligible candidate for an elected position for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma; provided, for purposes of Article XXVI of this Ordinance, the term "candidate" shall be defined as set forth in Section 2 of such Article;
- (d) "Constitution" means the Constitution of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma;
- (e) "Collection Location" shall mean a secure location in a Choctaw Nation-controlled facility that is suitable for securely storing the mail-in ballots in locked ballot boxes and that is equipped with twenty-four (24) hour video surveillance and a comprehensive access control system, as more particularly described in Section 5 of Article XVII of this Ordinance;
- (f) "Director of Voter Registration" means the individual responsible for the management of the Voter Registration Department as a full-time employee of the Choctaw Nation. The Secretary of the Election Board shall be appointed pursuant to the provisions of Section 2 of Article V of this Ordinance and shall serve as the ex officio Director of Voter Registration;
- (g) "Election Board" means the body charged with oversight and implementation of this Ordinance;
- (h) "Election Cycle" means the period beginning twelve (12) weeks prior to a general election and continuing until three (3) business days after the election results are certified. For a candidate in a run-off election, the election cycle shall continue until three (3) business days after the run-off election results are certified;
- (i) "Election Day" means a calendar day designated, either constitutionally or as authorized by this Ordinance, for ballots to be cast in an election, excluding any day designated for early voting;
- (j) "Non-resident Voter" means a voter who does not reside within the boundaries of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma as defined by Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution;
- (k) "Non-resident Unaffiliated Voter" means a non-resident voter who is not affiliated;
- (l) "Ordinance" means the Chief and Tribal Council Election Ordinance;
- (m) "Residency" means the act of residing within the territorial jurisdiction of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma as the primary place of domicile and is synonymous with the term domicile or abode and means the place where a person has a true, fixed and permanent home, and to which whenever absent, the person has the intention to return;

- (n) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Election Board who shall be the ex officio Director of Voter Registration;
- (o) "Tribal Assets" means property of all kinds belonging to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, including real, personal, and mixed property and tangible and intangible property, subject to the exceptions set forth in Section 1 of Article XIII and Section 1 of Article XXVII of this Ordinance;
- (p) "Voter" means a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma who has registered to vote in accordance with Article IV of this Ordinance; and
- (q) "Voter Registration Department" means the department of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, led by the Director of Voter Registration, within the executive branch that maintains and protects the Choctaw Nation Voter Database. The department shall also provide support to the Secretary of the Election Board of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma as requested.

## ARTICLE VII. FILING QUALIFICATIONS AND FEES

**SECTION 3.** A person may become a prospective candidate for an office by filing a notarized declaration of candidacy (see Appendix Forms B & C as applicable) with the Secretary during regular business hours on the designated filing days. At the time a declaration of candidacy is submitted, it shall be accompanied by a non-refundable filing fee of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) for the office of Chief or Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for the office of Tribal Council Member. The fee shall be paid in the form of a certified check, cashier's check or money order payable to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Personal checks, credit or debit cards, or cash shall not be accepted. By filing for office, a candidate agrees to accept service through electronic means. Each candidate shall provide the Election Board with a current email address on his or her declaration of candidacy and shall timely provide notice to the Election Board of any changes to that address.

## ARTICLE XIV. WATCHERS

**SECTION 1.** Any candidate shall be entitled to commission one (1) daily collection watcher to observe the daily collection of mail-in ballots in an election from the post office in Durant, Oklahoma to the Collection Location, as defined in Section 5 of Article XVII of this Ordinance. Daily collection of mail-in ballots shall occur each business day beginning twenty-one (21) calendar days prior to election day. A schedule for daily collection of mail-in ballots shall be set in advance by the Election Board Secretary. All such watchers shall be commissioned in writing and submitted by the candidate to the Secretary no later than 12:00 noon two business days prior to the first scheduled mail-in ballot collection and shall subscribe to the oath administered to other watchers under the provisions of Section 1 of this Article. All such watchers shall be responsible for their own transportation to and from the post office to the Collection Location. Watchers shall have authority to perform such duties as set forth in Section 2 of Article XVIII of this Ordinance and note and record any objections to the count for all candidates. Objections may be presented to the Election Board Secretary who shall communicate such objection to the Election Board. The Election Board shall document the objection as well as any action taken.

**SECTION 2.** Each candidate shall be entitled to commission one (1) voting location watcher per voting location, for each day of voting, to observe the voting process. All watchers for voting locations shall be commissioned in writing and submitted by the candidate to the Secretary no later than 12:00 noon on the second business day prior to the first day of voting. Every watcher shall subscribe to an oath (see Appendix Form A in this Ordinance)

administered by a member of the Election Board or the Voting Location Board Inspector regarding the duties and obligations of watchers prior to performing any duties of a watcher. Watchers may take this oath prior to the election but no later than fifteen (15) minutes prior to opening of the voting location each day. The oaths shall be kept on file at the Election Board office for a period of not less than ninety (90) days after the election results are certified. A watcher shall receive no compensation for his or her services.

**SECTION 23.** Voting location watchers ~~Watchers~~ duly authorized under Section 2 of this Article shall be allowed to observe the voting process. They shall have authority to observe the preparation of the election return at the voting location and note and record any objections to the count for all candidates. Objections may be presented to the Voting Location Board Inspector who shall communicate such objection to the Election Board. The Election Board shall document the objection as well as any action taken or direction given to the Voting Location Board. A watcher shall be allowed access to the voting location beginning thirty (30) minutes before voting begins until the location is secured after the election return total is posted. The watcher shall not interfere with the Voting Location Board members' duties and there shall be no interaction between the watchers and voters. Any type of campaigning by a watcher shall result in his or her immediate dismissal and removal from the voting location. The watcher shall not divulge any information or give any indication as to the result of the voting count prior to the time the Voting Location Board Inspector posts a copy of the election return totals on the door of the voting location.

~~**SECTION 3.** Any candidate shall be entitled to commission one (1) watcher to observe the daily processing of mail-in ballots in an election. All such watchers shall be commissioned in writing and submitted by the candidate to the Secretary no later than 12:00 noon on the second business day prior to the first day of voting and shall subscribe to the oath administered to other watchers under the provisions of Section 1 of this Article. They shall have authority to perform such duties as set forth in Section 2 of Article XVIII of this Ordinance and note and record any objections to the count for all candidates. Objections may be presented to the Election Board Secretary. The Election Board shall document the objection as well as any action taken.~~

**SECTION 4.** Any candidate shall be entitled to commission one (1) tabulation location watcher to observe the transport of mail-in ballots from the Collection Location to the tabulation location on the Friday preceding the election day and for each day of voting. All such watchers shall be commissioned in writing and submitted by the candidate to the Secretary no later than 12:00 noon on the second business day prior to the first day of voting and shall subscribe to the oath administered to other watchers under the provisions of Section 1 of this Article. All such watchers shall be responsible for their own transportation from the Collection Location to the mail-in ballot tabulation location. Watchers shall have authority to perform such duties as set forth in Section 2 of Article XVIII of this Ordinance and note and record any objections to the count for all candidates. Objections may be presented to the Election Board. The Election Board shall document the objection as well as any action taken.

**SECTION 45.** The tabulation location watchers authorized under Section ~~34~~ of this Article shall be permitted to observe ~~the collection of the mail-in ballots from the post office, the signature verification process,~~ the opening of the "ballot" envelopes containing the mail-in ballots and the tabulation process for the mail-in ballots. A watcher shall not interfere with the Election Board members' duties. Any type of campaigning by a watcher shall result in his or her immediate dismissal and removal from the tabulation location or any other location in which such duties are performed. The watcher shall not divulge any information or give any indication as to the result of the mail vote count prior to the time the Election Board makes the official Election Return for mail ballot count.

**SECTION 56.** A watcher shall not be permitted to place or receive telephone calls while performing the duties of a watcher. Absolutely no cell phones, recording devices or cameras shall be permitted in the voting location

or the mail-in ballot tabulation location. Any violations of these regulations shall be grounds for immediate dismissal and removal from the voting location, tabulation location, or any other location in which such duties are performed. Watchers shall not be permitted to leave the voting location or mail-in ballot tabulation location while the polls are open or the ballots are being tabulated. Under no circumstances shall a watcher be allowed to return if he or she leaves the voting location or mail-in ballot tabulation location.

## ARTICLE XVII. BALLOT MAILING TO VOTERS

~~SECTION 4. The Election Board may enter into an agreement with the United States Postal Service to have mail-in ballot envelopes retained and secured at the location of the U.S. Postal Service in Durant, Oklahoma, until such time as they are collected by the Election Board as provided in Section 1 of Article XVIII of this Ordinance.~~ Mail-in ballots shall be received and processed by the U.S. Postal Service in Durant, Oklahoma, no later than ~~4:30 p.m.~~ 10:00am on the day before the election day in order to be counted. Mail-in ballots delivered after that time and date shall not be counted. The Election Board may not accept mail-in ballots by voters at the Election Board office.

~~In the event that an agreement is not reached with the United States Postal Service as provided in this section or in the event that an agreement is terminated or is not enforceable consistent with the provisions of this section, the Election Board shall be authorized to establish procedures for retention and security of mail-in ballots, subject to the approval of the Tribal Council.~~

Section 5. Mail-in ballots shall be collected from the U.S. Postal Service in Durant, Oklahoma, and transported to the Collection Location each business day beginning twenty-one (21) calendar days prior to election day and ending on the Friday preceding the election day. Mail-in ballots shall be collected by no less than two (2) designated members of the Election Board, who shall proceed directly to the Collection Location after collecting the mail-in ballots from the post office. Upon arrival at the Collection Location, all mail-in ballots shall be counted by the designated Election Board members. After mail-in ballots are counted, all mail-in ballots shall be placed in a locked ballot box and a chain of custody log shall be updated to reflect the count. The chain of custody log shall be signed by a tribal police escort, who shall serve as a witness. All locked ballot boxes containing the mail-in ballots shall be in plain view of secure, twenty-four (24) hour video surveillance. A copy of the video surveillance recordings shall be retained by the Election Board for a period of not less than five (5) years from the date the Election Board certifies the results of the election. As used in this Ordinance, "Collection Location" shall mean a secure location in a Choctaw Nation-controlled facility that is suitable for securely storing the mail-in ballots in locked ballot boxes and that is equipped with twenty-four (24) hour video surveillance and a comprehensive access control system. If the Collection Location is not equipped with a secure video surveillance system, the Election Board may contract with its election service provider to install mobile video surveillance system that meets the requirements of this Section.

**SECTION 56.** In the case of a run-off election, mail-in ballots shall be mailed not less than twenty-one (21) calendar days prior to the run-off election. Mail-in ballots for voters who reside outside of the contiguous forty-eight (48) states shall be mailed using an expedited mail delivery service. Mail-in ballots for voting in a run-off election shall be mailed to all voters who were sent mail-in ballots for the general election with the following exceptions:

- (a) Voters added to the Returned Address list since the mailing of ballots for the previous general election; and
- (b) Any of the reasons that would cancel a voter's registration as provided in Article IV, Section 8 of this Ordinance.

**SECTION 67.** A voter may cast a ballot at any open voting location regardless of whether the voter was issued a mail-in ballot so long as it was not completed and returned to the Election Board.

## ARTICLE XVIII. ELECTION RETURNS

**SECTION 1.** Mail-in ballot watchers shall appear at the tabulation location no later than ~~4:00 p.m. on any day that ballots are to be collected from the post office~~ the time set and publicly posted by the Secretary of the Election Board on the day the mail-in ballots will be transported from the Collection Location to the tabulation location. Mail-in ballot watchers shall be permitted to observe the collection and return of the mail-in ballots from the Collection Location to the tabulation location designated by the Election Board; ~~however, due to seat availability, no more than two (2) watchers shall be permitted to accompany the tribal police escort and the Election Board during the collection and return.~~ All ~~other~~ mail-in ballot watchers shall be responsible for their own transportation to and from the ~~post office~~ Collection Location to the tabulation location. ~~It shall be the responsibility of the watchers to designate no more than two (2) watchers who may accompany the tribal police escort and the Election Board for the collection and return. If no designation is made by the watchers before 4:00 p.m., all watchers shall be responsible for their own transportation.~~

**SECTION 2.** The Election Board shall collect all properly returned mail-in ballots on the Friday preceding election day ~~at 4:30 p.m.~~ from the Collection Location ~~post office located in Durant, Oklahoma, or at such other times as specified in the agreement with the Election Board and the United States Postal Services pursuant to the provisions of Section 4 of Article XVII of this Ordinance.~~ The Election Board shall be escorted by not less than one tribal police officer for the ballot collection. Upon completion of the collection of the mail-in ballots, all mail-in ballots shall be placed in a secure location in plain view of surveillance, in a manner set forth by the Secretary.

**SECTION 6.** Mail-in ballots shall be considered invalid for any of the following reasons:

- (a) The mail-in ballot is received after the deadline of ~~4:30 p.m.~~ 10:00 a.m. on the day before the election;
- (b) The signature is not identifiable as that of the voter's signature which appears on the voter registration form;
- (c) The mail-in ballot is not marked;
- (d) The mail-in ballot is marked incorrectly;
- (e) The mail-in ballot is too soiled or defaced to read;
- (f) More than one (1) mail-in ballot is returned in the official envelope; or
- (g) The affidavit is not properly completed and signed.

The Election Board shall have the final authority to determine whether a mail-in ballot is valid or invalid.

## ARTICLE XXVI. CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION REPORTING

**SECTION 6.** The complaint or inquiry shall be submitted on a form prescribed by the Secretary. The complaint or inquiry shall specify the candidate or prospective candidate and the district, if applicable, and shall describe in

detail the conduct which is the grounds for the complaint or inquiry. A complaint must include the signature and printed name of the petitioner, and the petitioner must certify that he or she has personal knowledge of the facts alleged. Any complaints without signatures will not be considered by the Secretary. A complaint must provide the full name and address of the person filing the complaint and must be notarized. The notarization must certify that the complaint was "signed and sworn to" before a notary and must indicate that the complainant affirmed the facts and statements in the complaint "under penalty of perjury." Any complaint without the proper notarization will not be considered by the Secretary or the Election Board. No complaint will be considered by the Election Board which is based on hearsay or is made "upon information and/or belief." Rather, each complaint must be made, under oath, on personal knowledge of the complainant to be considered. A member of the Election Board may initiate an inquiry by specifying the information that has caused him or her to believe that a candidate or prospective candidate has violated any provision of this Ordinance as set forth in Section 5 of this Article.

**SECTION 9.** If the Election Board determines that there is sufficient ~~information, based upon the facts and/or~~ evidence, to believe that the person or persons named in the complaint or inquiry have violated this Article, the Election Board may authorize a formal investigation. For purposes of this Section, "sufficient evidence" means evidence sufficient to support a reasonable belief, taking into consideration all relevant factors and circumstances, that it is more likely than not the allegation or allegations are true. The Secretary shall cause a unique number to be assigned to identify each formal investigation. When the Election Board authorizes a formal investigation, the Secretary is authorized to exercise subpoena power of documents related to the allegations made in the complaint or inquiry, and such subpoenas may be sent through electronic means.

## ARTICLE XXVII. USE OF TRIBAL ASSETS PROHIBITED

**SECTION 2.** Any tribal member may file a written complaint with the Secretary regarding a candidate's or prospective candidate's use or alleged use of tribal assets for campaign purposes. The complaint shall be submitted on a form prescribed by the Secretary and shall: (1) specify the candidate or prospective candidate and the district, if applicable; (2) describe in detail the conduct which is the grounds for the complaint; (3) be signed and certify that he or she has personal knowledge of the facts alleged. Any person who files a written complaint shall, by doing so, submit to the jurisdiction of the Election Board for purposes of this Article. Any complaints without signatures will not be considered by the Secretary. A complaint must provide the full name and address of the person filing the complaint and must be notarized. The notarization must certify that the complaint was "signed and sworn to" before a notary and must indicate that the complainant affirmed the facts and statements in the complaint "under penalty of perjury." Any complaint without the proper notarization will not be considered by the Secretary or the Election Board. No complaint will be considered by the Election Board which is based on hearsay or is made "upon information and/or belief." Rather, each complaint must be made, under oath, on personal knowledge of the complainant to be considered. A member of the Election Board may initiate an inquiry by specifying the information that has caused him or her to believe that a candidate or prospective candidate has violated any provision of this Ordinance as set forth in this Article.

**SECTION 6.** If the Election Board determines that there is sufficient ~~information~~ evidence to believe that the person or persons named in the complaint or inquiry have violated this Article, the Election Board may authorize a formal investigation. For purposes of this Section, "sufficient evidence" means evidence sufficient to support a reasonable belief, taking into consideration all relevant factors and circumstances, that it is more likely than not the allegation or allegations are true. The Secretary shall cause a unique number to be assigned to identify each formal investigation. When the Election Board authorizes a formal investigation, the Secretary is authorized to exercise subpoena power of documents related to the allegations made in the complaint or inquiry, and such subpoenas may be sent through electronic means.

## ARTICLE XXVIII. ELECTION BOARD HEARING PROCEDURES

**SECTION 1.** All hearings before the Election Board shall be conducted in accordance with the Choctaw Nation Administrative Procedure Act. Hearings ~~and~~ shall be open~~enclosed~~ to the public. The following persons shall be entitled to be present during the hearing:

- (a) Election Board members and staff designated by the Election Board;
- (b) The candidate or prospective candidate who is the subject of the complaint or contest (the "Respondent");
- (c) The candidate or prospective candidate filing the contest or complaint, if any (the "Petitioner");
- (d) An attorney representing a party to the hearing;
- (e) A witness or attorney representing a witness, subject to the provisions of Section 2 of this Article;
- (f) The General Counsel of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma or his or her designee; and
- (g) Legal counsel representing the Election Board; ~~and.~~
- ~~(h) Any member of the general public or community.~~

**SECTION 7.** Within three (3) business days of each hearing before the Election Board, All decisions and findings of hearings conducted by the Election Board shall be in writing and posted publicly on the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma website, as well as all social media accounts of the Election Board, and may also, at the Election Board's sole discretion, be published in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, including the tribal newspaper.



**Appendix Form A**

**CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA ELECTION BOARD MEMBER,  
WORKER, VOTING LOCATION BOARD MEMBER AND WATCHER OATH**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, the State of Oklahoma, and the United States of America, and will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity. I have read and will subscribe to the election rules adopted by the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

OR \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Appendix Form B  
DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY FOR CHIEF  
OF THE CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA

“For the purpose of having my name placed on the official election ballot as a candidate for Chief of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I now reside and have resided in the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma for two (2) years or more immediately preceding this election: I now reside at:

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_

HEIGHT: \_\_\_\_\_ WEIGHT: \_\_\_\_\_

COLOR OF HAIR: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that I am at least one-fourth (1/4) degree Choctaw Indian by blood as certified by an official Tribal Membership Card (attached); that (circle one) I am not an employee, contract employee or consultant of the tribe/I am an employee, contract employee or consultant and have taken a leave of absence or suspended the terms of the contract or consulting agreement, and if I become an active employee, contract employee or consultant I will automatically be disqualified as a candidate; that I will not use tribal property or equipment for election/campaign purposes during the pendency of my candidacy; and that I meet all qualifications required for said office. Furthermore, I hereby agree to adhere to all requirements of the Election Ordinance of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and I will not violate any election provision, including but not limited to, defining or relating to corrupt and fraudulent practice in campaigns of elections in the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, the definition of campaigning and use of tribal property during the pendency of an election. Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Tribal Membership has certified that my documents are genuine.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

State of (\_\_\_\_\_)

) SS:

County of (\_\_\_\_\_)

Before me, the undersigned Notary Public in and for said county and state, on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_, who subscribed the above statement and acknowledged to me that he/she executed the same as his/her free and voluntary act and deed for the purpose therein set forth. Witness my hand and official seal the day and year above written.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

SEAL

My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR USE BY CHOCTAW NATION MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT ONLY**

I hereby certify that the above is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and fulfills all Constitutional requirements necessary to hold the above stated office of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

\_\_\_\_\_

Print

\_\_\_\_\_

Sign

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

Appendix Form C  
DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY FOR TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBER  
OF THE CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA

“For the purpose of having my name placed on the official election ballot as a candidate for Tribal Council Member for the District # \_\_\_\_, I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I now reside and have resided in the District for which I seek office one (1) year or more immediately preceding this election: I now reside at:

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_

HEIGHT: \_\_\_\_\_ WEIGHT: \_\_\_\_\_

COLOR OF HAIR: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that I am at least one-fourth (1/4) degree Choctaw Indian by blood as certified by an official Tribal Membership Card (attached); that (circle one) I am not an employee, contract employee or consultant of the tribe/I am an employee, contract employee or consultant and have taken a leave of absence or suspended the terms of the contract or consulting agreement, and if I become an active employee, contract employee or consultant I will I will automatically be disqualified as a candidate; that I will not use tribal property or equipment for election/campaign purposes during the pendency of my candidacy; and that I meet all qualifications required for said office. Furthermore, I hereby agree to adhere to all requirements of the Election Ordinance of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and I will not violate any election provision, including but not limited to, defining or relating to corrupt and fraudulent practice in campaigns of elections in the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, the definition of campaigning and use of tribal property during the pendency of an election. Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Tribal Membership has certified that my documents are genuine.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

State of ( \_\_\_\_\_ )

) SS:

County of ( \_\_\_\_\_ )

Before me, the undersigned Notary Public in and for said county and state, on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_, who subscribed the above statement and acknowledged to me that he/she executed the same as his/her free and voluntary act and deed for the purpose therein set forth. Witness my hand and official seal the day and year above written.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

SEAL

My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR USE BY CHOCTAW NATION MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT ONLY**

I hereby certify that the above is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and fulfills all Constitutional requirements necessary to hold the above stated office of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sign

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



# Choctaw Nation Voter Registration

## Voter Registration Form

|                                  |                                     |                    |               |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| <u>FIRST NAME (PLEASE PRINT)</u> | <u>MIDDLE</u>                       | <u>LAST/SUFFIX</u> | <u>MAIDEN</u> |
| <u>BIRTH DATE</u>                | <u>LAST FOUR (4) DIGITS OF SSN#</u> | <u>PHONE#</u>      | <u>EMAIL</u>  |

|                              |             |              |            |               |
|------------------------------|-------------|--------------|------------|---------------|
| <u>STREET OR 911 ADDRESS</u> | <u>CITY</u> | <u>STATE</u> | <u>ZIP</u> | <u>COUNTY</u> |
|------------------------------|-------------|--------------|------------|---------------|

Or provide physical directions to your home from the nearest town/city or major highway.  
(A physical address must be provided to register.)

|  |             |              |            |               |
|--|-------------|--------------|------------|---------------|
| <u>MAILING ADDRESS (if different from above)</u> | <u>CITY</u> | <u>STATE</u> | <u>ZIP</u> | <u>COUNTY</u> |
|--|-------------|--------------|------------|---------------|

### DISTRICT AFFILIATION

NON-RESIDENTS ONLY: If you live outside of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, you may affiliate with ONE of the districts below; however, it is not required. If you affiliate with a district, you will be mailed a ballot when there is a Tribal Council Member election for that district. Once you affiliate, you will remain in the district you have chosen unless you move within the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. If you choose not to affiliate, you will only be mailed a ballot when there is an election for Chief of the Choctaw Nation and/or an election on a proposed constitutional amendment.

PLEASE CHECK THE DISTRICT YOU WOULD LIKE TO AFFILIATE WITH OR, if you prefer "NOT TO AFFILIATE" with a particular district, then you may check this box instead:  
 I choose not to affiliate at this time.

|                   |                   |                   |                    |                          |                    |                          |                    |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| <u>District 1</u> | <u>District 2</u> | <u>District 3</u> | <u>District 4</u>  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>District 5</u>  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>District 6</u>  |
| <u>District 7</u> | <u>District 8</u> | <u>District 9</u> | <u>District 10</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>District 11</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>District 12</u> |

RESIDENTS: Residents of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma will be assigned to vote in the district in which they reside.

### ADDRESS RELEASE AUTHORIZATION

Would you like your address released to candidates who run for Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Chief and Tribal Council?

YES (I want my address released.)

NO (I do not want address released.)

#### For Department Use Only:

Voter Record #: \_\_\_\_\_ Form #:

\_\_\_\_\_ District Assigned:

Date Processed/Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Scanned/Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Form Status: VRC Issued Pending Guardianship on Record

I certify that the information given on this application is true. I am eligible to be a registered voter of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma as stated in the Constitution of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. I understand false or erroneous information can cause loss of voting privileges. I am not a member of another tribe, nor am I registered to vote with another tribe.

Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant - Forms without signature will not be processed.

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

P.O. Box 1210 | Durant, OK 74702 | 580.642.8600 | [VoterRegistration@choctawnation.com](mailto:VoterRegistration@choctawnation.com)



# Choctaw Nation Voter Registration

## General Instructions

Use Blue or Black Ink to Complete This Form.

### When to Use the Voter Registration Form

- ✓ 1st time registration for Choctaw Nation Tribal Elections; Eligible tribal members can pre-register at 17 1/2 years old.
- ✓ Updated Married Name.
- ✓ Update a Phone Number or Email.
- ✓ Update a Physical Address and/or Mailing Address.
- ✓ Update an Address Release Authorization.
- ✓ Update Signature.

### Eligibility Checklist for Voter Registration

You are a Tribal Member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

You are or will be 18 years of age or older on the day of the next tribal election.

You have fully completed your Voter Registration Form, with emphasis in the following areas:

- ✓ You provided your physical address. (Please see guidelines below)
  - If you have a street address or 911 address, this is your physical address.
  - A rural route, highway contract, or a post office box is NOT a physical address.
  - If you do not have a street address or 911 address, you may write directions to your home from the nearest city/town or major highway.
- ✓ You signed your form.

### How to Submit the Voter Registration Form

- ◆ Deliver in person to the Voter Registration Department. Our hours of operation are Monday through Friday, excluding tribal holidays, from 8am to 4:30pm.
- ◆ Email to [VoterRegistration@choctawnation.com](mailto:VoterRegistration@choctawnation.com).
- ◆ Mail to following address:  
  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Attn:  
Voter Registration  
P.O. Box 1210  
Durant, OK 74702
- ◆ Updates to existing voter address information can also be made using the Chahta Achvffa Portal.

### What to Expect After You Submit Your Voter Registration Form

You will be mailed a Voter Registration Certificate once your form has been processed. You may retain the Certificate for your records or use the back of the Certificate to update your voter registration.

[CHOCTAWNATION.COM/VOTE](http://CHOCTAWNATION.COM/VOTE)

v.5 2024



\_\_\_\_\_  
 First Name (please print)                      Middle                      Last/Suffix                      Maiden

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Birth Date                      Last 4 Digits of Social Security Number                      Phone Number                      Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Street or 911 Address                      City                      State                      Zip Code  
 County

OR, Provide Physical Directions to your home from the nearest town/city or major highway  
 (A physical address must be provided in order to register)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address (if different than above)                      City                      State                      Zip Code

**DISTRICT AFFILIATION**

**NON-RESIDENTS ONLY:** If you live outside of the Choctaw Nation boundaries, you may affiliate with ONE of the districts below, however, it is not required. If you affiliate with a district, you will be mailed a ballot when there is a Tribal Council Member election for that district. *Once you affiliate you must remain in the district you have chosen, unless you move within the Choctaw Nation boundaries.* If you choose not to affiliate, you will only be mailed a ballot when there is an election for Chief of the Choctaw Nation and/or an election on a proposed ballot measure.

**PLEASE CHECK THE DISTRICT YOU WOULD LIKE TO AFFILIATE WITH OR** if you prefer "NOT TO AFFILIATE" with a particular district, then you may check this box instead:  **I choose not to affiliate at this time**

|                                     |                                     |                                     |                                      |                                      |                                      |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> District 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> District 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> District 4  | <input type="checkbox"/> District 5  | <input type="checkbox"/> District 6  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> District 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> District 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> District 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> District 11 | <input type="checkbox"/> District 12 |

**RESIDENTS:** Residents of the Choctaw Nation 10 1/2 county service area (below) will be assigned to vote in the district in which they reside.

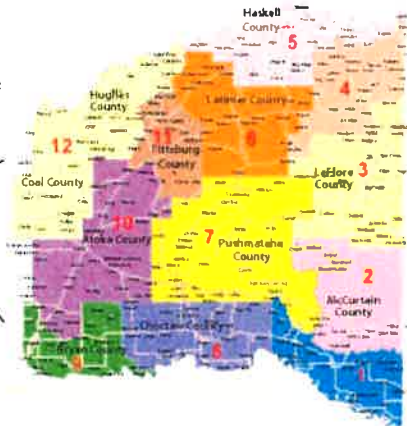
**ADDRESS RELEASE AUTHORIZATION**

Would you like your address released to candidates who run for Choctaw Nation Chief and Tribal Council?

YES (I want my address released)                       NO (I do not want my address released)

I certify that the information given on this application is true. I am eligible to be a registered voter of the Choctaw Nation as stated in the Constitution of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. I understand that false or erroneous information can cause loss of voting privileges. I am not a member of another tribe, nor am I registered to vote with another tribe.

**Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma District Boundaries**



Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sign

Signature of Applicant - Forms without signature will not be processed

**FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY**

Record ID:                      Date Processed/Initials:                      District Assigned:                      Date Scanned/Initials:

## General Instructions

Use **Blue or Black Ink** to Complete This Form.

### When to Use the Voter Registration Form

- ✓ 1<sup>st</sup> time registration for Choctaw Nation Tribal Elections.
- ✓ Update a Phone Number or Email.
- ✓ Update a physical address and/or mailing address.
- ✓ Update an Address Release Authorization.

### Eligibility Checklist for Voter Registration

- You are a Tribal Member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.
- You are or will be 18 years of age or older on the day of the next tribal election.
- You have fully completed your Voter Registration Form, with emphasis in the following areas:
  - ✓ **You provided your physical address. (Please see guidelines below)**
    - If you have a street address or 911 address, this is your physical address.
    - A rural route, highway contract, or a post office box is NOT a physical address.
    - If you do not have a street address or 911 address, you may write directions to your home from the nearest city/town or major highway.
  - ✓ **You signed your form.**

### How to Submit the Voter Registration Form

- Deliver in person to the Voter Registration Department. Our hours of operation are Monday through Friday, excluding tribal holidays, from 8am to 4:30pm.
- Email to [VoterRegistration@choctawnation.com](mailto:VoterRegistration@choctawnation.com).
- Mail to following address:  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma  
Attn: Voter Registration  
PO Box 1210  
Durant, OK 74702

### What to Expect After You Submit Your Voter Registration Form

You will be mailed a Voter Registration Certificate once your form has been processed. You may retain the Certificate for your records or use the back of the Certificate to update your voter registration.

**Voter information is not shared with other service programs of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.**

WEBSITE: [WWW.CHOCTAWNATION.COM/VOTE](http://WWW.CHOCTAWNATION.COM/VOTE)



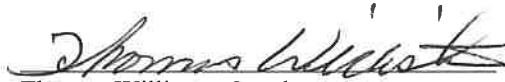
**A COUNCIL BILL AMENDING THE CHIEF AND TRIBAL COUNCIL ELECTION  
ORDINANCE**

**BE IT FURTHER ENACTED** by the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma that this Bill be cited as approval that these amendments shall be codified by the Senior Executive Official for Legal and Compliance pursuant to the Codification Authorization Act in Title 125.

**BE IT FURTHER ENACTED** by the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma that this Bill be cited as approval that these amendments to the Chief and Tribal Council Election Ordinance become effective immediately.

**CERTIFICATION**

*I, the undersigned, as speaker of the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, do hereby certify that the Tribal Council is composed of twelve (12) seats. Eight (8) members must be present to constitute a quorum. I further certify that twelve (12) members answered roll call and that a quorum was present at the Regular Session of the Tribal Council at Tuskahoma, Oklahoma on January 11, 2025. I further certify that the foregoing Council Bill CB- 24 -25 was adopted at such meeting by the affirmative vote of twelve (12 ) members, zero ( 0 ) negative votes, and zero ( 0 ) abstaining.*

  
Thomas Williston, Speaker  
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council

  
Ronald Perry, Secretary  
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council

  
Gary Batten, Chief  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Date 1-15-25

**CB-24-25**

**A COUNCIL BILL AMENDING THE CHIEF AND TRIBAL COUNCIL ELECTION  
ORDINANCE**

**Purpose/Need of Council Bill:** This Bill amends the Chief and Tribal Council Election Ordinance, Article II, Section 1; Article VII, Section 3; Article XIV; Article XVII, Sections 4, 5, 6 and 7; Article XVIII, Sections 1, 2, and 6; Article XXVI, Sections 6 and 9; Article XXVII, Sections 2 and 6; Article XXVIII, Section 1; and Appendix Forms A, B, C and D. The amendments contained in this bill are update the rules governing the hearing procedures, and allow the Nation more control over the collection, storing and securing mail in ballots, as well as other important updated to the code. This Council Bill furthers the Nation's strategic goal of supporting service delivery and increasing Member quality of life by protecting mail in ballots and providing updates to the hearing process and other needed updates.

**Title of Council Bill:** **A COUNCIL BILL AMENDING THE CHIEF AND TRIBAL  
COUNCIL ELECTION ORDINANCE**

**Agency:** Legislative/Election Board

**Budget:** N/A

**Match Required:** N/A

**Request by Project Director:** Election Board/Tribal Council