

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE SENECA-CAYUGA NATION**  
Approved April 26, 1937

**PREAMBLE**

We, the Seneca-Cayuga Indians of Oklahoma, sometimes designated as the Seneca Tribe, in order to take the advantage of the opportunities of economic independence and social advancement offered by the Thomas Rogers Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act of June 26, 1936, do hereby amend our present Constitution and Bylaws and do adopt the following Constitution and Bylaws pursuant to that Act.

**ARTICLE I - NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the Seneca-Cayuga Nation.

And any place within the Constitution and By-laws of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation that refers to "The Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma" or "Seneca-Cayuga Tribe" or "Seneca-Cayuga" shall be replaced with "Seneca-Cayuga Nation" or any place the word "Tribe" is referenced, it shall be changed to "Nation". 4g/

**ARTICLE II - OBJECT**

The object shall be to promote the general welfare of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation.

**ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP OF THE NATION**

The membership of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation shall consist of all persons of Indian blood whose names appear on the official census roll of the Nation as of January 1, 1937, and their lineal descendants. 5c/

**ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL**

The supreme governing body of the Nation shall be the Seneca-Cayuga General Council. The membership of the General Council shall be all members of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation eighteen (18) years of age and older. 1a/3d/

**ARTICLE V - OFFICERS**

The Officers of the Nation shall be the Chief, Second Chief, Secretary-Treasurer, and four (4) Councilmen who shall be elected by secret ballot. 3e/

- 1a/ Amended January 28, 1973 -- First of three amendments
- 3d/ Amended October 15, 1990 -- Second of four amendments
- 3e/ Amended October 15, 1990 -- Third of four amendments
- 4g/ Amended May 15, 2014 -- Fourth of four amendments
- 5c/ Amended April 14, 2023 -- Third of five amendments

## **ARTICLE VI – BUSINESS COMMITTEES**

There shall be a Business Committee which shall consist of the officers and councilmen as provided in Article V.

The Business Committee shall have the power to transact business and otherwise speak or act on behalf of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation in all matters on which the Nation is empowered to act. 3c/

## **ARTICLE VII – STANDING COMMITTEES**

Section 1. Grievance Committee – This Committee shall be elected by the Council and shall not include any members of the Business Committee.

Section 2. Credit Committee – This Credit Committee shall be chosen by the Business Committee and shall act under the supervision of the Business Committee.

Section 3. Welfare Committee – This Committee shall be chosen in the same manner as the Credit Committee.

Section 4. Education Committee – This Committee likewise shall be chosen in the same manner as the Credit Committee.

## **ARTICLE VIII – ANNUAL MEETINGS**

Annual meetings shall be held on the first Saturday of June of each year for the purpose of receiving reports and any other business which may come before the Council. Election of officers will also be held at such annual meetings. In order to provide for staggered terms of office, the Second-Chief, Secretary-Treasurer, Second Councilperson and Fourth Councilperson shall be elected; and two years later, the Chief, First Councilperson and Third Councilperson shall be elected. All officers are elected for a four (4) year term of office and shall serve until the earlier of the installation of his/her duly elected successor or sixty (60) days after the expiration of the officer's current four-year term. Regular elections of the Business Committee shall be held pursuant to a Nation election ordinance prescribed by the Business Committee. 2a/3f/3g/5e/

## **ARTICLE IX – VACANCIES**

Vacancies in any elective office shall be filled at any regular or special meeting of the Seneca-Cayuga Council.

- 3c/ Amended October 15, 1990 - - First of four amendments
- 2a/ Amended February 11, 1985 - - First of two amendments
- 3f/ Amended October 15, 1990 - - Fourth of four amendments
- 3g/ Amended May 15, 2014 - - Third of four amendments
- 5e/ Amended April 14, 2023 - - Fifth of five amendments

## **ARTICLE X – REMOVAL OF OFFICERS**

The Grievance Committee shall investigate complaints of misconduct or other acts of the members of the Business Committee and upon a proper showing shall call a special meeting of the Seneca-Cayuga Council to act upon such complaints. Such council shall have power, by majority vote, after giving the accused a hearing, to remove him from office and proceed to elect a successor.

## **ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to this Constitution and the attached Bylaws may be proposed by a majority vote of the Business Committee or by a petition signed by 30 percent of the adult members of the Nation, and if approved by the Secretary of the Interior shall be submitted to a referendum vote of the members of the Nation, and shall be effective if approved by a majority vote.

## **ARTICLE XII – BILL OF RIGHTS**

All members of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation shall be accorded equal protection of the law under this constitution. No member shall be denied any of the rights or guarantees enjoyed by citizens under the Constitution of the United States, including, but not limited to, freedom of religion and conscience, freedom of speech, the right to orderly association or assembly, the right to petition for action or the redress of grievances, and due process of law. The protection guaranteed to persons by Title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (82 Stat. 77), against actions of an Indian entity in the exercise of its powers of self-government shall apply to the members of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation. 1c/

## **BY – LAWS**

### **ARTICLE I – DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

Section 1. Chief – It shall be the duty of the chief to preside at all meetings and perform all duties appertaining to the office, also to act as chairman of the Business Committee.

Section 2. Second Chief – In the absence of the chief, the second chief shall perform the duties of that officer. In case of vacancy, the second chief shall succeed at once to the office of the chief until the next special or regular election for the office of chief.

**Section 3. Secretary-Treasurer** – The Secretary-Treasurer shall correctly record the proceedings of all meetings. He shall make out the order of the business for the chief, shall notify all committees of their appointments, shall have custody of the records and all papers of the Council, which records and papers shall be open to inspection at any time, in his presence, by any members of the Council desiring to read them. He shall keep a correct list of all members of the Council, shall authenticate all accounts or orders of the council and, in the absence of the chief and second chief, shall call the meeting to order until a chairman pro tem is selected. He shall render a written report at the annual meeting and at the expiration of his term of office the records and all papers in his possession shall be turned over to his successor. He shall issue notices of all meetings and conduct all general correspondence, as directed by the council or the Business Committee. He shall receive all moneys of the council and keep an accurate account of receipts and disbursements.

The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep all Nation moneys entrusted to his care in a special account and all disbursements therefrom should be made by check. At any time that such account shall amount to more than \$50.00, he shall file a bond satisfactory to the Business Committee and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. The cost of such bond shall be paid out of Nation's moneys.

## **ARTICLE II – QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFICERS**

Any person elected to membership in the business council shall be not less than 25 years of age, a member of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation and reside within a radius of 150 miles in any direction from Bassett Grove Stomp Grounds. 1b/

## **ARTICLE III – REGULAR AND SPECIAL MEETINGS**

**Section 1.** The regular meetings of the Council shall be held on the first Saturday of June each year at the Bassett Grove Ceremonial Grounds, unless some other point under the Seneca-Cayuga Nation jurisdiction is specifically designated in the call. 2b/

**Section 2.** Special meetings of the council may be called by the Chief, and shall be called by him upon the written request of the majority of the Business Committee or the written request of One-hundred fifty (150) members of the Nation. 2g/5b/

**Section 3.** The principle object of the special meeting must be stated in the call for same and may include the words “and for the transaction of other business that may be presented.” Unless these words are added, no other business can be transacted except for the object stated in the call.

**Section 4.** The regular meetings of the Business Committee shall be held the first Tuesday in each month unless otherwise provided by resolution.

1b/ Amended January 28, 1973 -- Second of three amendments

2b/ Amended February 11, 1985 -- Second of two amendments

2g/ Amended May 15, 2014 -- Second of four amendments

5b/ Amended April 14, 2023 -- Second of five amendments

Section 5. Special meetings of the Business Committee may be called by the Chief at his discretion and shall be called by him upon the written request of three members of the Business Committee.

Section 6. All meetings of the General Council and Business Committee shall be conducted pursuant to the most current version of Roberts Rules of Order, as applied by an experienced parliamentarian who may or may not be a member of the Nation. 5d/

#### ARTICLE IV – QUORUM

Section 1. Four members of the Business Committee constitutes a quorum at any meeting.

Section 2. One hundred fifty (150) members of the Seneca-Cayuga Council shall constitute a quorum to transact regular business. 5a/

#### ARTICLE V – ADOPTION

This Constitution and By-laws shall be effective when approved by the Secretary of the Interior and ratified by a majority vote of the Indians of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation voting at an election called by the Secretary of the Interior under regulations which he may prescribe pursuant to Section 3 of the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act of June 26, 1936.

5d/ Amended April 14, 2023 - - Fourth of five amendments

5a/ Amended April 14, 2023 - - First of five amendments

#### CERTIFICATION OF ADOPTION

Pursuant to an order, approved April 26, 1937, by the Secretary of the Interior, the attached Constitution and By-laws was submitted for ratification to the members of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe and was on May 15, 1937, duly ratified by a vote of 186 for, and none against, in an election in which over 20 percent of those entitled to vote cast their ballots, pursuant to Section 3 of the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act of June 26, 1936 (Pub., No. 816, 74<sup>th</sup> Cong.)

Thomas Armstrong, Chief, Seneca-Cayuga Tribe

Grover C. Splitlog, Secretary-Treasurer, Seneca-Cayuga Tribe

H.A. Andrews, Superintendent

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I, Harold L. Ickes, the Secretary of the Interior of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority granted me by the Act of June 26, 1936 (Pub., No. 816, 74<sup>th</sup> Cong.), do hereby approve the attached Constitution and By-laws of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma.

All rules and regulations heretofore promulgated by the Interior Department or by the Office of Indian Affairs, so far as they may be incompatible with any of the provisions of the said Constitution and By-laws are hereby declared inapplicable to the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma.

All officers and employees of the Interior Department are ordered to abide by the provisions of the said Constitution and By-laws.

Approval recommended April 20, 1937.

John Collier, Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior  
(Seal)

Washington, D.C., April 26, 1937



**United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Eastern Oklahoma Region  
Miami Agency  
Seneca-Cayuga Nation Secretarial Election Board  
Post Office Box 511  
Miami, Oklahoma 74355**

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF  
THE SENECA-CAYUGA NATION  
SECRETARIAL ELECTION  
CERTIFICATE OF RESULTS OF ELECTION**

Under a Secretarial Election authorized by Tracie Williamson, Acting Regional Director, Eastern Oklahoma Region, Bureau of Indian Affairs, on February 17, 2023, the attached Amendments, designated as Proposed Amendment 1 – First of Five Amendments; Proposed Amendment 2 – Second of Five Amendments; Proposed Amendment 3 – Third of Five Amendments; Proposed Amendment 4 – Fourth of Five Amendments and Proposed Amendment 5 – Fifth of Five Amendments, to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation, were submitted to the Registered Voters of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation on April 14, 2023.

Proposed Amendment 1 – First of Five Amendments was duly adopted/rejected by a vote of 254 for and 44 against and 0 cast ballots found spoiled in an Election in which at least 30 percent of the 298 Registered Voters cast their ballot in accordance with Section 3 of the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act of June 26, 1936 (49 Stat. 1967), as amended.

Proposed Amendment 2 – Second of Five Amendments was duly adopted/rejected by a vote of 228 for and 70 against and 0 cast ballots found spoiled in an Election in which at least 30 percent of the 298 Registered Voters cast their ballot in accordance with Section 3 of the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act of June 26, 1936 (49 Stat. 1967), as amended.

Proposed Amendment 3 – Third of Five Amendments was duly adopted/rejected by a vote of 244 for and 54 against and 0 cast ballots found spoiled in an Election in which at least 30 percent of the 298 Registered Voters cast their ballot in accordance with Section 3 of the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act of June 26, 1936 (49 Stat. 1967), as amended.

Proposed Amendment 4 – Fourth of Five Amendments was duly adopted/rejected by a vote of 189 for and 109 against and 0 cast ballots found spoiled in an Election in which at least 30 percent of the 298 Registered Voters cast their ballot in accordance with Section 3 of the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act of June 26, 1936 (49 Stat. 1967), as amended.

Proposed Amendment 5 – Fifth of Five Amendments was duly adopted/rejected by a vote of 222 for and 76 against and 0 cast ballots found spoiled in an Election in which at least 30 percent of the 298 Registered Voters cast their ballot in accordance with Section 3 of the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act of June 26, 1936 (49 Stat. 1967), as amended.

Kathy Greenhaw  
Chair of the Secretarial Election Board

Cynthia D. Barnes  
Election Board Member

Christy Ann Henry  
Election Board Member

Date: April 14, 2023



## CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

I, Eddie Streater, Regional Director, Eastern Oklahoma Region, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, do hereby approve the Amendments designated as Proposed Amendment 1 – First of Five Amendments, Proposed Amendment 2 – Second of Five Amendments, Proposed Amendment 3 – Third of Five Amendments, Proposed Amendment 4 – Fourth of Five Amendments and Proposed Amendment 5 – Fifth of Five Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation submitted by Resolution Numbers 011-081622A-2, 011-081622B, 011-081622C, 011-081622D and 011-081622E, adopted on April 14, 2023, by virtue of the authority granted by the Act of June 26, 1936, (49 Stat. 1967), which was delegated to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs by 130 DM 1, redelegated to the Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, by 230 DM 1, and redelegated to Regional Directors by 3 IAM 4.4, and Bureau of Indian Affairs Policy Memorandum dated October 11, 2006. PROVIDED, that nothing contained in this approval shall be construed as authorizing any action under the Constitution and By-Laws of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation that would be contrary to Federal law.

Date: 4/24/23



Regional Director  
Eastern Oklahoma Region  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
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