



**Pawnee Nation Governing Documents Committee**  
Quarterly Report to the Pawnee Business Council  
1st Quarter  
January, February, March 2023

**I. COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

The Committee assists in reviewing documents and making recommendations for revisions for Commissions and Boards.

The PN Governing Documents Committee is composed of the following members: Cynthia Butler, Chair; Walter Echo-Hawk, Co-Chair; Denise Miller, Member; Lisa Gover, Member; Joseph Reed, Member; and Victoria Lefthand, Member.

**II. Meetings:**

The Committee met on March 26<sup>th</sup>. All meetings are virtual. The Committee worked on the planning for the Constitution Convention.

**III. Quarterly Goals and Objective:**

a. Description on Activities Conducted

- i. **PN Constitution Convention:** The Committee has been working on the planning for the Convention. The Convention delegates met on January 7 & 28, and on February 11 & 25. Below is the list of current delegates and the meeting minutes from the Convention meetings.

LIST OF DELEGATES FOR THE CONSTITUTION CONVENTION: The list of delegates includes their bands.

Walter Echo-Hawk (Kitkehahki)	Joseph Reed (Chau)
Jordan Kanuho (Chau)	Pat Leading Fox (Skiri)
George Gardipe (Skiri)	Gilbert Beard (Skiri)
Carol Chapman (Skiri)	Bruce Pratt (Skiri)
Cynthia Butler (Skiri)	Electa Redcorn (Pitahawirata)
Dawna Hare (Pitahawirata)	Marcus Barnoskie (Kitkehahki)
Gene Evans (Skiri)	Carol Nuttle (Skiri)
Sammye Kemble (Pitahawirata)	Misty Nuttle (Kitkehahki)
Lisa Gover (Skiri)	Jenifer Littlesun (Skiri)
Victoria LeftHand (Chau)	Meghan Cunningham (Chau)
Denise Miller (Kitkehahki)	Louise Stevens (Skiri)



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Chris McCray (Skiri)

James Rice (Skiri)

Aaron Prim (Skiri)

Janeen SunEagle (Pitahawirat)

We have updated the Convention minutes on the webpage on the Pawnee Nation's website. Please visit the site at <https://pawneenation.org/government/constitution-convention/>.

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**MEETING MINUTES**

**January 1, 2023**

**I. Call to Order**

Chairwoman Cynthia Butler called the meeting to order at 9:42 AM.

**II. Opening Invocation**

Mr. James Rice gave the opening invocation.

**III. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum**

The roll was called to establish a quorum: Aaron Prim – here, Bruce Pratt – here, Carlton Gover – resignation, Carol Chapman – absent, Carol Nuttle – excused, Charles Ruling His Son – absent, Chris McCray – excused, Cliff Shilling – absent, Cynthia Butler – here, David Littlesun – resignation, Dawna Hare – here, Denise Miller – here, Electa Hare – here, arrived at 11:11 am, Gene Evans – here, George Gardipe – here, Gilbert Beard – here, arrived at 1:28 PM, Illiana Vetter – absent, James Rice – here, Jeneen SunEagle – excused, Jenifer Littlesun – here, Jessica Leading Fox – absent, Jordan Kanuho – absent, Joseph Reed – here, Lisa Gover – here, Louise Stevens – excused, Marcus Barnoskie – here, Marcus Frejo – absent, Meghan Cunningham – here, Misty Nuttle – here, Nila Whiteshirt – absent, Pat Leading Fox – absent, Sammye Kemble – absent, Victoria Lefthand – here, arrived at 9:52 AM, and Walter Echo-Hawk – here. **19 Present, 10 Absent, 4 Excused, and 2 Resignations. Quorum is established for the Convention Floor.**

**Present:** Phillip Gover, Jamie Nelson, Chad Smith, Geneva Horsechief

**Guests:** Ella Blackowl and Ramona Horsechief

**IV. Approval of Agenda**

Motion made by Walter Echo-Hawk to approve the agenda for January 7, 2023, seconded by Denise Miller.



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VOTE: 13 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 2 absent. Motion carries.

**V. Approval of Minutes**

**a. PN CC Virtual Meeting December 3, 2022**

Motion made by Denise Miller to approve the Pawnee Nation Constitution Convention Virtual Meeting Minutes for December 3, 2022, seconded by Walter Echo-Hawk.

VOTE: 12 yes, 0 no, 3 abstain and 0 absent. Motion carries.

**VI. New Business**

**a. Update from Workgroups (Article III, Article VII, Article VIII)**

Article III Workgroup: Denise Miller gave a brief update on what the status of the what the workgroup has been working on.

Article VII Workgroup: Lisa Gover an update on the work the workgroup is doing.

Article VIII Workgroup: There was no update for this workgroup. They have not met yet.

The workgroups will be presenting at the next Community forum on January 14<sup>th</sup> to gather more input from the tribal membership.

**b. Discussion and action on Article V – Duties of Officers**

Motion made by James Rice to make revisions to section iv and (iii), seconded by Misty Nuttle.

VOTE: 15 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion Carries.

Motion made by Dawna Hare to move Article V – Duties of Officers to the Convention Floor, seconded by Denise Miller.

VOTE: 14 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain, and 0 absent. Motion carries.

Motion made by Denise Miller to approve Article V – Duties of Officers in its entirety to recommend to the Pawnee people, seconded by Gene Evans.

VOTE: 16 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion Carries.

*Call for a break at 11:14 AM*

*Called the meeting back to order at 11:34 AM*

Establishment of a quorum: 7 in-person, 9 online, quorum established.



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**c. Discussion and action on Article VI – Vacancies**

Motion made by Walter Echo-Hawk to approve Article VI – Vacancies and recommend to the Pawnee people, seconded by Denise Miller.

VOTE: 15 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion carries.

*Call for lunch break at 12:15 PM.*

*Call the meeting back to order at 1:28 PM.*

Establishment of a quorum: 8 in-person, 9 online, quorum established.

**d. Discussion and action on Article IX – Courts**

Motion made by Walter Echo-Hawk to table Article IX – Courts, seconded by Denise Miller.

VOTE: 16 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion carries.

**SECTION 8:**

Motion made by Denise Miller to approve the revisions to Section 8, seconded by Jenifer Gover Littlesun.

VOTE: 10 yes, 5 no, 1 abstain and 0 absent. Motion carries.

**SECTION 6 – Judicial Review:**

Motion made by Walter Echo-Hawk to approve the language revised in Section 6, with further review of the Dawna Hare vs Karla Knife Chief PN Court decision, with the possible further revision(s) after the review to forward to the next Saturday virtual meetings, seconded by Denise Miller.

VOTE: 16 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion carries.

*Call for a 5 minute break at 2:55 PM.*

*Call the meeting back to order at 3:05 PM.*

Quorum established.

**e. Discussion and action on Article X – Bill of Rights**



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Motion made by Walter Echo-Hawk to table Article X – Bill of Rights and move back to the delegates for further discussion, seconded by Aaron Prim.

VOTE: 14 yes, 1 no, 0 abstain, and 0 absent. Motion carries.

**f. Discussion and action on Article XI – Amendments**

VOTE 1:

Yes to keep at 50 – 2

No to do a percentage – 12

1 abstain

VOTE 2:

2% - 13 for, 1 no and 1 abstain

10% - 0

Vote for 2% carries.

VOTE 3:

Yes to keep at 50 or raise to 100 – 4

No to do a percentage – 10

1 abstaining

Vote to do a percentage.

VOTE 4:

4% - 8 yes, 6 no, 1 abstain.

Motion carries for 4%.

Motion made by Jenifer Gover Littlesun to strike approved by and submitted to the Secretary of the PBC, seconded by Denise Miller.

VOTE: 15 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion carries.

Motion made by Denise Miller to accept the language revised in Article XI – Amendments and to move to the Pawnee people, seconded by Jenifer Gover Littlesun.

VOTE: 15 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, and 0 absent. Motion carries.

**g. Discussion and action on Article XII – Meetings**

**h. Discussion and action on Article XIII – Adoption**

**i. Discussion and action on Article XIV – Savings Clause**

**j. Discussion and action on Article XV – Severability**



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**VII. Recess**

Motion made by Jenifer Gover Littlesun to table the remaining Articles and to recess, seconded by Gene Evans.

VOTE: 15 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion carries.

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**MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 28, 2023**

**I. Call to Order**

Walter Echo-Hawk called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

**II. Opening Invocation**

No invocation was given.

**III. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum**

The roll was called to establish a quorum: Aaron Prim – excused, Bruce Pratt – excused, Carol Chapman – absent, Carol Nuttle – excused, Charles Ruling His Son – absent, Chris McCray – excused, Cliff Shilling – absent, Cynthia Butler – excused, Dawna Hare – present, Denise Miller – excused, Electa Hare – absent, Gene Evans – present, George Gardipe – excused, Gilbert Beard – excused, Illiana Vetter – absent, James Rice – present, Jeneen SunEagle – excused, Jenifer Littlesun – excused, Jessica Leading Fox – absent, Jordan Kanuho – absent, Joseph Reed – present, Lisa Gover – present, Louise Stevens – excused, Marcus Barnoskie – present, Marcus Frejo – absent, Meghan Cunningham – excused, Misty Nuttle – excused, Nila Whiteshirt – excused, Pat Leading Fox – absent, Sammye Kemble – absent, Victoria Lefthand – present, and Walter Echo-Hawk – present. **8 Present, 10 Absent, and 12 Excused. No quorum is established.**

Present: Phillip Gover, Virgil Wade and Chad Smith.

NO BUSINESS OF THE PAWNEE NATION CONSTITUTION CONVENTION WAS CONDUCTED DUE TO THE LACK OF A QUORUM. MEETING ENDED AT 10:21 AM.

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**MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 11, 2023**

**I. Call to Order**



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Chairwoman Cynthia Butler called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM.

**II. Opening Invocation**

Ms. Lisa Gover gave the opening invocation.

**III. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum**

The roll was called to establish a quorum: Aaron Prim – present, Bruce Pratt – excused, Carol Chapman – absent, Carol Nuttle – present, Chris McCray – excused, Cynthia Butler – present, David Littlesun – absent, Dawna Hare – present, Denise Miller – present, Electa Hare – absent, Gene Evans – present, George Gardipe – present, Gilbert Beard – excused, James Rice – present, Jeneen SunEagle – present, Jenifer Littlesun – excused, Jessica Leading Fox – absent, Jordan Kanuho – absent, Joseph Reed – excused, Lisa Gover – present, Louise Stevens – present, Marcus Barnoskie – present, Marcus Frejo – absent, Meghan Cunningham – excused, Misty Nuttle – present, Nila Whiteshirt – resigned, Pat Leading Fox – absent, Sammye Kemble – absent, Victoria Lefthand – excused, and Walter Echo-Hawk – present. **14 Present, 8 Absent, 6 Excused, and 1 Resignation. Quorum is established for the Convention Floor.**

**Present:** Phillip Gover, Virgil Wade, and Chad Smith

**IV. Approval of Agenda**

Motion made by Walter Echo-Hawk to approve the agenda for February 11, 2023, seconded by Denise Miller.  
VOTE: 10 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 2 absent. Motion carries.

**V. Approval of Minutes**

**a. PN CC Virtual Meeting January 7, 2023**

Motion made by Denise Miller to approve the Pawnee Nation Constitution Convention Virtual Meeting Minutes for January 28, 2023, seconded by James Rice.  
VOTE: 9 yes, 0 no, 2 abstain and 2 absent. Motion carries.

**b. PN CC Virtual Meeting January 28, 2023**

No official vote, consensus of the delegates was to table the meeting minutes for January 28.



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**VI. New Business**

**a. Discussion and action on Rescheduling the Community Forum**

The delegates had discussion to have the next Community forum on March 4<sup>th</sup> and topics of discussion will be from the workgroups work on Articles III, VII and VIII.

**b. Discussion and action on Article III – Membership**

Discussion on task and purpose of the Membership workgroup. The delegates discussed expanding the scope and have the workgroup bring forward revisions based on their research.

Motion made by Carol Nuttle to expand the scope of the workgroup (Article III – Membership) with the charge to develop language for the Article to be ready by the February 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, seconded by Denise Miller.

VOTE: 10 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain, and 0 absent. Motion carries.

*Call for a 10-minute break at 10:25 AM and return at 10:35 AM.  
Called the meeting back to order at 10:37 AM.*

**c. Discussion and action on Article VIII – Nasharo Council**

Update from Denise Miller and Misty Nuttle on what the workgroup has been working on so far. There was mention of a survey that will be circulated by the workgroup to gather information. Discussion only, no action taken.

**d. Discussion and action on Article VII – Forfeiture, Suspension, Recall, Removal**

Update from Ms. Lisa Gover and Ms. Carol Nuttle. Discussion only, no action.

**e. Discussion and action on Article IX – Courts**

**f. Discussion and action on Article X – Bill of Rights**

Motion made by Carol Nuttle to table the remainder of the agenda (Articles IX and X) until the next meeting, seconded by Denise Miller.





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VOTE: 10 yes, 1 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion carries.

**VII. Open Forum**

The delegates had discussion on non-active members (delegates) of the convention and decided to send out the notices of removal per the rules of the convention.

The Governing Documents Committee will send out an updated calendar to the delegates.

**VIII. Recess**

Motion made by Cynthia Butler to recess, seconded by Lisa Gover.

VOTE: 11 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion carries to recess at 12:23 PM.

The closing prayer was given by Mr. Virgil Wade.

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**MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 25, 2023**

**VIII. Call to Order**

Chairwoman Cynthia Butler called the meeting to order at 9:07 AM.

**IX. Opening Invocation**

Chief Gilbert Beard gave the opening invocation.

**X. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum**

The roll was called to establish a quorum: Aaron Prim – present, Bruce Pratt – present, Carol Chapman – absent, Carol Nuttle – present, Chris McCray – present, Cynthia Butler – present, Dawna Hare – excused, Denise Miller – present, Electa Hare – present, Gene Evans – present, George Gardipe – excused, Gilbert Beard – present, James Rice – present, Jeneen SunEagle – excused, Jenifer Littlesun – excused, Jordan Kanuho – absent, Joseph Reed – absent, Lisa Gover – present, Louise Stevens – present, Marcus Barnoskie – present, Meghan Cunningham – excused, Misty Nuttle – excused, Pat Leading Fox – absent, Sammye Kemble – excused, Victoria Lefthand – present, and



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Walter Echo-Hawk – present. **15 Present, 4 Absent, and 7 Excused. Quorum is established.**

**Present:** Virgil Wade and Chad Smith

**XI. Approval of Agenda**

Motion made by Denise Miller to approve the agenda for February 25, 2023, seconded by Gene Evans.

VOTE: 14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion carries.

**XII. Approval of Minutes**

**a. PN Constitution Convention Virtual Meeting January 28, 2023**

Motion made by Denise Miller to approve the Pawnee Nation Constitution Convention Virtual Meeting for January 28, 2023, seconded by Victoria LeftHand.

VOTE: 8 yes, 0 no, 5 abstain and 2 absent. Motion carries.

**b. PN Constitution Convention Virtual Meeting February 11, 2023**

Motion made by Denise Miller to table the Pawnee Nation Constitution Convention Virtual Meeting for February 11, 2023, seconded by Lisa Gover.

VOTE: 15 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion carries.

**XIII. New Business**

**a. Discussion and action on Article IX – Courts**

The delegates had discussion on Section 6, Judicial Review.

Motion made by Denise Miller to approve the revisions to Article IX – Courts and recommend to move the article to the Convention Floor, seconded by Lisa Gover.

VOTE: 15 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain and 0 absent. Motion carries.

**b. Discussion and action on Article X – Bill of Rights**



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The discussion had by the delegates was to take out Section 4, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph and Section 6 sentence to move to duties. Continued discussion on the article and review of court case Hare vs Knife Chief.

Motion made by Lisa Gover to table Article X – Bill of Rights until the next meeting, seconded by.

VOTE: 8 yes, 0 no, 5 abstain and 2 absent. Motion carries.

*Call for a break at 10:33 AM and resume at 10:45 AM.  
Reconvene meeting at 10:45 AM.*

**c. Discussion, Update and/or Action on Article III – Membership**

Discussion from the delegates on the workgroup were to do another survey with more specific questions concerning membership. Chief Beard made the suggestion and mentioned that the Skidi Band will be scheduling their meeting on Membership.

Once the survey is developed/created, we will get it posted and sent out to the Pawnee membership.

**d. Discussion, Update and/or Action on Article VII – Forfeiture, Suspension, Recall, Removal**

Ms. Lisa Gover and Ms. Carol Nuttle went over suggested revisions for Article VII – Forfeiture, Suspension, Recall, Removal, that will be presented at the community forum on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

**e. Discussion, Update and/or Action on Article VIII – Nasharo Council**

Update from Denise Miller on Article VIII – Nasharo Council. Suggestion from the workgroup is to do a survey and possibly add a new section number and return the provision of Nasharo oversight of the PBC actions and performance.

**XIV. Open Forum**

The delegates had discussion on the meeting schedule (calendar of events) moving forward. The following dates were decided on by consensus of the delegates.

March 11, 2023 – Virtual Meeting. Topics of discussion: Nasharo Council, Forfeiture/Removal, Membership and Bill of Rights.



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April 1, 2023 – Convention Floor, In-Person Meeting

April 15, 2023 – Virtual Meeting.

**XV. Recess**

Motion made by Carol Nuttle to recess, seconded by James Rice.

VOTE: 12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion carries to recess at 12:37 PM.

Closing prayer was given by Denise Miller.

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The Convention Delegates also coordinated a public forum for the Pawnee Tribal Community. The forum scheduled for January 14<sup>th</sup> was rescheduled to March 4<sup>th</sup> due to a tribal passing.

Below are the Articles that were worked on during the first quarter.

**Article V – Duties of Officers:**

**Section 1.** The President shall preside at all meetings of the Pawnee Business Council, joint meetings of the Pawnee Business Council and the Nasharo Council, and all general meetings and shall vote only in the case of a tie. The President shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Pawnee Business Council, **and in this capacity the President shall exercise the charge and have the responsibility for ensuring that the Pawnee Business Council's decisions are carried out properly**, and shall perform all duties pertaining to the office of the President. The President shall administer oaths and affirmations when required or permitted. The President shall be bonded.

**Section 2.** In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall perform the duties of that office. In the case of vacancy, the Vice-President shall succeed at once to the office of the President. The Vice-President shall be bonded.

**Section 3.** The Secretary shall, be responsible for the following duties:

- (i) Record the proceedings of all meetings of the Pawnee Business Council and Nasharo Council, and all special meetings as assigned by the Pawnee Business Council.
- (ii) Prepare the agenda for meetings of the Pawnee Business Council.
- (iii) Maintain all records and files of the Pawnee Business Council. All records and files of the Pawnee Business Council, except such records as shall be explicitly made exempt by law, shall be public information to any member of the Pawnee Nation ~~of Oklahoma~~.
- (iv) Maintain the Pawnee Nation ~~of Oklahoma~~ official membership roll.
- (v) Attest to enactments of the Pawnee Business Council.



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- (vi) In absence of the President and Vice-President, call to order regular and special meetings of the Pawnee Business Council until a Chairman pro tem is selected.
- (vii) Perform the duties of the Treasurer, in the absence of the Treasurer.
- (viii) The Secretary shall be bonded.

**Section 4.** The Treasurer shall, be responsible for the following duties:

- (i) Receive funds from all sources for which the Pawnee Business Council is held accountable, and maintain financial records which shall reflect actual receipts and disbursements of all funds and which shall reflect the financial position of the Pawnee Nation ~~of Oklahoma.~~
- (ii) Deposit funds from any and all sources for which the Pawnee Business Council is held accountable in an insured bank or other approved financial institution.
- (iii) ~~Disburse by check, the funds from any and all funds for which the Pawnee Business Council.~~ Disburse funds for the Pawnee Business Council. ~~All checks shall be signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by the President.~~
- (iv) An annual independent audit of all funds for which the Pawnee Business Council is held accountable.
- (v) Present financial status reports and budget reports as determined by the Pawnee Business Council.
- (vi) Perform the duties of Secretary, in the absence of Secretary.
- (vii) The Treasurer shall be bonded.

**Article VI – Vacancies:** *No changes made to Article.*

**Section 1.** - In the event of Presidential vacancy, the Vice-President shall temporarily vacate their office and fulfill the duties of the office of President until another president is elected by a majority of Pawnee tribal voters in a specially called election. The Business Council shall elect from the current council membership a Temporary Vice President to serve until the next President is elected by a majority of Pawnee tribal voters in a specially called election, at which time the Temporary Vice President shall return to his/her previous position.

**Section 2.** – If the offices of President and Vice President are vacant the Treasurer shall temporarily vacate their office and fulfill the duties of President and the secretary shall temporarily vacate their office and fulfill the duties of Vice President. The Business Council shall elect from the current council membership a Temporary Treasurer and a Temporary Secretary until the next President and Vice President are elected by a majority of Pawnee tribal voters in a specially called election, at which time the Temporary Treasurer and Temporary Secretary shall return to their previous position.

**Section 3.** – If the offices of President, Vice President, and Treasurer are vacant the Secretary shall temporarily vacate their office and fulfill the duties of the President. The Business Council shall elect from the current council membership a Temporary



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Vice President, Temporary Treasurer, and Temporary Secretary until the next President, Vice President, and Treasurer are elected by a majority of Pawnee tribal voters in a specially called election, at which time the Temporary Vice President, Temporary Treasurer and Temporary Secretary shall return to their previous position.

**Section 4.** – Notwithstanding Article 4 Section 5, if four or more positions are vacant a quorum shall consist of all of the remaining members. If all officer positions are vacant any remaining council members may call a special Business Council meeting, at which that council member shall chair and the council shall elect officers.

**Section 5.** – If a vacancy occurs in a First, Second, Third, or Fourth Business Council member position before the last six months of a term, it shall be filled by a majority of Pawnee member voters in a specially called election.

**Section 6.** – If a vacancy occurs in a First, Second, Third, or Fourth Business Council member position in the latter six month of that term, that position shall remain vacant until the next general election.

**Section 7.** – If a vacancy occurs in any Business Council position in the six months prior to a general election, the specially called election shall be held with the general election.

**Section 8.** – Any successful candidate who is elected in a special election shall serve only the remaining term of that vacant position.

**Section 9.** – Unless section 6 & 7 apply, the election Board shall set and conduct a special election within 60 days but not before 30 days after a position is vacant.

**Section 10.** – A position is vacant when:

- (i) Subject to an effective date, a resignation is received in writing by the Office of the president
- (ii) Vacant pursuant to Article VII, Section One
- (iii) Death
- (iv) Recall
- (v) Removal
- (vi) A suspension is imposed under Section 3, in which case a specially called election is not required if the Business Council finds that suspension is likely to be resolved within six months. If the Business Council finds that the suspension is likely to be longer than six months, they may call a special election. If the suspension is removed, the person elected in the special election shall step down and the suspended Business Council Member shall retake their position.

**Article IX – Courts:**

**Section 1. Establishment of Authority** - The judicial power of the Pawnee Nation ~~of Oklahoma~~ shall be vested in the ~~current~~ Pawnee Nation Courts established by ~~this article Resolution 93-65~~ and shall consist of five Justices and at least one trial court, known as the District Court, and additional courts as may be established by tribal law. ~~The courts shall be a separate branch of government. (moved to section 7)~~



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**Section 2. Jurisdiction** – The Courts of the Pawnee Nation ~~of Oklahoma~~ shall be courts of general jurisdiction and shall further have jurisdiction in all cases arising under the constitution, laws, and treaties of the Pawnee Nation ~~of Oklahoma~~. The Supreme Court shall have original jurisdiction in only such cases as may be provided by law, and shall have appellate jurisdiction in all other cases.

**Section 3. Selection of Judicial Officers** – The Justices of the Supreme Court and Judges of District Courts shall be selected by a majority vote of the Business Council. Justices and Judges may by Supreme Court rule assume the duties of a member of the other court to hear a specific case in which the regular Justices or Judges are disqualified or are otherwise unable to perform their duty as to the case.

**Section 4. Term of Office** – The Justices and Judges of the Pawnee Nation ~~of Oklahoma~~ shall serve six-year terms beginning at the date of their confirmation in office and continuing if reconfirmed or until their successor shall be duly confirmed and installed.

**Section 5. Removal** – Justices and Judges of the Pawnee Nation ~~of Oklahoma~~ may be removed from office only by a majority of the other active Justices and Judges sitting together upon a showing of habitual neglect of the duties of office, oppression in office for personal gain or advantage, or for cause as defined in ~~Article VII~~, Section 4(iv), ~~D~~. In no case may a judicial officer be removed from office because of ~~their his~~ decision in any case before the Court.

**Section 6. Judicial Review** – The Courts are specifically authorized to review, in any case properly before them, the actions of the Business Council, or any other officers, agents, or employees of the government of the Pawnee Nation ~~of Oklahoma~~ to determine whether those actions are prohibited by Federal law, this Constitution or the laws of the Pawnee Nation ~~of Oklahoma~~. ~~If the action complained of is outside the scope of authority delegated to entity in question, or if a proper authority is being exercised in a prohibited manner,~~ The Court may enter an injunction or other proper equitable relief or declare the action unconstitutional and void as justice may require.

**Section 7. ~~Effective date, Interim Provisions~~ Separation of Powers** – ~~This article shall be effective upon approval in accord with Article X.~~ The courts shall be a separate branch of government. The Business Council shall ~~thereafter~~ have the authority to enact such laws as may be necessary for the full and proper functioning of the Courts of the Pawnee Nation ~~of Oklahoma~~ not inconsistent with this article. All ~~existing current~~ laws regarding courts shall remain in effect and as amended to the extent that they do not conflict with this Constitution.

**Section 8. Court Funding** – The Court shall be funded ~~in a reasonable amount~~ in the annual budget ~~in an amount equal to or exceeding funding from the previous fiscal year~~.

- ~~1. Court funding shall be equal to or exceed funding for fiscal year 2007.~~
2. In the event that overall funding shortfalls require budget cuts, the court budget may be reduced but proportionately not more than any other ~~department branch~~.



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**Article XI – Amendments:**

Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by a majority vote of the Pawnee Business Council or by a petition signed by at least ~~two percent (2%)~~~~fifty (50)~~ of the adult ~~members~~~~citizens~~ of the Pawnee Nation ~~of Oklahoma~~.

This Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the qualified voters of the Pawnee Nation voting in an election called for that purpose by the ~~Pawnee Business Council~~ ~~Secretary of Interior~~ and conducted pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Pawnee Nation ~~of Oklahoma~~. Provided, that, at least ~~four percent (4%)~~~~fifty (50)~~ of those qualified to vote shall cast ballots in such election. The amendment shall become effective when the ~~vote is certified by the Election Commission and submitted to the Secretary of the Pawnee Business Council.~~ ~~approved by the Secretary of Interior, so long as such approval is required by Federal law, and ratified by the adult members of the Nation.~~

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ii. **PN Governing Documents Scholarship Program:** The Committee will be getting ready to send out the updated application for the Fall 2023 scholarship.

b. Objectives for Next Quarter

- i. Continue with planning of the Constitution Convention
- ii. To complete the Codification of Pawnee Laws (PBC Resolution #20-101)
- iii. Fundraise for the Scholarship Program
- iv. Continue the review for revisions to governing documents

**IV. Financial Reporting**

The financial report is recorded in the comprehensive report.