

CONSTITUTION  
OF THE

COMANCHE NATION

(As ratified November 19, 1966,  
amended May 29, 1976, June 10, 1978, April 14, 1979, April 25, 1981, September 29, 1984,  
June 29, 1985, April 28, 1994, February 23, 2002, September 8, 2017, March 21, 2018,  
November 7, 2019, July 9, 2022, and December 9, 2023)

ARTICLE V — TRIBAL COUNCIL / POWERS CLAUSE

(Pursuant to Amendment I, adopted May 29, 1976,  
Amendment XI and Amendment XII, adopted April 14, 1979,  
Amendments XVIII and XIX, adopted September 29, 1984,  
And Amendments XXXI, XXXII, XXXIII, XXXIV, XXXV, XXXVI, adopted April  
28, 1994, and  
Amendment XLIII, adopted September 8, 2017, Amendment XLV adopted March 21, 2018,  
Amendment XLVIII, adopted November 7, 2019, and Amendment LXXI, adopted December 9,  
2023)

Section 6. Subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior or his authorized representative where applicable, the authority of the Comanche Tribal Council shall include and be exclusive with respect to the following:

- (a) To change, modify, alter or revoke membership rules.
- (b) To execute leases, contracts or permits for five (5) or more years with regard to property which is owned exclusively by the Comanche Nation, but this does not include any individually-owned land or personal property.
- (c) To elect tribal officers and members of the business committee and to fill vacancies which may occur pursuant to Article VII.
- (d) To authorize the expenditure of funds which may be deposited to the exclusive credit to the Comanche Nation and of funds which may be deposited to the joint credit of the Kiowa, Comanche and Apache Tribes.
- (e) To select and authorize tribal delegations to transact business on behalf of the tribe. When travel is involved, the terms of the resolution shall include the purpose of the trip and the existence of the delegation's authority.
- (f) The salaries for the Chairman of the Business Committee, other members of the Comanche Business Committee, and other officials elected by the Tribal Council shall be established by the Tribal Council by the adoption of an annual tribal operating budget. Other than salaries approved by the Tribal Council, employee benefits available to all eligible employees, and reasonable expense reimbursements, the members of the Business Committee and other officials elected by the Tribal Council shall receive no other remuneration from the Comanche Nation or its boards, commissions, or sub-committees.

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## ARTICLE VI – BUSINESS COMMITTEE

(Pursuant to Amendment X, adopted June 10, 1978,  
Amendment XIII and Amendment XIV, adopted April 14, 1979,  
Amendment XX and Amendment XXI, adopted September 29, 1984,  
Amendment XXIII, adopted June 29, 1985, and Amendments F & G, adopted February 23, 2002)

Section 1. The Comanche Business Committee shall be composed of seven (7) members of the Comanche Nation who are at least twenty-one (21) years of age, and be elected as provided in Article VII of this constitution.

Section 2. The business committee shall meet on the first Saturday of each month of each year at 10:00 a.m. In case of a legal holiday, the meeting will be held on the following Saturday. Special meetings may be called by the tribal chairman at his discretion; provided that such special meetings do not exceed a total of eighteen (18) meetings per calendar year.

Section 3. Notice of all special meetings of the business committee shall be given by the tribal secretary-treasurer via electronic communication to each member of the business committee at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting date, setting forth the date, time, place, and purpose in general terms.

Section 4. No action shall be taken by the business committee except when a quorum is present. A quorum shall consist of five committeemen.

Section 5. At the beginning of each meeting of the Comanche Business Committee, the tribal secretary-treasurer, or in his absence the acting secretary as may be appointed by the tribal chairman, shall keep a record in the permanent minute book of the names of those present and those absent. If a tribal committeeman is absent for four (4) consecutive regularly scheduled meetings of the business committee, the tribal chairman shall declare his seat vacant and so notify in writing the tribal committeeman affected and steps shall be taken to fill the vacancy pursuant to Article VIII, Section 1.

Section 6. All minutes of the business committee shall be published in a manner to be determined by the business committee.

Section 7. The duties, responsibilities and authorities of the business committee shall include the following:

- (a) To establish and maintain the tribal membership roll and to insure that the roll is available for inspection at all reasonable times.
- (b) To determine qualifications of candidates nominated for office and to conduct election of tribal officers and business committeemen pursuant to the provisions of Section 2, Article VII, of this constitution.
- (c) To execute leases, contracts or permits with regard to property which is owned exclusively or jointly by the Comanche Nation, but this does not include any jurisdiction over individually-owned land or personal property.

- (d) To develop annual budgets for the financing of Comanche tribal operations and to present such budgets to the tribal council for final consideration as to adoption or rejection.
  - (1) The proposed annual tribal operating budget shall be disseminated to tribal members forty-five (45) days prior to the annual meeting.
  - (2) The budget shall be printed on a ballot in such a manner that each line item may be approved or disapproved by the tribal members.
  - (3) The line items of the budget shall be approved or disapproved in the election of officers conducted subsequent to the annual meeting pursuant to Article VII, Section 2, in which tribal officers are elected.
- (e) To develop proposals which are in the interest of fulfilling the purpose of the Comanche tribal organization including, but not limited to, programs involving employment, health, education, public relations, social, recreational, and historical activities of the tribe. Such program proposals shall be presented to the tribal council for final consideration as to adoption or rejection.
- (f) To implement, administer, and report on progress of programs adopted by the tribal council.
- (g) To appoint such subcommittees as are needed to develop the proposals suggested herein or any other worthwhile endeavors, including delegation of such authorities to these subcommittees as in commensurate with their responsibilities.
- (h) To secure an audit of each fiscal year's financial activities relating to funds from all sources, to publish the audit of the prior year's funds in the tribal newspaper and two local newspapers at least sixty (60) days prior to each annual meeting, and to prepare for delivery to those attending the annual tribal council meeting a written annual report which shall contain a synopsis of the varied activities of the business committee, the previously published audit and a forecast of activities proposed for the coming year. First audit funds shall come out of any monies available to the tribe for expenditures, including but not limited to the general budget fund or bingo fund. The audit shall be conducted by a reputable firm that is completely disassociated from any tribal member.
- (i) Such additional duties and/or responsibilities which may be assigned to the business committee by the tribal council by appropriate resolution approved in tribal council assembled.
- (j) To promulgate and enforce ordinances and codes governing law and order to protect the peace, health, safety, and general welfare on land determined to be within Comanche tribal jurisdiction.

Section 8. The term of office for each officer and committeeman shall be for a period of three (3) years or until a successor is duly elected and installed in office. Each officer or committeeman shall be eligible to serve two (2) consecutive terms effective upon date of this amendment, present term being counted as one term. At the completion of the second consecutive term of office, an officer or a committeeman shall not be eligible for election to a

position on the business committee until a period of three (3) years elapsed. In addition, an officer or committeeman who has completed two (2) consecutive terms on the business committee shall not be employed within the Comanche tribal governmental system until a period of three (3) years has elapsed. For the purpose of this section, any portion of a term shall be considered as one term.