



**RESOLUTION OF NORMAN NAUNI
ADOPTING SECRETARIAL ELECTION POLICY**

WHEREAS, the Comanche Nation is a federally recognized Indian Tribe with a Constitution approved and ratified by the Secretary of the Interior of the United States on January 9, 1967, to safeguard tribal rights, powers, and privileges to improve the economic, moral, educational, and health status of its members; and

WHEREAS, the Comanche Constitution, Articles VI, §7(j), and VII empower the Comanche Business Committee to conduct Elections for and on behalf of the Comanche Nation and to promulgate and enforce ordinances governing law and order to protect the peace, health, safety and welfare of the Nation; and

WHEREAS, the Comanche Constitution, Article XI §1 authorizes the Comanche Business Committee to propose amendments to the constitution by a majority vote of the Business Committee and if approved by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, shall be submitted to the voters of the Tribe, and shall become effective when ratified by a majority vote of those who cast ballots in an election called by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs; and

WHEREAS, as defined in the Comanche Constitution Article IV §1 the Supreme Governing Body of this organization shall be the Comanche Tribal Council which is defined in Article V §1 the Tribal Council shall consist of all members of the Comanche Nation who are eighteen (18) years of age or older; and

WHEREAS, the Comanche Business Committee deems it advisable after formal discussion, review and approval by a referendum vote at large by the Comanche Tribal Council, to adopt the attached “Secretarial Election Policy” to be added to the Election Policy of 2018, Part 600, Section 602 – Secretarial Election.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the attached **Secretarial Election Policy** is hereby adopted and promulgated as the law governing the conduct of Secretarial Elections of the Comanche Nation, and shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Comanche Business Committee held on the ___ day of _____, 2018, at the Comanche Tribal Complex, Lawton, Oklahoma, by a majority vote of ___ for, __ against, and ___ abstaining, a legal quorum being present.

William Nelson, Sr. Chairman

ATTEST:

Robert Tippeconnie, Secretary Treasurer



Discussion

In the past, the Tribal Council has been allowed to participate in the Secretarial Election process. A special General Council was called by the Comanche Business Committee and tribal members were allowed to contribute to the “styling” or wording of the proposed constitutional amendment. Afterwards, the CBC would approve the Secretarial Election Tribal resolution for the proposed amendment changes to the Comanche Constitution.

Additionally, the past two Secretarial Elections in September 2017 and March 2018 were approved by a majority of the CBC and conducted without any prior solicitation from the Tribal Council. This resolution is proposing a structured process be established that would allow the Tribal Council to participate in the “styling” of future constitutional amendment proposals; and will provide a full disclosure of the “pros and cons” of proposed constitutional amendments to Tribal members. This in turn offers an unbiased, transparent approach to amending the Constitution by the CBC and affords Tribal members the opportunity to make an informed decision for themselves about amendment proposals with all information provided upfront. The following paragraph will be added to the Election Policy, Part 600 – Conduct of Elections

Section 602. Secretarial Election Policy (renamed)

The Comanche Business Committee has the authority, pursuant to the Comanche Constitution Article XI §1, where “*Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by a majority vote of the business committee*” and under this Election Policy will allow interested Comanche Tribal members an opportunity to be part of the development process of proposed constitutional amendments. Before the Comanche Business Committee proposes amendments to the Comanche Constitution they *must* call a Special General Council meeting to afford Tribal members these rights:

- a) The right to provide input in the “styling” of any proposed constitutional amendments;
- b) The right and opportunity to discuss the proposed amendment changes;
- c) The right to deliberate and confer at a special meeting upon the impact of the proposed amendment changes; and
- d) The right to be given all the *Arguments for* and *Arguments against* of proposed constitutional amendment changes in the form of a “**Pros and Cons**” analysis.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs sends out to all Tribal voter’s a notice of the Comanche Business Committee’s submission of a Resolution which proposes constitutional amendments. This notice Included in this notice is a side by side comparison of the proposed constitutional amendments versus the current constitution for tribal voters to review. The “Pros and Cons” analysis mentioned above will be provided to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for inclusion in this initial Secretarial Election Notice. This will allow Comanche Tribal Voters the opportunity to make an informed decision for themselves about amendment proposals with all the *Arguments for* and *Arguments against* provided upfront.