



JENNY'S NEWS SPECIAL REPORT ON ELECTION PROCESS

BILL NUMBER ONCA 08-27

September 25, 2008

An Act

To govern the conduct of Osage Nation elections, including elections for Principal Chief, Assistant Principal Chief, Congress, elections for the retention of Judges of the Osage Judiciary, and other elections required by law.

Line 256	Section 2.1 OSAGE NATION ELECTION BOARD	Part B -- # 8
<p>The Election Board is to obtain the services of an Election Supervisor of the Osage Nation Election Board. The Election Supervisor will serve at the pleasure of the Osage Nation Election Board. NOTE: Today is January 7, 2010. There are only five (5) full months until the election. An Election Board Supervisor has not been hired as of this date. You'll notice below, Part C, #4 of this Act states: The Election Supervisor shall be a contract position, and shall serve for 6 months prior to a General Election and at other times as necessary to fulfill the requirements of this Act.</p>		

Line 285	Section 2.1 OSAGE NATION ELECTION BOARD	Part C -- #3
<p>The Election Supervisor, after consultation with the Legislative Services division of Congress or its equivalent, shall prepare ballot titles and propositions summarizing proposed laws, accept and certify applications of Initiative, Referendum and Recall, and prepare statements of purpose and captions for amendments to the Constitution initiated by petition. NOTE: This means that if the Osage citizens wish to file a petition to recall an elected official or to submit a petition for a Constitutional Amendment and have such an action placed on the 2010 ballot for an up or down vote by the people, the Election Supervisor would be the person in charge of such an action.</p>		

Line 290	Section 2.1 OSAGE NATION ELECTION BOARD	Part C --#4
<p>The Election Supervisor shall receive petitions for constitutional amendments, recall petitions, initiative petitions, referendum petitions, and other petitions as described in the Osage Constitution. Upon receipt, the Election Supervisor shall promptly assess the validity of such petitions. If said petitions are found valid and sufficient to meet the requirements of Osage law and the Osage constitution, they shall be certified by the Election Supervisor and submitted to the Board for approval within 5 days of certification. The Election Supervisor shall be a contract position and shall serve for 6 months prior to a General Election and at other times as necessary to fulfill the requirements of this Act. NOTE: In order to fulfill this Act of law within the Osage Nation Constitution, the Election Supervisor would have had to have been hired on or about the first Tuesday of December 2009.</p>		



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ELECTION BOARD & ELECTION INFORMATION Posted January 6, 2010 Osage Nation Website

<i>CONTACT INFORMATION</i>		
Delores Davis	Chief Clerk	918-287-5286
Sarah Oberly	Chairperson	918-724-8750
Walter Hopper, Jr.	Vice-Chairperson	918-724-8748
Joe Conner	Board Member	918-724-8747
Shannon Lockett	Alternate	918-724-8749
Physical Address	532 Kihekah, Pawhuska, OK 74056	Office Hours 8:00 – 4:30 (5 days)

Note: You may e-mail these people by going to the website and clicking on *Contact Us*. There is no fax number available on the website at this time. <http://www.osagetribe.com/electionboard/>

<i>2010 ELECTION DATE SET</i>		
Tuesday, June 7, 2010	8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Council Office Bldg.

Who is Eligible to Vote?

Election Code ONCA 08-27:

Line 319—SECTION 3.1. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA & CONDITIONS

- A. Any qualified voter shall be permitted to vote in Osage Nation Elections.
- B. Disqualifications: RESERVED (for the board?)

Line 322--SECTION 3.2. OSAGE VOTER REGISTRY

A. The Board shall maintain a permanent roll of qualified voters known as the Osage Voter Registry, and shall regularly update such roll from Membership records of the Osage Nation. The Osage Voter Registry shall include all enrolled members of the Osage Nation eighteen (18) years of age or older who have been issued an Osage Nation Membership Card on or after October 9, 2002 bearing the signature of a Principal Chief of the Osage Tribe or Nation. The frequency of updates shall be increased in any period preceding an election in order to ensure the maximum number of Osage citizens have the opportunity to vote.

Membership Cards

To ensure that you are on the Osage Voter Registry, check your cards to make sure it meets the qualifications. If you need to update your address information and send it in to the Membership Office – see the attached applications for your convenience. You can save them to your files or print them directly.-----If you have questions regarding your membership status, call the Membership office: 918-287-5390 or 800-818-6517.



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Absentee Ballots

NOTE: Since the filing period for candidates does not begin until March 15 and goes through April 1, 2010, absentee ballots cannot be made available until all candidates have filed.

It would be wise to go ahead and request an absentee ballot Application today and I would strongly urge you to send your request to the Election Board Supervisor (of which we don't have yet), certified/return receipt and keep copies of all correspondence regarding this matter for your records.

According to ONCA 08-27, (the Election Code), the Board Chair is to assume the position of Supervisor until a Supervisor is hired. The Board Chair is Sarah Oberly. Perhaps it would be wise to address your request to Sarah Oberly, Acting Election Board Supervisor, 532 Kihekah, Pawhuska, OK 74056.

If you have questions regarding this matter, Sarah's telephone is available to you on page 2 of this document.

How to Request an Absentee Ballot

You have to make application for an Absentee Ballot.

How to get an application for an Absentee Ballot:

- (1) Must provide a photo ID
- (2) Pick up an Application at the Election Board office
532 Kihekah
Pawhuska, Oklahoma
- (3) Send a request for an application to the Election Board
Supervisor along with a copy of a photo ID
- (4) Fax a request and copy of a photo ID to the Board Supervisor
(No fax number available at this time).

DEADLINE

Absentee ballot **Applications** shall be accepted until 20 days prior election day. (June 7, 2010) **BUT REMEMBER!** You must go through the application process first. If you haven't completed this step, you most likely will not receive a ballot in time to meet this deadline. Making application and receiving a ballot are two very different things.

I would once again encourage you send your request in today and to make a copy of it with the date it was mailed. Keep this for your records. Keep a watch out for the application in your mail. Once you receive the application, complete it and send it back Certified/Return Receipt. This will ensure that your application was received and you should expect to receive your ballot without question once they are made available.



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The deadline for getting your marked ballot in is 10:00 a.m. on June 7, 2010. Don't delay until the last minute if you can help it. Mark your ballot and send it back as soon as possible. This is one of the perks of voting absentee, you get to vote early! Make sure your voice is heard by having your vote counted!

NOTE: This information was processed from the Osage Nation Election Board website, ONCA 08-27 and my views on the matter. This effort to outline and clarify facts and information for the reader is a courtesy of the Jenny M. Miller campaign. For your convenience, I have attached membership application forms for change of address, a general card application and lost card application. Also for your review is the Election Code Law, ONCA 08-27.

I ask that you visit www.jenny2010.com to become informed and stay informed on the issues of the Osage government.

EXTRA NOTE ON HEALTH BENEFIT CARDS: This information was posted on the Osage News website on December 17, 2009 by Shannon Shaw:

The negotiations with MAA delayed the contract's completion but MAA has since signed the contract and tribal officials are working with MAA to complete the applications as soon as possible, said Matt McDonald, Osage Nation Executive Branch legal counsel.

The applications will be mailed to the address that the Nation's CDIB office has on file for each tribal member. Once tribal members receive their applications they are to fill them out and send them back to MAA. Once MAA receives the completed application they will process it and send the tribal member an encoded debit card worth \$500.