

Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma
Constitutional Review Committee

Proposed Constitution Changes Survey
SUMMARY OF RESPONSES 4-21-2007

TOTAL # OF RESPONSES: 91

NAME - What should the name of the Tribe be?

 64 Leave it as is: Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma

 Change it to:

 7 Iowa Nation

 10 Iowa Nation of Oklahoma

 Other: _____

COMMENTS:

Ioway Tribe of Oklahoma 2

“We’re all “one”, it doesn’t matter if you’re Northern or Southern”

MEMBERSHIP OF TRIBE – Who should be a member of the Tribe ?

 25 Leave blood quantum requirement as is: 1/8 or more

 39 Reduce blood quantum requirement to 1/16 or more

 9 Reduce blood quantum requirement to 1/32 or more

 6 Any Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma blood quantum

 31 Leave requirement that one parent must be on roll

 1 Remove requirement that one parent must be on roll

 9 Any blood quantum with 1 parent on roll

 0 ¼ more blood quantum with no parent on roll

 9 Leave as is to disallow changes in tribal enrollment from another Tribe

 2 Allow change in membership from another Tribe so long as the member has not accepted a per capita by virtue of enrollment with another tribe

COMMENTS:

“I believe we should do this to keep our proud tribal blood ties”

“Leave requirements as they are just lower quantum”

“Be able to be dually enrolled in other tribes to help w/cost collaborate”

“We need to allow dual enrollment”

GENERAL COUNCIL – What powers should the General Council have?

 74 Leave article as is: General Council has powers to ratify ordinances, elections, recall, initiative, referendum, and constitutional amendments.

 7 Limit General Council powers: Specify _____

 3 Expand General Council powers: Specify: _____

COMMENTS:

“General Council”

“Special Committee to Go over Y work with members to vote on Tribal decisions”

“Oversee Business Committee”

“I think Council Members should be Members of the Tribe”

“More Say So”

“Be able to recede or veto Business Committee w/petition.”

OFFICERS – What should be the term for elected officers?

- 55 Leave as is: 2 years
- 1 1 year
- 4 3 years
- 29 4 years

COMMITTEES –

What should be the powers of the Business Committee?

- 77 Leave as is: transact all business, except for powers reserved to General Council
- 2 Expand powers: Specify _____
- 6 Limit powers: Specify _____

COMMENTS:

- “Must be reviewed by members”
- “On money decisions that effect Tribal members”
- “Define”
- “Ask tribal members before B C takes upon self”
- “More help with things tribal members need”
- “We need to allow Dual Enrollment”
- “Abolish it – with the tribal court in place there’s no need or function for it.”
- “Chairperson not allowed to override general council”
- “Work with tribal input more”
- “Take report of problem, find solution and always keep BC informed and let them help w/solution.
- “But avoid employee involvement let the directors run the programs”
- “It’s a business committee – They should be involved in a little bit of everything”
- “Mediation on arbitration power”

What should be the powers of the Grievance Committee?

- 60 Leave as is: not defined
- 15 Define powers to include: Specify _____

What should be done if the Grievance Committee does not perform their duties when called upon?

COMMENTS:

- “Deduct \$100.00 from their paycheck. If they can’t perform their duties – Then I guess they didn’t want to get paid”
- “Relieved from duties”
- “And what is required in funding awards”
- “Cast new committee”
- “Vote by the members”
- “Replace by special election”
- “Replace them”
- “Suspension of committee”
- “Should be relieved of duties”
- “Tribal remedy must be exhausted w/ Grievance committee before court action”
- “Get rid of them, put people in who will do their duties”
- “Dismiss committee, review new ones”
- “Investigate all grievances, terminate and replace”
- “Should be replaced by new members put in by chairman”
- “Report to business committee and put to a vote”
- “Put on probation for 90 days”
- “Removed right away!!”
- “Replace them”
- “New candidates to elect”

“Develop a removal ordinance which specifies procedures and provides for due process”
“Define role, mediation”

Should the General Council and/or Business Committee be allowed to form other committees as needed?

32 Should be power of General Council only

10 Should be power of Business Committee only

41 Should be power which can be exercised by either General Council or Business Committee

Should each member of the Committees, including the Business Committee, be given the right to vote?

65 Leave as is: Chairperson does not vote per Robert’s Rules of Order

23 Change so that each member votes

COMMENTS:

“Must be reviewed by members”

“On money decisions that effect Tribal members”

“Define”

“Ask tribal members before B C takes upon self”

“More help with things tribal members need”

“We need to allow Dual Enrollment”

“Abolish it – with the tribal court in place there’s no need or function for it.”

“Chairperson not allowed to override general council”

“Work with tribal input more”

“Take report of problem, find solution and always keep BC informed and let them help w/solution.

“But avoid employee involvement let the directors run the programs”

“It’s a business committee – They should be involved in a little bit of everything”

“Mediation on arbitration power”

MEETINGS

69 Leave as is: Election can only take place if Annual Meeting has quorum; election takes place at rescheduled meeting even in absence of a quorum

12 Change so that election is not contingent on quorum at the Annual Meeting

How many regular General Council meetings should be held each year?

22 Leave as is: 1 per year

39 2 per year

24 More than 2 per year, specify _____

COMMENTS:

“4” – 10 responses

“It will keep everyone posted on what’s happening and what needs to be done”

“6 per year”

“When one is needed”

“If needed”

“When needed”

“When new business takes places as needed”

“1 per month”

“When needed at least once every two weeks”

“5-10”

“Take 2 a month maybe 3”

“For every ¼”

“Keep up with what’s going on”

“4 each quarter”

“When ever business needs to be conducted”

“2 per year”

“3 times a year”

“As needed” – 2 responses

- “One per each season of the year”**
- “One per year”**
- “2 per month”**
- “One annual election meeting, one update on no voting stuff”**

How often should the Business Committee hold regular meetings?

- _43_ leave as is: 4 quarterly meetings
- _35_ 1 per month
- _10_ Other: _____

ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS -- Should all eligible tribal voters be allowed to vote by absentee ballot?

- _30_ Leave as is; in Election Ordinance, only out-of-state voters allowed to vote by absentee ballots
- _54_ Change to allow both in-state and out-of-state voters to vote by absentee ballot

COMMENTS:

“Not notarize a request! Just notarize the ballot”

Should there be sanctions if the Election Board fails to perform their duties?

- _29_ Leave as is: not specified
- _53_ Provide for sanctions to be adopted so elections can be conducted in the event of Election Board failure

FILLING VACANCIES – How shall vacancies in the Business Committee be filled?

- _47_ Leave as is: Business Committee fills the vacancy, except in office of Chair, where Vice-Chair moves up and Business Committee fills the Vice-Chair position
- _20_ Require a vote by the General Council
- _23_ Require a special election be conducted by the Election Board

REMOVAL, RECALL AND FORFEITURE – How shall removals and recalls be conducted?

- _43_ Leave as is: elected or appointive bodies have power to remove members for cause
- _27_ Develop a recall and removal ordinance which specifies procedures and provides for due process
- _18_ Require that only the General Council can remove elected members for cause

BILL OF RIGHTS - Should the language in this section be reviewed for legal accuracy?

- _45_ Leave as is
- _35_ Review for changes

DUTIES OF OFFICERS – Should officer duties be clarified, limited, or expanded?

Chairperson—

- _64_ Leave as is: “general supervision of the affairs of the General Council and Business Committee”
- _13_ Clarify duties: Specify _____
- _3_ Expand duties: Specify _____
- _7_ Limit duties: Specify _____

COMMENTS:

“Shouldn’t one person be over everything, we’re a tribe of one. All our voices should be heard and taken to consideration.”

“Should involve other council members to the decisions that are being made”

“More strict”

“Should have to answer to general council on all matters”

“Tribal housing police”

Treasurer -- Audit—

73 Leave as is: require annual tribal audit

12 Change audit requirement: Specify _____

COMMENTS:

“Independently audited IRS audited every 6 months to a year”

“Bi-yearly”

“Audit once a month”

“Knows more about what’s going on.”

“Over see the council and committee not control them!”

“Publish audit for all tribal members”

“Treasurer to have knowledge and salaries for the job”

“Twice yearly (actual audit shown to tribe members”

“A 50% 50%”

“Every quarter”

“Require that heads of house be contacted to ensure well-being”

“Quarterly”

“Needs to be audited 4 per year”

QUALIFICATIONS OF CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

Should all candidates be bondable?

40 Leave as is: Allow candidacy from individuals who have past felonies provided 5 years have passed.

10 Change to allow candidacy from individuals who have past felonies provided 10 years have passed.

39 Require that all candidates be bondable, i.e. no felony convictions

Should candidacy be allowed for persons who have been removed from office?

32 Leave as is: not specified

35 Allow candidacy if 5 years has passed since removal

13 Allow candidacy if more than 5 years has passed, specify _____

Should there be an educational requirement for candidate?

28 Leave as is: no required

44 High school graduation or GED

18 College graduate

5 Other: Specify _____

COMMENTS:

“If that person did something that jeopardized the tribe as a hole”

“Depending on renewal reason”

“If removed, make them not eligible for office

“Business background and some college”

“10 years”

“If removed they should not be allowed back as a candidate”

“10 years or more”

“School and or experience”

“No. Candidate should not be allowed back in office if removed first time”

“10 years” – 3 responses

“At least have a Associates degree”

“Experience there of”

“Depending on cause”

QUORUM – Should there be a quorum changes?

Election Board

_42__ Leave as is: not specified
_41__ 2 members required for quorum

COMMENTS:

“3/ all members”
“All should be required”
“All council members should be required”
“All members present for quorum”

General Council

_70__ Leave as is: 20 required
_19__ Change: Specify _____

COMMENTS:

“10 required” – 2 responses
“20 percent of eligible voters”
“Changes should be made- 25% of tribal members of voting age”
“50” – 4 responses
“Percentage of tribe (20-25%) more accurate accounting of members”

Grievance Committee

_74__ Leave as is: 2 required
_9__ Change: Specify _____

COMMENTS:

“All present” – 2 responses
“At least 4” – 2 responses

Business Committee

_77__ Leave as is: 3 required
_7__ Change: Specify _____

COMMENTS:

“5” – 2 responses
“4”
“5 or more”
“All present”
“3 at all times”

DEFINITION OF TERMS – Should this section be reviewed for legal accuracy?

_40__ Leave as is
_42__ Review for changes
Add other terms: Specify _____

COMMENTS:

“2 years is not long enough for change”

COURTS – Should a new article be included which defines the creation, jurisdiction, review, terms of appointment, vacancies, and effective date of the Iowa Tribal Court(s)?

_66__ Yes
_14__ No

COMMENTS:

“This should be in an ordinance not the constitution itself”

“Yes” – 2 responses
“No”

AMENDMENTS -- How should the Constitution be amended?
64 Leave as is, only with approval by Secretary of the Interior
15 Do not require approval by Secretary of the Interior

COMMENTS:
“Majority vote”
“Very important to not require approval by Secretary”
“By gen. council then approved by Sec. Of Int.”

SAVINGS CLAUSE – Should all previous ordinances or resolutions continue in effect unless revoked or amended after the date of adoption of any amended Constitution?
61 Yes
21 Re-do all resolutions and ordinances

COMMENTS:
Yes as long as this upholds our amended constitution”
“Leave as is”

Optional information: (All responses are strictly confidential.)

COMMENTS:
If you are not on the Iowa they should not be allowed in our meetings”
“Tribal IDs need to be shown as all meetings”
“Look more into rules and include tribal members”
“I work on the last proposed constitution changes. Leave as is. Tribal members voted this way.”
“To assist with out of state voting, requesting an absentee ballot should not require a form signed by a notary. We should only have to request a ballot to vote out of state by absentee vote.”

Survey submitted by _____
Contact me for follow-up: Telephone _____

<p>Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma, Constitution Revision Committee, RR 1, Box 721, Perkins OK 74059</p> <p>Survey results reported in a special meeting of the Constitution Revision Committee, Saturday, April 21, 2007</p>
