



CHEROKEE NATION ELECTION COMMISSION

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

AGENDA REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, February 5th, 2026

9:30 AM

- I. Call to order
- II. Roll call/Approval of absent members to attend by phone if necessary
- III. Approval of Minutes from the January 8th Regular Meeting
- IV. Administrator's Report
- V. Election Director's Report
- VI. Attorney's Report
- VII. Old Business
- VIII. Current Items
 - a. Consideration and possible action regarding 2025 Candidate Financials.
 - b. Consideration and possible action on recommendations by the Policies Committee.
- IX. Executive Session
 - a. Confidential discussion with attorney on pending litigation, claims, investigations, or protests
 - b. Personnel
 - c. Exit Executive Session
- X. Action from Executive Session
- XI. Announcements
- XII. Adjourn

POSTED
1/23/26 9:30am

By January 23, 2026, 5:00 PM
Cherokee Nation Election Office
17763 S. Muskogee Ave
Tahlequah, OK 74464

Chairperson: Rick Doherty

Posted by: 



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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 5th, 2026, 9:30am

I. Call to order

- a. The Regular Meeting of the Cherokee Nation Election Commission was called to order by Chairperson Rick Doherty at 9:30am

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

- a. The following Commissioners present:

Rick Doherty – Chairman

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 January 8th Regular Meeting. Sherry Reynolds made a motion, which was seconded by Cheryl Cooper to approve the January 8th Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was approved by all Commissioners.

IV. Administrator's Report

- a. Marcus reported that Charlene started part-time on January 26th, incoming voter registrations from Gov't Relations, updated on gas line for storage building and Policies meeting. Sherry Reynolds made a motion, which was seconded by Cheryl Cooper to approve the Administrator's Report. The motion was seconded by all Commissioners. **(Attachment 1)**

V. Election Director's Report

- a. Connie reported on meeting with CSA and Maxim in person in OKC, Policies meeting and having township/range maps containing numbers of voters to assist in selecting precincts. Sherry Reynolds made a motion, which was seconded by Cheryl Cooper to approve the Election Directors Report. The motion was seconded by all Commissioners. **(Attachment 2)**



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VI. Attorney's Report

- a. N/A

VII. Old Business

- a. None

VIII. Current Items

- a. Discussion and possible action regarding 2025 Candidate Financials.
 - i. Marcus presented 2 Candidates from the 2025 election that did not submit Final Financial Reports by the end of the six-month deadline after the election. Pursuant to the Election Law for not submitting their Final Reports, Sherry Reynolds made a motion, which was seconded by Cheryl Cooper to assess a \$100 fine each to David Walkingstick and Anthony Ray Davis for not submitting their Final Financial Reports. The motion was seconded by all Commissioners.
- b. Discussion and possible action on recommendations by the Policies Committee.
 - i. Election Law Revision Recommendations-
 1. After discussion regarding sections 46 and 78 of the Election Law, Elizabeth Ballew made a motion, which was seconded by Cheryl Cooper to submit the proposed Revision Recommendations, with the recommended changes, to Tribal Council Attorney John Young. The motion was seconded by all Commissioners.
 - ii. Chronicle software upgrade-
 1. Connie presented a software upgrade that tracks the location of mail absentee ballots; therefore, allowing the Election Commission to give a specific answer to voters who call regarding the whereabouts of their ballot. Elizabeth Ballew made a motion, which was seconded by Cheryl Cooper to approve the Chronicle upgrade costing \$38,224.00. The motion was seconded by all Commissioners.

IX. Executive Session

- a. Sherry Reynolds made a motion, which was seconded by Cheryl Cooper to enter Executive Session for items under Personnel at 10:40am.
- b. Sherry Reynolds made a motion, which was seconded by Cheryl Cooper to exit Executive Session at 10:53am.



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X. Action from Executive Session

- a. Elizabeth Ballew made a motion, which was seconded by Cheryl Cooper to increase the pay of Allison George's pay from \$15.45 to \$17.50/hr and upgrade her position from Clerk I to Clerk II. The motion was seconded by all Commissioners.
- b. Elizabeth Ballew made a motion, which was seconded by Sherry Reynolds to post for the position of Clerk I on our website and run for two weeks. The motion was seconded by all Commissioners.

XI. Announcements

None

XII. Adjourn

- a. Sherry Reynolds made a motion, which was seconded by Cheryl Cooper to adjourn at 10:55 am. The motion was seconded by all Commissioners.

Minutes submitted by Pamela Sellers, Secretary/Treasurer

Pamela Sellers



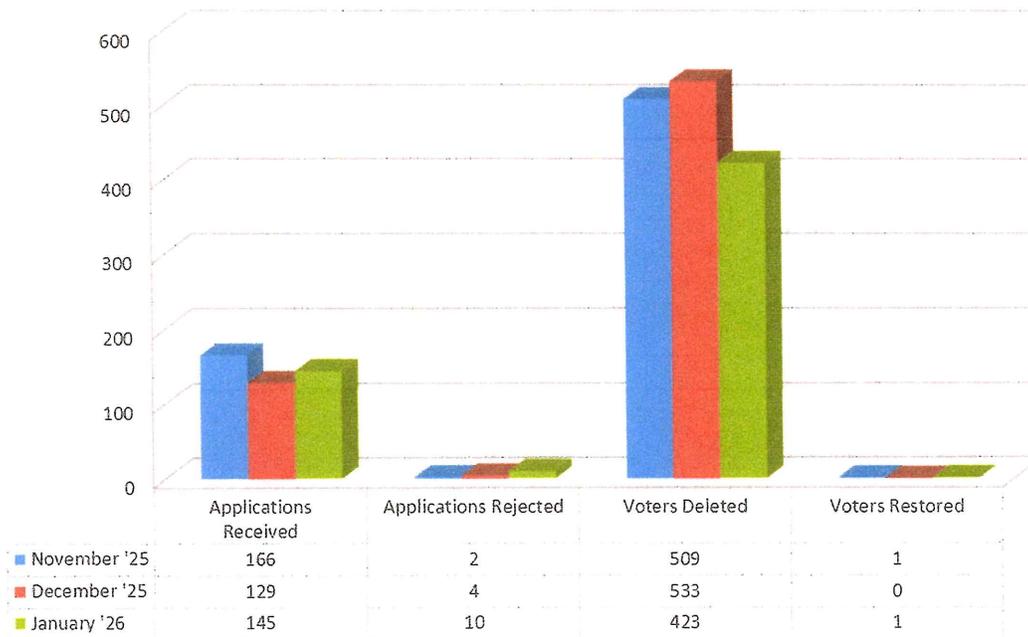
I. OFFICE:

January got 2026 off to a busy start. We received a drop of VR's from Gov't Relations and the Policies Committee met a couple times. We will discuss a few of those items later under Current Items. Charlene started part-time on January 26th which was the beginning of a new pay period. During our recent cold snap, we discovered one small storage building detail that was overlooked. Our initial plan was to have a mini split to heat and cool our storage building requiring total electric. That unit would not have been delivered in time to meet our deadline, so we used a different style of unit requiring a gas line. Needless to say, a requisition has been submitted and locates done to add our gas line. Policies will continue to meet and bring items to the full Commission and stay tuned for work sessions in the other committees as well.

II. VOTER PROCESSING: As of 02/04/2026

78,345 Total Registered Voters; **42,404** In-District; **35,941** At-Large

Voter Registration Statistics



A. Statistical Report:

*Detailed Data by District and Precinct is attached

III. FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS:

- 2 total Requisitions for January.
- FY2026 is on target and off to a great start.

| District | Precinct | Voters |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Dist No. 1 | Hulbert D-1 | 1,668 |
| | Okay D-1 | 346 |
| | Tahlequah B D-1 | 1,384 |
| Total for District | | 3,398 |
| Dist No. 2 | Tahlequah A D-2 | 1,612 |
| | Tahlequah B D-2 | 1,103 |
| Total for District | | 2,715 |
| Dist No. 3 | Keys D-3 | 1,054 |
| | Marble City D-3 | 1,368 |
| | Tahlequah B D-3 | 851 |
| Total for District | | 3,273 |
| Dist No. 4 | Ft. Gibson D-4 | 1,382 |
| | Vian D-4 | 830 |
| | Warner D-4 | 933 |
| Total for District | | 3,145 |
| Dist No. 5 | Owasso D-5 | 584 |
| | Tulsa D-5 | 1,065 |
| Total for District | | 1,649 |
| Dist No. 6 | Muldrow D-6 | 1,016 |
| | Roland D-6 | 367 |
| | Sallisaw D-6 | 1,454 |
| Total for District | | 2,837 |
| Dist No. 7 | Belfonte D-7 | 310 |
| | Dahlongegah D-7 | 630 |
| | Stilwell D-7 | 3,115 |
| Total for District | | 4,055 |
| Dist No. 8 | Briggs D-8 | 1,425 |
| | Kansas D-8 | 689 |
| | Westville D-8 | 1,065 |
| Total for District | | 3,179 |
| Dist No. 9 | Adair D-9 | 1,065 |
| | Jay D-9 | 638 |
| | Kenwood D-9 | 1,572 |
| Total for District | | 3,275 |

| District | Precinct | Voters |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Dist No. 10 | Afton D-10 | 576 |
| | Grove D-10 | 710 |
| | Jay D-10 | 945 |
| | West Siloam Springs D-10 | 265 |
| Total for District | | 2,496 |
| Dist No. 11 | Nowata D-11 | 945 |
| | S. Coffeyville D-11 | 621 |
| | Vinita D-11 | 1,440 |
| | Welch D-11 | 175 |
| Total for District | | 3,181 |
| Dist No. 12 | Bartlesville D-12 | 1,595 |
| | Collinsville D12 | 360 |
| Total for District | | 1,955 |
| Dist No. 13 | Catoosa D-13 | 459 |
| | Claremore D-13 | 127 |
| | Owasso D-13 | 2,026 |
| Total for District | | 2,612 |
| Dist No. 14 | Chelsea D-14 | 547 |
| | Claremore D-14 | 1,694 |
| Total for District | | 2,241 |
| Dist No. 15 | Justus Tiawah D-15 | 464 |
| | Locust Grove D-15 | 783 |
| | Pryor D-15 | 1,146 |
| Total for District | | 2,393 |
| At Large | At Large | 35,941 |
| Total for District | | 35,941 |
| Grand Total | | 78,345 |



Cherokee Nation Election Commission

P.O. Box 1188, Tahlequah, OK 74465-1188

Phone: 918-458-5899 Fax: 918-458-6101

January 2026 Directors Report

January was a good and cold month.

Went to Norman and visited face to face with the workers at CSA. Discussed the up grades to the street guide in precinct selection of the voter. They are also adding new streets in the districts.

While in Oklahoma City I also visited Maxim and discussed some of the upgrades they are working on. Policies have been discussing an upgrade to the system and will be presented by policies committee to the Commission for discussion, questions and benefits.

Policies have been meeting to discuss the proposed Election Act changes that the Council group is discussing. They invited Us over to listen and explain our requests. All went well and they have invited us to attend via Zoom on the 12th of February. This meeting may be very lengthy the time plan is 1 to 5.

Some are very good and some are not so good, but you be the judge.

I have maps with the Township and Range with Cherokee Voter numbers in the area for precinct prospects. Also have past election results for the precincts to consider the number of people that go on election day compared to those that vote by absentee. (pre redistricting and post redistricting) .

Staying busy promoting the Election Commission and staff.



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Legislative Act 30-24 Revision Recommendations

1. **§ 46 Financial Disclosure Report-Forms; Time of Filing; Corrections; Late Filing; Failure to File; Complaints.**

With each passing election cycle, the Election Commission recognizes a need to establish harsher penalties on Candidates who are not fulfilling their obligations as Candidates in regard to completing and reporting their Financial Reports as well as not paying their assessed fines. After noticing this topic is on the list of discussion points of the Council Work Group, we reach out only to support the need to address this area of the Election Law.

2. **§ 78 Return of Absentee Ballots**

“... Only those absentee ballots which are mailed to the Election Commission and which reach the Election Commission post office box in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, no later than 12:00pm noon on Election Day shall be counted; provided that personal delivery of an absentee ballot shall be accepted during Early Walk-In-in-person Absentee Voting as provided in 26 CNCA § 62 (D) of this Title, on the Friday immediately preceding Election Day from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and on the Saturday of the General Election from 7:00am to 7:00pm noon CST.; ...”

Justification – Closing the drop box (personal delivery) at 12pm noon Saturday coincides with the hours of operation at the Tahlequah Post Office and gives a consistent deadline across the board. This allows the Commission to complete processing absentee ballots sooner in the day, which would result in posting absentee results much sooner after the closing of the polls at 7pm. This suggestion does cut the drop box time on Saturday, Election Day, to 12pm noon, but reintroduces the drop box on the Friday prior to Election Day that was previous removed, allowing additional time to drop absentee ballots.

CHEROKEE NATION ELECTION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

SPECIAL MEETING

ELECTION COMMISSION PRESIDED BY: Rick Doherty

MEETING DATE: 2/5/26 at 9:30 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:
