

# Cheyenne, Arapaho officials ask agencies to monitor vote

## Tribes Ballot tampering, fraud suspected in election

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**BY VALLERY BROWN**

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Representatives for the [Cheyenne](#) and Arapaho Tribes have requested outside agencies monitor upcoming primary elections for possible fraud.

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Amber Bighorse, lead staff attorney for the tribes' legislature, said tribal representatives and candidates running against incumbent [Gov. Darrell Flyingman](#) expect ballot tampering and fraud, in particular with absentee ballots. Primary elections are Tuesday.

Five representatives from the eight-member legislature sent letters to the [Carter Center](#), a human rights organization founded by [President Jimmy Carter](#).

They also requested help from [United Nations](#) in the ballot monitoring process, Bighorse said.

The Carter Center denied the request to monitor elections, but Bighorse said appeals have also been made to the [Native American Rights Fund](#).

"Absentee ballots could win the election," said [Joyce Wood](#), campaign manager for [Janice Boswell](#) and [Leslie Wandrie](#).

Boswell and Wandrie are seeking the governor and lieutenant governor seats, respectively.

Calls to Flyingman were not returned Friday.

Wood said they are particularly concerned that returned absentee ballots sent back because of bad addresses could be tampered with.

The tribe has seen its share of turmoil in recent years. Tribal members in 2007 voted twice to recall Flyingman. Both votes were overturned by the tribal court because of violations in election proceedings.

In 2007, the [Federal Indian Gaming Commission](#) audited an estimated \$50 million of the tribes' gaming revenues and a tribal official in January was convicted of embezzling more than \$100,000.

Two tribal officials were also indicted in 2008 by a federal grand jury on 26 counts of embezzlement and conspiracy.

"We want transparency," Bighorse said. "In all parts of our government, from the courts, the election boards and the executive branch."

Bighorse said the tribes are caught up in lawsuits stemming from bad leadership. The tribe is losing money, and tribal members are losing faith in the system, she said.

"We can't move forward and make progress unless we have a legitimate government," Bighorse said. "Fair, impartial elections is where we have to start."

Read more: <http://newsok.com/cheyenne-arapaho-officials-ask-agencies-to-monitor-vote/article/3405955#ixzz0SrtPYyU8>