

Items this Committee Finds Important to Include in a Constitution

All Committees

5 Members unless otherwise stated

Elect annually from amongst selves a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary for meetings + doing business

Separation of Powers (SOP) between important Government Committees such as BC and Grievance/Election Committees (see specific committee)

All Officers are individually subject to individual-lodged Grievances

Cannot fight Grievances with tribal funds or property

Vacancies filled immediately, Constitutional Oath of Office, can be sworn in by Chief, 2nd Chief, or a seated Faithkeeper

Nepotism Law - No immediate family on the same Committee - brother, sister, parent, spouse, grandparent, children

Business Committee

Split Secretary-Treasurer into 2 positions (8 positions)

More accountability to General Council via undetermined method

More At-Large Representation via undetermined method

Grievance Committee

Officials to be elected by General Council

SOP - Responsible for own budget + Ordinance, power to call Special Meetings

Made accountable to General Council

Can investigate all Committees' membership, incl own member

Claims Committee

Officials to be elected by General Council

SOP - Responsible for own Ordinance

Made accountable to General Council

Election Committee

Addition of into Constitution (not previously there)

Officials to be elected by General Council

SOP - Pick 3rd Party Election Administrator + pass own Ordinance

Made accountable to General Council

Enrollment Committee

9 members, appointed by Business Committee

SOP - Responsible for own Ordinance

Membership pool: past Secretary-Treasurers + elders

Made accountable to General Council

Hypothetical Changes - More Community Discussion Needed

Code of Laws based on all previous General Council Resolutions

New Committees: Culture & Language Committee or Economic Development Committee

Hosting a young person (18-24 years old) on each Committee

More than 1 Regular Meeting of the General Council per year

At-Large Representation through streamed General Council/BC Meetings, or At-Large Councilperson on Business Committee

Potential Electoral Candidates and/or Elected Officials subject to finance and/or Conflict of Interest disclosures

Seneca-Cayuga Nation Constitution Advisory Committee Town Hall participant sheet #2 - November 4th 2023.

Further questions, comments, concerns? Email us: constitution@sctribe.com

Relevant Definitions

Business Committee:	Created by Constitution Article VI, they can “speak or act on behalf of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation in all matters on which the Nation is empowered to act.”
bylaws:	a set of rules that govern how an organization or community regulates itself, often added to a constitution. Ours is set up this way, our By-Laws Articles use the same numbering system as the Constitution.
Claims Committee:	A committee created by resolution whose purpose is to check and approve the paperwork of the submitted welfare and education claim applications of tribal members. Currently 3 members.
commission:	An external review process established for a particular entity, often for a particular industry or important subject.
committee:	A subgroup of an original body that is typically formed for a specific purpose focused on internal regulation and/or administration for a given entity, often having legislative power.
constitution:	The set of guidelines or principles (often written) that create and/or empower a government or organization, outlined within.
corporate charter:	in this case, a tribal governing document that empowers the Business Committee to do business via the creation of corporations and all the powers outlined therein
Credit Committee:	A committee created by Constitution Article VII. It was planned for the possibility of significant tribal revenue that would allow credit to be extended to tribal members starting their own businesses.
Education Committee:	A committee created by Constitution Article VII, its was eventually combined w/ Welfare into the Claims Committee.
Election Committee:	A committee established by resolution that used to administer our elections but is now solely responsible for all duties as set in the Election Ordinance. Currently 9 members consisting of pas Secretary-Treasurers and appointed tribal elders.
General Council:	Created by Constitution Article IV, it is "the supreme governing body of the Nation [...] all members of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation eighteen (18) years of age and older."
Grievance Committee:	A committee created by Constitution Article VII that “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" according to Article X of the Constitution. Also governed by the Grievance Ordinance.
ordinance:	a document that specifically outlines the relevant policies and procedures of a particular subject or political entity
ratification:	the official approval given, often times given by a governing body, regarding official legal or government documents
resolution:	in this case, the resulting paperwork that outlines a motion that is passed or approved by the BC or General Council
sovereignty:	A legal word for the authority of self-governance. A Constitution is a form of written sovereignty. These include the Grievance, Credit, Welfare, and Education Committees that are created by Article VII of our Constitution.
Standing Committees:	In our vocabulary, the Election Committee is created by resolution and not technically a Standing Committee although it is often included in the reference to “Standing Committees.”
trust responsibility:	This is a term applied to the relationships between Native Nations and the US Government based on many years of Supreme Court cases. Essentially the Federal Government assumes responsibility for “domestic dependent nations” (or Native Nations) that give up a piece of their sovereignty in exchange for this caretaking relationship.
Welfare Committee:	A committee created by Constitution Article VII, its was eventually combined w/ Education into the Claims Committee.