

**CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES
SPECIAL TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING
SATURDAY AUGUST 16, 2025
RESPECT GYM, CONCHO, OK**

**A Tribal Council Resolution calling for a Special Election to Amend the Constitution
Reducing the Percentage of Voter Participation in Constitutional Amendments**

Tribal Council Resolution No: _____

Date Posted: _____

Date Published: _____

Date Approved: _____

WHEREAS, The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes are a federally recognized Indian tribe organized under a Constitution ("Cheyenne & Arapaho Constitution") approved by the tribal membership on April 4, 2006 and approved by the Secretary of the Interior; and

WHEREAS, Article XIII, § 1(a), of the Tribes' Constitution provides that the "Tribal Council may initiate the process to amend the Constitution by calling a Special Election ...The Election Commission shall call and hold a Special Election to amend the Constitution within ninety days of an official request from the Tribal Council[;]" and

WHEREAS, The Tribal Council would like to amend the constitution regarding the percentage of registered voters casting a vote in the Special Election for constitutional amendments.

WHEREAS, Due to low voter participation in elections, the Tribal Council feels it is necessary to lower registered voter percentage required to pass a constitutional amendment.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Tribal Council hereby calls a Special Election pursuant to Article VII, § 3. Qualifications and to Article VI, § 4. Qualifications, as follows:

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE X-III AMENDMENTS

This amendment shall apply to Article XIII, as follows:

1. Removing Section 2. Requirements. The Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the voters who vote in the Special Election, provided, that at least thirty percent of the registered voters cast a vote in the Special Election. Amendments approved by the voters shall become effective immediately unless otherwise indicated in the amendment.

2. Replacing Section 2. Requirements. The Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the voters who vote in the Special Election, provided that at least fifteen percent of the registered voters cast a vote in the Special Election. Amendments approved by the voters shall become effective immediately unless otherwise indicated in the amendment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED should this resolution pass by the Tribal Council this amendment to amend the Constitution will be included on the ballot for the November 4th, 2025 General Election.

Tribal Council Chairperson

I, _____, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Tribal Council Resolution _____, which was voted on by the Tribal Council of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Special Tribal Council Meeting on August 16, 2025 by a vote of ____ for, ____ against, and ____ abstaining.

Tribal Council Secretary

**CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES
SPECIAL TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING
SATURDAY AUGUST 16, 2025
RESPECT GYM, CONCHO, OK**

**A Tribal Council Resolution to Initiate the Process to Amend the Constitution by Calling a
Special Election for Term Limits for the Governor and Lieutenant Governor**

Tribal Council Resolution No: _____

Date Posted: _____

Date Published: _____

Date Approved: _____

WHEREAS, The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes are a federally recognized Indian tribe organized under a Constitution ("Cheyenne & Arapaho Constitution") approved by the tribal membership on April 4, 2006 and approved by the Secretary of the Interior; and

WHEREAS, Article V, § 2. Powers (a), The Tribal Council shall have power the power to set policy for the Tribes and shall have all other powers and duties specifically provided by this Constitution.

WHEREAS, Article XIII, § 1(a), of the Tribes ' Constitution provides that the "Tribal Council may initiate the process to amend the Constitution by calling a Special Election ...The Election Commission shall call and hold a Special Election to amend the Constitution within ninety days of an official request from the Tribal Council[;]" and

WHEREAS, The Tribal Council finds that improvements to the Constitution are necessary: and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Tribal Council hereby calls a Special Election to consider the following amendments to the constitution under Article VII – EXECUTIVE BRANCH, §2. Terms and under Article IX - ELECTIONS:

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE VII - EXECUTIVE BRANCH

This amendment shall apply to Article VII, as follows:

Removing Section 2. Terms. The Governor or Lieutenant shall serve four-year terms or until a successor has been sworn into office. _The Governor and Lieutenant may serve as many terms in succession or otherwise as decided by voters

Replacing Section 2. Terms. with:

Section 2. Terms. The Governor or Lieutenant shall serve four-year terms or until a successor has been sworn into office. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor shall be eligible to serve three consecutive under this Constitution. Upon completion of the third consecutive term, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor shall not be eligible to serve as the Governor or Lieutenant Governor until a period of 4 years has elapsed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED should this resolution pass by the Tribal Council this amendment to amend the Constitution will be included on the ballot for the November 4th, 2025 General Election.

Tribal Council Chairperson

I, _____, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Tribal Council Resolution _____, which was voted on by the Tribal Council of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Special Tribal Council Meeting on August 16, 2025, by a vote of ____ for, ____against, and ____ abstaining.

Tribal Council Secretary

**CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES
SPECIAL TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING
SATURDAY AUGUST 16, 2025
RESPECT GYM, CONCHO, OK**

**A Tribal Council Resolution calling for a Special Election to Amend the Constitution
Regarding Residency Requirements**

Tribal Council Resolution No: _____

Date Posted: _____

Date Published: _____

Date Approved: _____

WHEREAS, The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes are a federally recognized Indian tribe organized under a Constitution ("Cheyenne & Arapaho Constitution") approved by the tribal membership on April 4, 2006 and approved by the Secretary of the Interior; and

WHEREAS, Article V, § 2. Powers (a), The Tribal Council shall have power the power to set policy for the Tribes and shall have all other powers and duties specifically provided by this Constitution.

WHEREAS, Article XIII, § 1(a), of the Tribes' Constitution provides that the "Tribal Council may initiate the process to amend the Constitution by calling a Special Election ...The Election Commission shall call and hold a Special Election to amend the Constitution within ninety days of an official request from the Tribal Council[;]" and

WHEREAS, The Tribal Council sees the residency requirements mandated by the constitution limits the pool of candidates who can file to run for Legislator and Governor/Lt Governor.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Tribal Council hereby calls a Special Election pursuant to Article VII, § 3. Qualifications and to Article VI, § 4. Qualifications, as follows:

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE VII EXECUTIVE BRANCH

This amendment shall apply to Article VII, as follows:

1. Removing Section 3. Qualifications. (c) At the time of filing a nomination petition, a candidate for Governor or Lieutenant Governor shall physically reside in a voting District. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor shall be residents of a voting District for the duration of their terms.

2. Replacing Section 3. Qualifications. (c) with the following:

Section 3. Qualifications. (c) At the time of filing a nomination petition, a candidate for Governor or Lieutenant Governor can reside anywhere. If elected, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor must reside within a voting district in the Cheyenne and Arapaho territory for the duration of their term and be a resident of that district for the duration of the term. Physical residency within the Cheyenne and Arapaho territory as outlined in the constitution must be established by the time the candidate takes their oath of office.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE VI LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

This amendment shall apply to Article VI, § 4. Qualifications, as follows:

1. Removing Section 4. Qualifications. (c) At the time of filing a nomination petition, a candidate for District Legislator shall physically reside in such District. Each District Legislator shall be a registered voter in the District from which they are elected.
2. Replacing Section 4. Qualifications. (c) with the following:

Section 4. Qualifications. (c) At the time of filing a nomination petition, a candidate for Legislator can physically reside anywhere and must be a registered voter in the district they are seeking candidacy. If elected, the Legislator must reside within their voting district for the duration of their term and be a resident of that district for the duration of their term. Physical residency in the candidates' district must be established by the time the oath of office is taken.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED should this resolution pass by the Tribal Council this amendment to amend the Constitution will be included on the ballot for the November 4, 2025 General Election.

Tribal Council Chairperson

I, _____, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Tribal Council Resolution _____, which was voted on by the Tribal Council of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Special Tribal Council Meeting on August 16, 2025, by a vote of ____ for, ____ against, and ____ abstaining.

Tribal Council Secretary

**CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES
SPECIAL TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING
SATURDAY AUGUST 16, 2025
RESPECT GYM, CONCHO, OK**

**A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE TRIBAL COUNCIL RULES OF ORDER AND
PROCEDURE TO ALLOW REMOTE PARTICIPATION AND VOTING BY VERIFIED
TRIBAL MEMBERS**

Tribal Council Resolution No: _____

Date Posted:

Date Published:

Date Approved:

WHEREAS, The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes are a federally recognized Indian tribe organized under a Constitution (Cheyenne & Arapaho Constitution) approved by the tribal membership on April 4, 2006 and approved by the Secretary of the Interior; and

WHEREAS, Article V, § 2. Powers (a), The Tribal Council shall have power the power to set policy for the Tribes and shall have all other powers and duties specifically provided by this Constitution.

WHEREAS, The Tribal Council is the supreme governing body of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, composed of all enrolled Tribal members eighteen (18) years of age or older, as provided in Article V of the Constitution of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes; and

WHEREAS, The Constitution does not require in-person attendance for Tribal Council participation, and the Tribes are committed to promoting accessibility, inclusion, and engagement among all Tribal members, regardless of geographic location or physical ability; and

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic led to the Legislative Branch implementing secure remote participation and voting measures, which have increased participation and set a precedent for modernizing Tribal governance; and

WHEREAS, A significant portion of the Tribal Council resides outside the service area or faces economic, health-related, or logistical barriers to in-person attendance, which historically led to the issuance of fuel card assistance to support participation; and

WHEREAS, The Tribal Council finds it both fiscally responsible and equitable to provide a secure remote voting option in place of fuel card assistance, thus reducing travel costs while increasing voter turnout; and

WHEREAS, The Office of Tribal Council has identified a vendor capable of integrating remote participation with existing systems to ensure vote security, verification, and anonymity;

WHEREAS, This Resolution will rescind and replace Tribal Council Resolution No. 100524ATC-009 in its entirety. Fuel cards will not be awarded to members of Tribal Council to attend any Tribal Council Meeting.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tribal Council hereby amends the Tribal Council Rules of Order and Procedure to include the following section:

Remote Participation and Voting

1. **Verified Enrollment** – All enrolled Tribal members eighteen (18) years of age or older shall be eligible to participate remotely in any duly called Tribal Council meeting upon advance registration using their enrollment number.
 2. **Remote Access** – Registered Tribal members shall be provided secure, real-time access to observe the meeting and vote electronically on any resolution brought before the body.
 3. **Voting Integrity** – Remote votes shall be counted simultaneously with in-person votes using secure technology and procedures that ensure one vote per verified Tribal member, maintain ballot secrecy, and prevent duplicate voting.
 4. **Transition of Fuel Card Assistance** – Fuel card assistance for Tribal Council meetings shall be discontinued upon full implementation of the remote voting system. Tribal members who prefer to attend in person will continue to be provided in-person access and a voting keypad upon check-in.
 5. **Live Demonstration** – At the Special Tribal Council Meeting called in August 2025 Tribal members were allowed to observe, test, and comment on the security and usability of the proposed remote voting system prior to full implementation.
 6. **Program Oversight** – The Office of Tribal Council shall oversee the implementation and maintenance of the remote voting system, including communication, registration, vendor coordination, and technical assistance.
-

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that this resolution will rescind and replace Tribal Council Resolution No. 100524ATC-009 in its entirety.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption and shall apply to all future Tribal Council meetings unless amended or repealed by subsequent action of the Tribal Council.

Tribal Council Chairperson

I, _____, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Tribal Council Resolution _____, which was voted on by the Tribal Council of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Special Tribal Council Meeting on August 16, 2025, by a vote of _____ for, ____ against, and ____ abstaining.

Tribal Council Secretary

Proposal to Allow Remote Participation in Tribal Council Meetings

The Constitution, under Article V, outlines the composition and powers of the Tribal Council but does not state that members must be physically present in order to vote. The constitution states, regarding Tribal member attendance, Article V – Tribal Council, Section 3(a) that “The Tribes shall provide bus transportation for members of the Tribes to attend the Annual Meeting.” This shall be accomplished as it previously had, with Transit buses being used at a cost usually under \$2000. By contrast, Article VI, Section 7(iii), which governs the Legislative Branch, specifies that “all decisions of the Legislature shall be made by a majority vote of the Legislators present unless otherwise specified in this Constitution.” Since the COVID-19 pandemic, however, Legislators have been permitted to attend, participate, and vote remotely—a practice that has improved access and participation.

As of February 2025, of the 11,900 Tribal Council members, 4,500 live in district, an additional 4,000 live in Oklahoma but outside the districts, and 3,400 live outside Oklahoma. Some Tribal members even reside abroad—in countries such as England, Germany, Guam, Canada, Mexico, and Ireland. Many of these members have expressed a strong desire to participate in Tribal Council meetings. In fact, some have received gas cards to travel from distant locations, including Michigan and Illinois, to attend in person. Some Tribal members are incapacitated such as with mobility issues and while living in district are unable to attend. Some Tribal members may hesitate to attend because the TC meeting is notoriously held on the same day as the OU/Texas football game and this would allow greater participation by allowing Tribal members to attend from anywhere.

In light of budget constraints and the desire to improve participation, the Office of Tribal Council proposes allowing verified Tribal members to attend, participate, and vote remotely in Tribal Council meetings.

To ensure the integrity, security, and anonymity of remote voting, we have consulted with several vendors experienced in providing this technology to other Tribes. Notably, the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe (WA), the Pala Band of Mission Indians (CA), and the Tuolumne Me-Wuk Tribal Council (CA) have successfully implemented similar systems.

After evaluating available options, we recommend partnering with Option Technologies, the vendor currently supplying our in-person keypad voting devices since 2022. They offer a solution that integrates remote participation with our existing in-person setup. Their quote includes \$6,770 for the keypads and \$2,200 to enable remote participation for up to 2,000 members. If needed, additional members can vote at additional cost with no limit to participants. We won’t know interest and participation until we start gathering information so please spread word to your family members to attend remotely if they cannot attend in person. Registration, including enrollment numbers, will begin as soon as a Tribal member hears of this proposal and will end two weeks before the TC meeting. The main item needed to register is your enrollment number.

The system will verify Tribal members using their roll numbers, ensuring each member votes only once. Tribal members may live anywhere, even within our service area, to be able to vote. This will ensure that if a Tribal member is unable to attend for any reason they will be able to participate. While signing in at the meeting, if a Tribal member had registered to attend remotely but was able to attend in person, their name will be immediately removed from the remote list and they will be given a keypad. The TC meeting location will be open with breakfast beginning at 8am for Tribal members to not only visit tables of programs but to ensure their registration is correct if they happened to register to attend remotely.

The Tribal member can watch the meeting in real time on their device so they will know when it's time to vote. The voting time frame will be the same as if in person and all votes will be counted simultaneously. While watching the meeting the Tribal member will only be able to voice an opinion on a resolution by selecting "In Favor" or "Not in Favor," they will not be allowed to verbally interact otherwise. In the future it may be possible for a Tribal member to type comments and it would be at the TC chairperson's discretion to recognize these comments. This will be something this endeavor will grow into if there is widespread interest and participation.

We propose a Special Tribal Council Meeting in August 2025 to demonstrate the security of the system and allow members to observe and test the remote voting process firsthand. If approved, this initiative will eliminate the need for gas card reimbursements (estimated at \$14,000) and result in overall savings of approximately \$7,000.

Most importantly, this change will make use of technology to expand access and ensure that all Tribal members—no matter where they live—have the opportunity to participate in Tribal governance.

The Office of Tribal Council is committed to ensuring every Tribal member's voice is heard. We encourage your support and participation in the upcoming Special Tribal Council Meeting. Together, we can make our government more inclusive and accessible for all.

