



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Pawnee Nation Constitution Convention starts this week; Citizen input is a critical ingredient**

***Pawnee Nation***—The Pawnee Nation announced today that its historic Constitution Convention officially begins this week. In Resolution 21-93 (Nov. 9, 2021), the Pawnee Business Council called for the convening of a Constitution Convention managed by the Governing Documents Committee, which is chaired by Councilwoman Cynthia Butler. After months of planning and preparation, the convention starts this week, and it will entail a three-month process designed to produce proposed revisions to the Constitution. The process will be co-moderated by Phil Gover and Virgil Wade. Gover explained that the Convention provides “a delegate framework to review, revise, and upgrade the Constitution of the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma, with input by citizens.”

The Convention consists of fifty delegates appointed by the Pawnee Business Council, who will be provided with orientation material to prepare for their work; and the Convention process features three forums on July 30, August 27, and October 1st to inform Pawnee citizens about the process and provide them opportunities for input. Regular communications and notices for these events will be posted on Pawnee Nation website, social media, and local media.

President Echo-Hawk stated, “This historic Constitution Convention is a fundamental exercise of self-determination, self-government, and sovereignty.” Butler added, “The Constitution of the Pawnee Nation has not had a comprehensive review for many years. Revisions may be needed to update, upgrade, and strengthen the Constitution in ways that will lead to a better form of government, creating a stronger Nation for future generations.”

The Convention will produce proposed Constitutional amendments that will be submitted to the People for a vote in a Secretarial Election to be called before the end of the year. Butler said, “The Governing Documents Committee thanks the co-moderators and delegates for their service to the Nation and calls upon all citizens to put our minds together at this time--contribute our ideas, concerns, and feedback to strengthen our Nation.”

***Contact Pawnee Nation Communications at 918.762.3621 or [communications@pawneenation.org](mailto:communications@pawneenation.org) for more information.***



**About the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma** - The Pawnee Nation has a long and proud history spanning more than 700 years. Early in the 18th century, more than 60,000 members of the Pawnee Tribe inhabited the area along the North Platt River in Nebraska. The Tribe then, as it is now, was composed of four distinct bands: the Chaui “Grand,” the Kitkehahki “Republican,” the Pitahawirata “Tappage” and the Skidi “Wolf.”

Today, the number of Tribal enrolled members is over 3,200 and Pawnees can be found in all areas of the United States as well as foreign countries within many walks of life. Pawnees take much pride in their ancestral heritage. They are noted in history for their tribal religion rich in symbolism and elaborate rites.