



CHEROKEE NATION ELECTION COMMISSION

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

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Monday, February 24th, 2025

2:00 PM

- I. Call to order
- II. Roll call/Approval of absent members to attend by phone if necessary
- III. Approval of Minutes from the February 20th Special Meeting
- IV. Old Business
 - a. Approval of Minutes from the February 18th Special Meeting
- V. Current Items
 - a. Hearing on the Challenges of Eligibility for the 2025 General Election
 - i. Issac Collins Contest of Eligibility for David Walkingstick
 - ii. Candessa Tehee Contest of Eligibility for David Walkingstick
- VI. Executive Session
 - a. Consideration of evidence of the Challenges of Eligibility of the Candidates for the 2025 General Election
 - b. Confidential discussion with attorney on pending litigation, claims, investigations, or protests
 - c. Personnel
 - d. Exit Executive Session
- VII. Action from Executive Session
- VIII. Announcements
- IX. Adjourn

POSTED
2/21/25

By February 21, 2025, 5:00 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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SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES – ELIGIBILITY HEARING

Monday, February 24th, 2025, 2:00pm

I. Call to order

- a. The Special Meeting of the Cherokee Nation Election Commission was called to order by Chairperson Rick Doherty at 2:00pm

II. Roll call/Approval of absent members to attend by phone if necessary

- a. Election Commission Secretary, Pamela Sellers, called roll and a quorum was established with the following Commissioners present:

Rick Doherty – Chairperson

Cheryl Cooper – Vice Chairperson

Pamela Sellers – Secretary/Treasurer

Elizabeth Ballew – Commissioner

Sherry Reynolds – Commissioner

Office Staff – Connie Parnell & Marcus Fears

Election Commission Attorney Harvey Chaffin

III. Approval of Minutes

- a. Chairperson Rick Doherty asked for approval and/or discussion regarding the minutes of the February 20th Special Meeting. Elizabeth Ballew made a motion, which was seconded by Cheryl Cooper to approve the February 20th Special Meeting Minutes. The motion was approved by all Commissioners.

IV. Old Business

- a. Chairperson Rick Doherty asked for approval and/or discussion regarding the minutes of the February 18th Special Meeting. Elizabeth Ballew made a motion, which was seconded by Sherry Reynolds to approve the February 18th Special Meeting Minutes. The motion was approved by all Commissioners.

V. Current Items

- a. Hearing on the Challenges of Eligibility for the 2025 General Election.



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i. Issac Collins Contest of Eligibility for David Walkingstick.

1. CNEC Attorney asked all parties to identify themselves by name and their representation. Listed are those who identified themselves to take part in the hearing: Challenger - Issac Collins to represent himself and Robert Gifford, Attorney for Candidate David Walkingstick who was not present.
2. A record of this hearing was taken by an outside sourced court reporter at the request and expense of the Election Commission. The Hearing Procedure was read by Chairman Rick Doherty. Chairman Doherty read a Motion to Dismiss submitted by Attorney Gifford. Chairman Doherty denied the Motion to Dismiss and stated they would move forward with the hearing. CNEC Attorney entered Commission Exhibits to be supplied to both parties as well as the court reporter.
3. Eligibility Hearing No. 2025-1 began with opening statements by Mr. Collins and Mr. Gifford. Mr. Collins had no further evidence to introduce or witnesses to call. Mr. Gifford called and questioned Mr. Collins but had no further evidence. There were no further questions from Mr. Collins, Mr. Gifford or the Commission. Closing statements were made by Mr. Collins and Mr. Gifford. Elizabeth Ballew made a motion, which was seconded by Cheryl Cooper to enter Executive Session at 2:18pm. Elizabeth Ballew made a motion, which was seconded by Cheryl Cooper to exit Executive Session at 2:38pm.
4. Chairman Rick Doherty read the decision for Eligibility Hearing No. 2025-1. Elizabeth Ballew made a motion, which was seconded by Sherry Reynolds to deny the Challenge of Issac Collins based on the evidence provided. The motion was approved by all Commissioners.
5. Elizabeth Ballew made a motion, which was seconded by Sherry Reynolds to recess for 10 minutes to allow set up for the next hearing.



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ii. Candessa Tehee Contest of Eligibility for David Walkingstick.

1. Sherry Reynolds made a motion, which was seconded by Cheryl Cooper to reconvene the hearing at 2:47pm.
2. CNEC Attorney asked all parties to identify themselves by name and their representation. Listed are those who identified themselves to take part in the hearing: Challenger – Candessa Tehee, not present, was represented by Attorneys Kalyn Free, Dallas Strimple & Matthew Alison, and Robert Gifford, Attorney for Candidate David Walkingstick who was not present.
3. A record of this hearing was taken by an outside sourced court reporter at the request and expense of the Election Commission. The Hearing Procedure was read by Chairman Rick Doherty. Chairman Doherty read a Motion to Dismiss submitted by Attorney Gifford. Chairman Doherty denied the Motion to Dismiss and stated they would move forward with the hearing. CNEC Attorney entered Commission Exhibits to be supplied to both parties as well as the court reporter.
4. Eligibility Hearing No. 2025-2 began with an opening statement by Mr. Gifford. Ms. Free had no opening statement. Petitioner Exhibits were introduced into evidence by Ms. Free as well as the calling of her first witness. After questioning and cross examination by Mr. Gifford the witness was allowed to leave. Sherry Reynolds made a motion, which was seconded by Elizabeth Ballew to recess for a 10 minutes at 4:03pm. Sherry Reynolds made a motion, which was seconded by Elizabeth Ballew to reconvene at 4:13pm. Ms. Free called her second witness and after questioning and cross examination by Mr. Gifford the witness was allowed to leave. After all Exhibits were introduced and questioning was complete, both Ms. Free and Mr. Gifford were allowed to give closing statements. Elizabeth Ballew made a motion, which was seconded by Cheryl Cooper to enter Executive Session at 5:02pm. Sherry



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Reynolds made a motion, which was seconded by Cheryl Cooper to exit Executive Session at 5:33.

5. Chairman Rick Doherty read the decision for Eligibility Hearing No. 2025-2. Elizabeth Ballew made a motion, which was seconded by Cheryl Cooper, based on the evidence presented, that David Walkingstick is not eligible to be a Candidate for Council District 2. The motion was approved by all Commissioners.

VI. Announcements

- a. The scheduled 4:30 Special Meeting would begin momentarily.

VII. Adjourn

- a. Elizabeth Ballew made a motion, which was seconded by Sherry Reynolds to adjourn at 5:35pm. The motion was approved by all Commissioners.

Minutes submitted by Pamela Sellers, Secretary/Treasurer

BEFORE THE CHEROKEE NATION ELECTION COMMISSION
OF THE CHEROKEE NATION

In Re: Challenge to the)
Eligibility of David)
Walkingstick, Candidate for) Eligibility Hearing No. 2025-1
Council, District 2 for)
the 2025 General Election)

Hearing Procedure

This hearing is being conducted pursuant to Section 37 of Title 26 of the Cherokee Code Annotated and the Rules and Regulations of the Commission. Notice of this Hearing has been given as provided by law to the Candidate, with a copy of the Protest. Proof of service on the Candidate and Contestant shall be made a part of the record.

The Procedure for this hearing will be as follows:

1. The Chairman will preside over the hearing and make any necessary rulings, and may consult with Commission legal counsel. Any Commission Member who disagrees with the Chairman's Ruling may request a voice vote by full Commission and the Majority vote shall control.
2. The parties, counsel for the parties and the audience should conduct their selves in a respectful and courteous manner and anyone creating a disturbance will be asked to leave.
3. The formal rules of evidence shall not apply unless the Commission in its discretion rules otherwise.
4. The Commission Members and Commission Attorney may ask questions at any time. Commission Members, Commission Staff or Commission Attorney may not be called as a witness.

5. The proceeding shall be recorded by a Certified Court Reporter, who shall also swear any witness.
6. First, the Commission shall make a part of the Record the Protest and Challenge, all Documents related to Eligibility submitted by the Candidate at the time of filing for Tribal Council and all Information obtained by the Commission pursuant to Authorization by the Candidate.
7. Second, the Protestant and Challenger shall be given the opportunity to present any evidence in support of their Protest and Challenge; and, the Candidate shall be allowed to cross exam any witness called and redirect and recross will be allowed. All Exhibits shall be marked and made a part of the record.
8. Third, the Candidate shall be given the opportunity to present any evidence in opposition to the Protest and Challenge; and, the Protestant and Challenger shall be allowed to cross exam any witness called and redirect and recross will be allowed. All Exhibits shall be marked and made a part of the record.
9. At the end of the evidence, the parties will be allowed closing arguments to the Commission within a time frame set by the Commission; and, after such closing argument, the Commission will consider the evidence in executive session.
10. The Commission will reconvene the hearing to render its decision.

Approved by the Cherokee Nation Election Commission on
February 18, 2025.

Cherokee Nation Election
Commission, Defendant

BY: _____
Rick Doherty, Chairman

BEFORE THE CHEROKEE NATION ELECTION COMMISSION
OF THE CHEROKEE NATION

In Re: Challenge to the Eligibility of)
David Walkingstick, Candidate)
for Council, District 2 for)
the 2025 General Election)

Eligibility Hearing No. 2025 - 1

DECISION

Now on this 24th day of February, 2025, this matter came on for hearing before the Cherokee Nation Election Commission and the Contestant, Issac Collins, appears in person and the Candidate David Walkingstick, appears by and through his legal counsel, Robert Gifford.

The Commission, after hearing the evidence of witnesses, sworn and examined, examining exhibits introduced, the written challenge, written statements submitted and legal briefs and memos submitted, hearing arguments of counsel and after full deliberation, finds that the Challenge was timely filed by a Cherokee Citizen and Candidate for District 2; finds that Notice of this Hearing was given and served as provided by law; finds that the Contestant is an opposing Candidate for District 2 and authorized by law to challenge the eligibility of the Candidate; and finds based on the evidence presented, the Contest by Issac Collins is denied.

IT IS THEREFORE THE DECISION OF THE CHEROKEE NATION ELECTION
COMMISSION that the Contest of Issac Collins is denied.

Dated this 24th day of February, 2025.

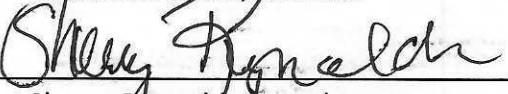
Cherokee Nation Election Commission

BY: 
Rick Doherty, Chairperson and Member

BY: 
Cheryl Cooper, Vice-Chairperson and Member

BY: 
Pamela Sellers, Secretary/Treasurer and Member

BY: 
Elizabeth Ballew, Member

BY: 
Sherry Reynolds, Member

BEFORE THE CHEROKEE NATION ELECTION COMMISSION
OF THE CHEROKEE NATION

In Re: Challenge to the)
Eligibility of David)
Walkingstick, Candidate for) Eligibility Hearing No. 2025-2
Council, District 2 for)
the 2025 General Election)

Hearing Procedure

This hearing is being conducted pursuant to Section 37 of Title 26 of the Cherokee Code Annotated and the Rules and Regulations of the Commission. Notice of this Hearing has been given as provided by law to the Candidate, with a copy of the Protest. Proof of service on the Candidate and Contestant shall be made a part of the record.

The Procedure for this hearing will be as follows:

1. The Chairman will preside over the hearing and make any necessary rulings, and may consult with Commission legal counsel. Any Commission Member who disagrees with the Chairman's Ruling may request a voice vote by full Commission and the Majority vote shall control.
2. The parties, counsel for the parties and the audience should conduct their selves in a respectful and courteous manner and anyone creating a disturbance will be asked to leave.
3. The formal rules of evidence shall not apply unless the Commission in its discretion rules otherwise.
4. The Commission Members and Commission Attorney may ask questions at any time. Commission Members, Commission Staff or Commission Attorney may not be called as a witness.

5. The proceeding shall be recorded by a Certified Court Reporter, who shall also swear any witness.
6. First, the Commission shall make a part of the Record the Protest and Challenge, all Documents related to Eligibility submitted by the Candidate at the time of filing for Tribal Council and all Information obtained by the Commission pursuant to Authorization by the Candidate.
7. Second, the Protestant and Challenger shall be given the opportunity to present any evidence in support of their Protest and Challenge; and, the Candidate shall be allowed to cross exam any witness called and redirect and recross will be allowed. All Exhibits shall be marked and made a part of the record.
8. Third, the Candidate shall be given the opportunity to present any evidence in opposition to the Protest and Challenge; and, the Protestant and Challenger shall be allowed to cross exam any witness called and redirect and recross will be allowed. All Exhibits shall be marked and made a part of the record.
9. At the end of the evidence, the parties will be allowed closing arguments to the Commission within a time frame set by the Commission; and, after such closing argument, the Commission will consider the evidence in executive session.
10. The Commission will reconvene the hearing to render its decision.

Approved by the Cherokee Nation Election Commission on
February 18, 2025.

Cherokee Nation Election
Commission, Defendant

BY: _____
Rick Doherty, Chairman

BEFORE THE CHEROKEE NATION ELECTION COMMISSION
OF THE CHEROKEE NATION

In Re: Challenge to the Eligibility of)
David Walkingstick, Candidate)
for Council, District 2 for)
the 2025 General Election)

Eligibility Hearing No. 2025 - 2

DECISION

Now on this 24th day of February, 2025, this matter came on for hearing before the Cherokee Nation Election Commission and the Contestant, Candessa Tehee, appears by and through her attorneys Kalyn Free, Dallas Strimple and Matthew Alison and the Candidate David Walkingstick, by and through his attorney, Robert Gifford.

The Commission, after hearing the evidence of witnesses, sworn and examined, examining exhibits introduced, the written challenge, written statements submitted and legal briefs and memos submitted, hearing arguments of counsel and after full deliberation, finds that the Challenge was timely filed by a Cherokee Citizen and Candidate for District 2; finds that Notice of this Hearing was given and served as provided by law; finds that the Contestant is an opposing Candidate for District 2 and authorized by law to challenge the eligibility of the Candidate; and, finds based on the evidence presented, the Candidate, David Walkingstick, is not eligible to be a candidate for Council District 2.

IT IS THEREFORE THE DECISION OF THE CHEROKEE NATION ELECTION COMMISSION that David Walkingstick, is not eligible to be a candidate for Council District 2 for the Cherokee Nation 2025 General Election.

Dated this 24th day of February, 2025.

Cherokee Nation Election Commission

BY: 
Rick Doherty, Chairperson and Member

BY: 
Cheryl Cooper, Vice-Chairperson and Member

BY: 
Pamela Sellers, Secretary/Treasurer and Member

BY: 
Elizabeth Ballew, Member

BY: 
Sherry Reynolds, Member

CHEROKEE NATION ELECTION COMMISSION

 REGULAR MEETING

 X SPECIAL MEETING

ELECTION COMMISSION PRESIDED BY: Rick Doherty

MEETING DATE: 2/24/25 at 2:00 AM/PM at the CNEC Office

Commission Member: Present/Absent

Rick Doherty Present/Absent

Pamela Sellers Present/Absent

Elizabeth Ballew Present/Absent

Cheryl Cooper Present/Absent

Sherry Reynolds Present/Absent

Quorum Established: YES / NO

CNEC Attorney: Harvey Chaffin

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

Visitors:

In Lobby _____



Cherokee Nation Election Commission – Special Meeting
Hearing Sign-In Sheet

Monday, February 24, 2025, 2:00PM

| Print Name | Signature |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Derek Galloway | |
| Tiffany Phillips | |
| Dawson Davenport | |
| Dallas Strimple | |
| Kalyn Free | |
| Matthew Alison | |
| Robert Don Griffith | |
| Jerry Helderby | JERRY HELDERBY |
| Issac Collins | |
| | |
| David Cornsilk | |
| Carla Cowan Walls | |
| Derrick Ross | |
| Regina Pickard | |
| Braden Girty | |
| Polly Tyler | |
| Judy Gamble | |
| Elizabeth Hilburn | |
| Luggie Brackett | |
| Tim Burch | |
| | |