



CHEROKEE NATION ELECTION COMMISSION

Ph: 918-458-5899 | TF: 800.353.2895 | F: 918.458.6101

AGENDA SPECIAL MEETING

January 28th, 2021

4:00 P.M.

- I. Call to order
- II. Roll call
- III. Approval of Minutes from the January 21st Special Meeting
- IV. Old Business
 - a. Consideration and possible action on Press Release
 - b. Consideration and possible action on Absentee Affidavit & Instructions
 - c. Consideration and possible action on Candidate Filing Protocol
- V. Current Items-None
- VI. Executive Session
 - a. Confidential discussion with attorney on pending litigation, claims, investigations or protests
 - b. Personnel
 - c. Exit Executive Session
- VII. Action from Executive Session
- VIII. Announcements
- IX. Adjourn

POSTED
3:30 1-27-21

January 27, 2021 by 4:00 PM
Cherokee Nation Election Office
17763 S. Muskogee Ave
Tahlequah, OK 74464

Chairperson: Shawna Calico

Posted by: _____



CHEROKEE NATION ELECTION COMMISSION

Ph: 918-458-5899 | TF: 800.353.2895 | F: 918.458.6101

CHEROKEE NATION ELECTION COMMISSION

Special Meeting Minutes

January 28th, 2021

I. Call to order

- The Special Meeting of the Cherokee Nation Election Commission for January 28th 2021 was called to order by Chairperson Shawna Calico at 4:15pm

II. Roll call

- Election Commission Secretary Rick Doherty called roll and a quorum was established with the following Commissioners present:

Shawna Calico – Chairperson

Pamela Sellers – Vice Chairperson

Rick Doherty – Secretary/Treasurer

Randy Campbell – Commissioner

Elizabeth Ballew – Commissioner

- Office staff present were: Connie Parnell & Marcus Fears
- Election Commission Attorney Harvey Chaffin was present
- Visitors present were: Chad Hunter

III. Approval of Minutes

- Chairperson Shawna Calico asked for approval and/or discussion regarding the minutes of the January 21st Special Meeting. Pam Sellers made a motion seconded by Elizabeth Ballew to approve the minutes. The motion was approved by all Commissioners.

IV. Old Business

- Consideration and possible action on Press Release
 - i. Discussion was held regarding a newly added paragraph dealing with COVID safety precautions during the election process. Randy Campbell made a motion seconded by Elizabeth Ballew to approve the COVID safety addition to the Press Release with noted changes; however, full approval of the Press Release will be after the polling locations are secured. The motion was approved by all Commissioners. **(Attachment 1)**
- Consideration and possible action on Absentee Affidavit & Instructions



CHEROKEE NATION ELECTION COMMISSION

Ph: 918-458-5899 | TF: 800.353.2895 | F: 918.458.6101

- i. Chairperson Shawna Calico requested that this item of Old Business be moved to after Executive Session.
- ii. After returning from Executive Session, Pam Sellers made a motion seconded by Elizabeth Ballew to approve the Absentee Affidavit & Instruction with changes. The motion was approved by all Commissioners.

(Attachment 2)

- Consideration and possible action on Candidate Filing Protocol
 - i. Discussion was held regarding the procedures that will be followed both for Filing In-Person and by Mail. Pam Sellers made a motion seconded by Elizabeth Ballew to approve the Procedures For Filing. The motion was approved by all Commissioners. **(Attachment 3)**

V. Current Items

- None

VI. Executive Session

- Randy Campbell made a motion seconded by Pam Sellers to enter Executive Session at 5:04pm.
- Pam Sellers made a motion seconded by Elizabeth Ballew to exit Executive Session at 6:30pm.

VII. Action from Executive Session

- There was no action from Executive Session.

VIII. Announcements

IX. Adjourn

- Rick Doherty made a motion to adjourn at 6:38pm. The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Rick Doherty, Secretary/Treasurer

FOR RELEASE SUNDAY, March 2021

Precincts will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 5, 2021 for the Cherokee Nation General Election.

Due to the Covid pandemic we are using all precautions during the election process. Voters will be required to wear a mask inside the precinct. Precinct officials will be taking all precautions suggested by the CDC, wearing masks and social distancing. Precinct officials will be cleaning voting booths and sanitizing, ~~between voters.~~ Pursuant to CNEC/CH executive order.

Cherokee Nation Election Commission offered voters some tips on how to make their vote count.

A valid marking, a filled-in box, is shown on posters at the precinct and inside the voting booths. If a voter makes mistakes marking their ballot, the voter should not try to correct those errors. Instead, the voter should follow the spoiled ballot procedure. The precinct official will issue a new ballot to the voter.

Voters are urged to take their voter identification cards with them to the polls, Voter identification cards will be mailed out in April to all voters registered in district. Your voter identification card can help Precinct Officials find your name in the Precinct Signature Book, and it may also help them resolve the problem if you are not listed in the Precinct Signature Book.

ABSENTEE VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

Enclosed is an absentee ballot for voting in this election. Please read and follow the instructions (printed on both sides) before executing your ballot.

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

1. Mark your ballot by completely filling in the box to the left of your choice.
2. Fold the ballot and put the ballot in the ballot secrecy envelope.
3. Print your name and date of the election on the top of the affidavit envelope, (you can find the election date in the top ballot heading) voter must sign the affidavit (i) in the presence of a notary public; or (ii) in the presence of one (1) witness of legal age and enclose a copy of a government issued photo identification. The affidavit envelope must be: (a) notarized and the notary seal affixed to the affidavit; or (b) signed by the one (1) witness of legal age and include an enclosed copy of a government issued photo identification and return the documents inside the postage paid return envelope via US Mail.
4. Place the ballot (s) in the **Secrecy** envelope, then place the secrecy envelope in the **Affidavit** envelope. Then place the affidavit in the **OFFICIAL ELECTION BALLOT ENVELOPE, seal and mail in the postage return envelope.**

5. If you have a problem with any part of your absentee ballot packet, the voter may notify the Election Commission with the information, and the CNEC office will inform you of the solution.

Phone: 918-458-5899,

Toll free: 800-353-2895

election-commission@cherokee.org

Methods of return of your absentee ballot:

1. **United States Postal Service Office.**
2. **Drop Box Delivery at the Election Commission office in Tahlequah the Saturday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday before Election Day.**

No drop box on Friday before Election Day or Saturday the day of the Election. Ballots must be received in the Election commission Office prior to 7 Pm. Ballots can always be dropped off at the Tahlequah Post office.

3. **In the event of a Run-off you the voter will automatically receive a ballot for the election in which you are eligible to vote.**

AFFIDAVIT OR WITNESS AND VOTER ID FORM

I, _____ (PRINT Name of

voter) hereby certify that I am a Citizen of the Cherokee Nation, and a qualified registered voter. That I shall be eighteen (18) years of age or older prior to the date of the election and I am entitled to vote in the Election on _____ (date). I certify that I marked the enclosed ballot in secret, or in the case of a disability or illiteracy, have caused the ballot(s) to be marked in accordance with my wishes, and I have not exhibited the marked ballot(s) to any other person.

Signature of Voter: _____

CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS:

If choosing Option 2, attach a copy of Government photo identification to the back of the affidavit.

(A list of acceptable photo identifications are listed in the box on the back of this envelope)

Option 1 ☐ State of: _____ County of: _____

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me on this _____ day of _____, 20__.

By _____ (Print name of Voter) proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person who appeared before me.

Notary Public Signature _____

SEAL

Option 2 ☐ Witnessed By 1. _____, Witness Signature.

Signature of assistant if assistance was given to the voter marking their ballot(s)

Signature: _____

Attach photo identification:

Acceptable Government Photo identifications:
State issued photo Driver's License
Tribal issued photo membership card
United States Veterans (Ret) /Active photo identification



CHEROKEE NATION ELECTION COMMISSION

Ph: 918-458-5899 TF: 800.353.2895 F: 918.458.6101

Procedure for Filing:

- A mask will be required.
- Only the Citizen filing or their representative are allowed in to file.
- Staff will not be able to take pictures for those filing; however, you may take a picture outside if you wish.
- There will be no public restroom.

Procedure for Filing In-Person:

- Filing will be first come, first served.
- You will enter the Election Commission Office with your mask on and have your temperature taken.
- Sign in on the provided Candidate Filing sign in sheet.
- Two Citizens will be allowed to file at one time.
- All others will wait in their vehicle until notified.
- You are encouraged to submit your Candidate Filing Packet to the Election Commission Office as early as possible. In the event additional documents are needed you will have time to obtain and transmit such documents to the Election Commission prior to February 4, 2021 5pm CST.
- Once your filing process is complete, you may exit the building.

Procedure for Filing Through the Mail:

- Citizen filing will be responsible for sending all required documentation listed on the Candidate Packet Return Checklist ensuring all documents are completely filled out, signed and if necessary, notarized.
- A completed filing packet will need to be received in the Election Commission Office by 5pm Thursday, February 4, 2021.
- You are encouraged to mail your Candidate Filing Packet to the Election Commission Office as early as possible. In the event additional documents are needed you will have time to obtain and transmit such documents to the Election Commission prior to February 4, 2021 5pm CST.
- The Election Commission will scan and email a copy of your receipt for the filing fee. If you wish to have a stamped copy of your filing documents, we can mail that to you upon request.