



## **CHEROKEE NATION ELECTION COMMISSION**

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

### **AGENDA SPECIAL MEETING**

*Tuesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

*4:30 PM*

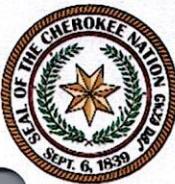
- I. Call to order
- II. Roll call
- III. Approval of Minutes from the January 17<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting
- IV. Old Business
  - a. Consideration and possible action regarding Cherokee Vote Absentee Ballot script recommendations
- V. Current Items
  - a. Consideration and possible action regarding Absentee Ballot Instruction Card
- 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**  
1-17-23 4:30 PM

January 17, 2023 by 4:30 PM  
Cherokee Nation Election Office  
17763 S. Muskogee Ave  
Tahlequah, OK 74464

Chairperson: Rick Doherty

Posted by: 



## **CHEROKEE NATION ELECTION COMMISSION**

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### **CHEROKEE NATION ELECTION COMMISSION**

Special Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023

#### **I. Call to order**

- The Special Meeting of the Cherokee Nation Election Commission for January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 was called to order by Chairman Rick Doherty at 4:30 P.M.

#### **II. Roll call**

- Election Commission Secretary Shawna Calico called roll and a quorum was established with the following Commissioners present:
  - Rick Doherty – Chairman
  - Pamela Sellers – Vice Chairperson
  - Shawna Calico – Secretary/Treasurer
  - Randy Campbell - Commissioner
  - Elizabeth Ballew – Commissioner
- Office staff present: Marcus Fears and Connie Parnell
- Election Commission Attorney Harvey Chaffin was present.

#### **III. Approval of Minutes**

- Chairman Rick Doherty asked for approval and/or discussion regarding the minutes of the January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Special Meeting. Pam Sellers made a motion seconded by Elizabeth Ballew to approve the minutes for the January 17<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting minutes. The motion was approved by all Commissioners.
- Pam Sellers made a motion second by Elizabeth Ballew to amend the agenda on the recommendation of the Commission Attorney to discuss New Business before the discussion of the old business.

#### **IV. Current Items**

- Consideration and possible action regarding Absentee Ballot Instruction Card. Pam Sellers made a motion, seconded by Elizabeth Ballew to approve as amended the Absentee Ballot Instruction Card. The motion was approved by all Commissioners.

#### **V. Old Business**

- Consideration and possible action regarding Cherokee Vote Absentee Ballot script recommendations. Pam Sellers made a motion second by Elizabeth Ballew to approve scripts 1 & 2 as amended by the instruction card.

#### **VI. Executive Session**



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- None

### **VII. Action from Executive Session**

- None

### **VIII. Announcements**

- None

### **IX. Adjourn**

- Pam Sellers made a motion, second by Elizabeth Ballew to adjourn at 4:58 P.M. The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Shawna Calico, Secretary/Treasurer

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## 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. Place the ballot(s) in the **SECURITY** envelope, then place the Secrecy envelope in the **AFFIDAVIT OR WITNESS AND VOTER ID FORM** envelope.
2. Print your name and date of the election on top of the Affidavit or Witness and Voter ID Form envelope, (you can find the election date in the top ballot heading).
3. Option 1: The Voter must sign the Affidavit or Witness and Voter ID Form envelope in the presence of a Notary Public. The Affidavit or Witness and Voter ID Form envelope must be signed by the Notary Public and the notary seal affixed to the Affidavit or Witness and Voter ID Form envelope; or
4. Option 2: The Voter must sign the Affidavit or Witness and Voter ID Form envelope in the presence of a Witness. The Witness (18 years of age or older) must print and sign the Affidavit or Witness and Voter ID Form envelope. Attach copies of the Voter's and the Witness's Government issued photo identification to the back of the Affidavit or Witness and Voter ID Form envelope.
5. Then, place the Affidavit or Witness and Voter ID Form envelope in the **OFFICIAL ELECTION BALLOT ENVELOPE**, seal and mail in the postage return envelope.

## Cherokee Vote ABRF Scripts (Combined)

### Script 1 "Younger Generation of Cherokees: ABRF Video Production"

**Overview:** Younger Native American on-screen talent conveying how to properly fill out a 2023 Cherokee Nation absentee ballot request form. This production will be shorter and more direct than, "Cherokee Vote Script 2: Elder Generation of Cherokees ABRF Video Production".

**Goal:** Getting the attention of our younger generation of Cherokee voters and better explain the processes for properly filling out an absentee ballot for the upcoming 2023 Cherokee Nation election.

**Script #1**

Osiyo. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and today I would like to provide you with instructions for properly filling out your absentee ballot to vote in our Cherokee Nation tribal elections

Your absentee ballot will arrive to the address that you provided on your 2023 Cherokee Nation Absentee Ballot Request Form, and will look like this: (show envelope containing ballot)

Inside of your official Cherokee Nation absentee ballot envelope there should be 5 unique items: (show the (5) items one by one to audience)

These items include: ~~a an yellow or orange~~ ~~pink~~ “absentee voting instructions” page, your CN election official ballot, a secrecy envelope, an affidavit or witness and voter ID form envelope, and an official election ballot envelop that includes the Cherokee Nation Election Commissions address on the front

Now, I will walk you through the process of completing these forms, and the options you have for correctly casting your vote by voting absentee through the Cherokee Nation Election Commission

**Step 1:** Mark your ballot by completely filling in the box to the left of your choice. Place the ballot(s) in the Secrecy envelope, then place the Secrecy envelope in the Affidavit or Witness and Voter ID Form envelope.

**Step 2:** Print your name and the date of the election on the top of the affidavit or Witness and Voter ID Form envelope—please note that you can find the election date in the top ballot heading

**Step 3:** There are a couple of different options for completing the third step which involves filling out the “Affidavit or Witness and Voter ID Form envelope”

**Option 1:** The Voter must sign the Affidavit or Witness and Voter ID Form envelope Sign the affidavit in the presence of a Notary Public. The Affidavit or Witness and Voter ID Form envelope must be signed by the Notary Public and have them place their notary seal on the affidavit or Witness and Voter ID Form envelope where it says “notary seal” in bold writing, or follow along with the next prompt for your second option

**Option 2:** You can use a witness as opposed to a Notary Public. The Voter must sign the Affidavit or Witness and Voter ID Form envelope in the presence of a Witness. The witness, who needs to be 18 years of age or older on the date of the signature must print and sign the Witness verification portion of the envelope

The witness should not see who you are voting for, and should stand at a distance while you make your selections before signing your Witness Verification paperwork

## Cherokee Vote AB~~RF~~ Scripts (Combined)

Attach copies of the voters and the witnesses Government issued photo identification to the back of the envelope, the options for these forms of identification are listed on the back of the Affidavit or Witness and Voter ID Form envelope

Step 5: Next, you should place your completed ballot in the Secrecy envelope, and then place the secrecy envelope in the Affidavit envelope Then place the Affidavit or Witness and Voter ID Form envelope in the Official Election Ballot Envelope, seal and mail in the postage return envelope

To finish the process, place the affidavit envelope in the Official Election Ballot Envelope, seal and mail in the postage return envelope

If you have a problem with any part of your absentee ballot packet or make a mistake while filling out your ballot, please notify the Election Commission with the information and the Cherokee Nation Election Commission Office will inform you of the solution

Please know that all ballots must be received by the Election Commission Office prior to 7PM on Election Day

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Cherokee Nation Election Commission or Cherokee Vote.

Wado!

**(Information Screen following video)**

**Cherokee Nation Election Commission:**

Email: [Election-Commission@Cherokee.org](mailto:Election-Commission@Cherokee.org)

Phone: 918-458-5899

Toll free: 800-353-2895

<https://election.cherokee.org/>

**Cherokee Vote**

Email: [Cherokee-Vote@Cherokee.org](mailto:Cherokee-Vote@Cherokee.org)

Website: [www.cherokeevote.com](http://www.cherokeevote.com)

**Key Dates to Remember:**

March 31, 2023 - Cherokee Nation Voter Registration Deadline

April 10, 2023 - Absentee Ballot Request Deadline

June 3, 2023 - Election Day

## Cherokee Vote ABRF Scripts (Combined)

### Script 2 *Elder Generation of Cherokees ABRF Video Production*

**Overview:** Elder Cherokee on-screen talent conveying how to properly fill out a 2023 Cherokee Nation absentee ballot, and how to mail the ballot back in to the Cherokee Nation Election Commission.

This production should be a bit longer, slower, and more in depth than the "*Younger Generation of Cherokees: ABRF Video Production*".

(While the actual scripts do not vary much in length, it should read slower by the talent, and the video production/graphic examples throughout should be easier to follow if possible.

**Goal:** Explain in methodical detail how to fill out a Cherokee Nation absentee ballot for the 2023 Cherokee Nation general election.

Make the video as easy to follow as possible for those who might have a more difficult time following along with instructions on voting absentee in our tribal elections via an onscreen media outlet.

## Cherokee Vote AB~~RF~~ Scripts (Combined)

### **Script #2**

Osiyo. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I have been voting in Cherokee Nation elections for \_\_\_\_ years

Today I would like to speak to you about properly filling out your absentee ballot to vote in our Cherokee Nation tribal elections

Your absentee ballot will arrive to the address that you provided on your 2023 Cherokee Nation Absentee Ballot Request Form, and will look like this: (**show envelope containing ballot**)

Voting absentee in Cherokee elections is extremely valuable for all of our tribal citizens, as it provides all of our citizens with the opportunity for our voices to be heard

Each ballot might look a bit different depending on where you reside either within the Cherokee Nation Reservation or if you are an at-large Cherokee tribal citizen

Inside of your official Cherokee Nation absentee ballot envelope there should be (5) unique items (**show the 5 items one-by-one to audience**)

These items include: ~~a an yelloworangepink~~ “absentee voting instructions” page, your official CN election ballot, a secrecy envelope, an affidavit or witness and voter ID form envelope, and an official election ballot envelop that includes the Cherokee Nation Election Commission address on the front

Now I am going to take you through a series of steps for completing the required forms. If at any point in the video you need to pause, or go back—please do not hesitate to do so

**Step 1:** Mark your ballot and follow the instructions provided by completely filling in the box to the left of your choice. Please keep in mind that you must use an ink pen with either blue or black ink. Place the ballot(s) in the Secrecy envelope, then place the Secrecy envelope in the Affidavit or Witness and Voter ID Form envelope.

**Step 2:** Print your name and date of the election on the top of the Affidavit or Witness and Voter ID Form envelope affidavit envelope—please note that you can find the election date in the top ballot heading on your selection paper

**Step 3:** There are a couple of different options for completing the third step for filling out the “Affidavit or Witness and Voter ID Form envelope”

**Option 1:** The Voter must sign the Affidavit or Witness and Voter ID Form envelope Sign the affidavit in the presence of a Notary Public. The Affidavit or Witness and Voter ID Form envelope must be signed by the Notary Public—and have them place their notary seal on the affidavit or Witness and Voter ID Form envelope where it says “notary seal” in bold writing, or follow along with the next prompt for your second option

## Cherokee Vote AB~~RF~~ Scripts (Combined)

**Option 2:** You can use a witness as opposed to a Notary Public. The Voter must sign the Affidavit or Witness and Voter ID Form envelope in the presence of a Witness. The witness, who needs to be 18 years of age or older on the date of the signature must print and sign the Witness Verification portion of the envelope

The witness should not see who you are voting for, and should stand at a distance while you make your selections before signing your Witness Verification paperwork

Attach copies of the voters and the witnesses Government issued photo identification to the back of the envelope, the options for these forms of identification are listed on the back of the Affidavit or Witness and Voter ID Form envelope

**Step 5:** Next, you should place your completed ballot in the Secrecy envelope, and then place the secrecy envelope in the Affidavit envelope. Then place the Affidavit or Witness and Voter ID Form envelope in the Official Election Ballot Envelope, seal and mail in the postage return envelope

To finish the process, place the affidavit in the Official Election Ballot Envelope, seal and mail in the postage return envelope

If you have a problem with any part of your absentee ballot packet or make a mistake while filling out your ballot, please notify the Election Commission with the information and the Cherokee Nation Election Commission Office will inform you of the solution

Ballots can be dropped off by 12:00 noon on election day at the Tahlequah Post Office (M-F 8:30AM to 4:30PM Sat 10AM to 12PM)

It would also be helpful to note that in the event of a Run-off you will automatically receive a ballot for the election in which you are voting if you had originally properly filed an absentee ballot request form

Methods of return of your absentee ballot:

1. United States Postal Service Office
2. Drop Box Delivery at the Election Commission Office in Tahlequah 7AM to 7PM the Saturday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday before Election Day and Election Day

Please know that all ballots must be received by the Election Commission Office prior to 7PM on Election Day

We currently have more than 440,000 tribal citizens total with more than 290,000 tribal citizens living outside of the Cherokee Nation Reservation boundary

Cherokee Nation has the ability to become a powerful voice in political life, but it can't happen without a registered and mobilized voting populace

## Cherokee Vote AB~~RF~~ Scripts (Combined)

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Cherokee Nation Election Commission or Cherokee Vote.

Wado! Please remember to either get to the polls or vote absentee in our upcoming Cherokee Nation election!

**(Information Screen following video)**

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Email: [Election-Commission@Cherokee.org](mailto:Election-Commission@Cherokee.org)

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Toll free: 800-353-2895

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**Cherokee Vote**

Email: [Cherokee-Vote@Cherokee.org](mailto:Cherokee-Vote@Cherokee.org)

Website: [www.cherokeevote.com](http://www.cherokeevote.com)

**Key Dates to Remember:**

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June 3, 2023 - Election Day

# CHEROKEE NATION ELECTION COMMISSION

—REGULAR MEETING

—SPECIAL MEETING

ELECTION COMMISSION PRESIDED BY: Rick Doherty

MEETING DATE: 1-18-23 at 4:30 AM/PM at the CNEC Office

## **Commission Member: Present/Absent**

Rick Doherty

Present/Absent

Pamela Sellers

Present/Absent

Shawna Calico

Present/Absent

Randy Campbell

Present/Absent

Elizabeth Ballew

Present/Absent

## **Quorum Established:**

YES / NO

**CNEC Attorney:** Harvey Chaffin

**CNEC Investigator:** Nick Goodwin

**Staff Present:**  Marcus Fears,  Connie Parnell,  Kendal Bishop,  Charlene Keys

## **Visitors:**

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