



United States Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Miami Agency  
Post Office Box 391  
Miami, Oklahoma 74355



IN REPLY REFER TO:

Tribal Government Services

March 21, 2014

Dear Tribal Voter:

The Business Committee of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma submitted the following Resolutions to amend the Constitution and By-laws:

- Resolution No. 101-022714 (Proposed Amendment No. 1) – proposes to amend Constitution and By-laws, Article IV – Quorum, Section 2. - increase the quorum requirements for General Council Meetings to 225;
- Resolution No. 100-022714 (Proposed Amendment No. 2) – proposes to amend Constitution and By-laws, Article III – Regular and Special Meetings, Section 2. – provide for special meetings of the Council upon the written request of a majority of the Business Committee or the written request of 175 members of the Tribe;
- Resolution No. 15-061213 (Proposed Amendment No. 3) – proposes to amend Constitution, Article VIII – Annual Meetings – change the term of office of Business Committee members from two (2) years to four (4) years; and,
- Resolution No. 17-061213 (Proposed Amendment No. 5) – proposes to amend Constitution and By-laws, Article I – Name – change name of Tribe from the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma to the Seneca-Cayuga Nation.

The Resolutions also requested the Secretary of the Interior conduct an election to allow the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma Tribal Members the opportunity to vote on the ratification or rejection of the four (4) proposed Amendments.

On March 12, 2014, the Regional Director of the Eastern Oklahoma Region, approved and authorized a Secretarial Election. Subsequently, I, Miami Agency Superintendent, was appointed as the Chairperson of the Election Board. My responsibility as Chairperson is to conduct the Secretarial Election pursuant to regulations found in 25 CFR Part 81. The election date is set for May 15, 2014.

You now have the opportunity to vote on the ratification or rejection of the proposed amendments to the Tribal Constitution. Enclosed are copies of Tribal Resolutions Nos. 101-022714, 100-022714, 15-061213 and 17-061213 submitted to the Bureau by the Seneca-Cayuga Tribal Business Committee citing the proposed Amendments for your reference.

COPY

First, however, you must register with the Agency to vote in this Secretarial Election. If you wish to vote in this election, please sign and return the enclosed Voter Registration Form BIA-8302 in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope. Be sure to print your name and address, sign your name, and date the Form. All registration forms must be received by the Election Board by 12:00 p.m. (CST) on April 11, 2014, to be considered valid. Only adult Tribal Members who are eighteen (18) years or older on the date of the election and have registered with the Secretary of the Interior (its designated representative, Miami Agency) shall be entitled to vote on the ratification or rejection of the proposed Amendments to the Constitution.

This notice is being mailed to all members eighteen (18) years or older at the address listed on the current Tribal Membership Roll. Some seventeen (17) year old Tribal Members may receive this notice. However, again, only those Members who are at least eighteen (18) years old on the date of the election and have registered to vote in this election will be allowed to cast a vote.

At 4:30 p.m., April 11, 2014, the resulting list of registered voters will be posted at:

Bureau of Indian Affairs  
34 "A" Street NE (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)  
Miami, Oklahoma 74354

Seneca-Cayuga Tribe  
23701 South 655 Road  
Grove, Oklahoma 74344

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Should you have any questions, please contact the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Miami Agency, at (918) 542-3396.

Respectfully,



Paul Yates, Chairperson  
Secretarial Election Board

United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Check here if new address

## VOTER REGISTRATION FORM

I certify that I am a member of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma and that I am 18 years of age or will be 18 years of age, on the date of the Secretarial Election, on May 15, 2014.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

**THIS REGISTRATION CARD MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE ELECTION BOARD CHAIRMAN NO LATER THAN 12:00 P.M. CENTRAL STANDARD TIME ON APRIL 11, 2014.**

Completion of and return of this registration form is necessary if you desire to become qualified to vote in the forthcoming Constitutional Election as required by 25 CFR § 81.11.

This Form, upon completion and return to the Election Board, shall be the basis for determining whether you qualify to have your name placed upon the list of Registered Voters and be entitled to vote in the election.

Completion and return of this Form is voluntary.

**MARCH 21, 2014**  
**ELECTION NOTICE**

**SENECA-CAYUGA TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA**

**BY LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION DATED MARCH 12, 2014**

MEMBERS OF THE SENECA-CAYUGA TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA are hereby advised an election will be held on **May 15, 2014**, for the purpose of voting on four (4) PROPOSED AMENDMENTS to the Tribe's Constitution. The election will be conducted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the Tribe in accordance with Part 81 of Title 25 of the Code of Federal Regulations (25 CFR Part 81). This election is not a Tribal election and will not be conducted under Tribal election procedures.

Pursuant to the requirements of 25 CFR Part 81.6, only adult Tribal Members who register to vote in this election will be entitled to vote on the ratification or rejection of the proposed amendments to the Tribe's Constitution. This Notice is being mailed to all members eighteen (18) years of age and older at the address listed on the current Tribal Membership Roll with a Voter Registration Form BIA-8302. Some seventeen (17) year old Tribal Members will receive this Notice and have an opportunity to register. However, only those who are at least eighteen (18) years old on the date of the election will be allowed to vote, provided they have registered by the due date. Any member who does not receive a Voter Registration Form BIA-8302 by mail should request one from:

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Miami Agency  
SECRETARIAL ELECTION BOARD, Miami Agency  
P.O. Box 391  
Miami, Oklahoma 74355

-or obtain the form at:

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Miami Agency  
34 "A" Street NE (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)  
Miami, Oklahoma 74354

-or-

Seneca-Cayuga Tribal Office  
23701 South 655 Road  
Grove, Oklahoma 74344

THE REGISTRATION FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, MIAMI AGENCY, SECRETARIAL ELECTION BOARD, P.O. BOX 391, MIAMI, OKLAHOMA 74355, NO LATER THAN **12:00 P.M.** (CST) ON **APRIL 11, 2014**.

This election is to be conducted by Absentee Ballot only. There will be no polling sites. If your registration form is received by the deadline, you will be mailed an absentee ballot.

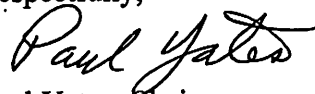
Immediately after the ballots are counted, the results of the election will be posted at:

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Miami Agency  
34 "A" Street NE (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)  
Miami, Oklahoma 74354

-and-

Seneca-Cayuga Tribal Office  
23701 South 655 Road  
Grove, Oklahoma 74344

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Yates".

Paul Yates, Chairman  
Election Board

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SENECA-CAYUGA TRIBE  
OF OKLAHOMA

Resolution # 101-022714

"REQUEST FOR REFERENDUM VOTE - PROPOSED AMENDMENT #1  
RAISE QUORUM REQUIREMENT FOR GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING"

**WHEREAS:** The Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma is a federally recognized Indian Tribe organized under the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act of 1936 with a Constitution and By-laws approved by the Secretary of Interior on April 26, 1937 and ratified by vote of the General Council of the Tribe on May 15, 1937, AND

**WHEREAS:** The Business Committee is empowered under Article VI of the Constitution and By-laws to transact business and otherwise speak or act on behalf of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe in all matters on which the Tribe is empowered to act, AND

**WHEREAS:** In Accordance with the Constitution of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe, Article XI - Amendments, proposed Amendments to the Tribe's Constitution and By-laws may be submitted by a majority vote of the Business Committee and if approved by the Secretary of the Interior, shall be submitted for referendum vote to voting Members of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma, AND

~~**WHEREAS:** The Tribe's Constitution and By-laws state, under By-laws, Article IV - Quorum, Section 2, "Thirty members of the Seneca-Cayuga Council shall constitute a quorum to transact regular business", AND~~

**WHEREAS:** The Business Committee of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe is aware the Tribe has increased in the amount of Tribal Members enrolled since the time the Constitution and By-laws were first adopted in 1937. The Business Committee feels it would be in the Tribe's best interests to request a referendum vote be placed on the ballot to raise the requirement of eligible voting Tribal Members to constitute a quorum to hold General Council Meetings. NOW

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Business Committee of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma does hereby request the following proposed amendment be put up for a referendum vote before all voting Members of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma in accordance with the Tribe's Constitution, Article XI - Amendments:

Shall the Constitution and By-laws of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma, By-laws, Article IV - Quorum, Section 2, be amended as follows, in its entirety:

*Two-hundred twenty five (225) members of the Seneca-Cayuga Council shall constitute a quorum to transact regular business.*

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing Resolution was passed at a meeting of the Business Committee of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma conducted on February 27, 2014 with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstaining.

William L. Fisher  
William L. Fisher, Chief

ATTEST:

Thomas Weidman  
Thomas Weidman, Secretary-Treasurer

SENECA-CAYUGA TRIBE  
OF OKLAHOMA

Resolution # 100-022714

**"REQUEST FOR REFERENDUM VOTE – PROPOSED AMENDMENT #2  
RAISE PETITION-REQUIREMENT FOR SPECIAL GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING"**

**WHEREAS:** The Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma is a federally recognized Indian Tribe organized under the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act of 1936 with a Constitution and By-laws approved by the Secretary of Interior on April 26, 1937 and ratified by vote of the General Council of the Tribe on May 15, 1937, AND

**WHEREAS:** The Business Committee is empowered under Article VI of the Constitution and By-laws to transact business and otherwise speak or act on behalf of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe in all matters on which the Tribe is empowered to act, AND

**WHEREAS:** In Accordance with the Constitution of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe, Article XI – Amendments, proposed Amendments to the Tribe's Constitution and By-laws may be submitted by a majority vote of the Business Committee and if approved by the Secretary of the Interior, shall be submitted for referendum vote to voting Members of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma, AND

~~**WHEREAS:** The Tribe's Constitution and By-laws state, under the By-laws, Article III – Regular and Special Meetings, Section 2. "Special meetings of the council may be called at the discretion of the chief, and shall be called by him upon the written request of the majority of the Business Committee or the written request of 30 members of the Tribe". AND~~

**WHEREAS:** The Business Committee of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe is aware the Tribe has increased in the amount of Tribal Members enrolled since the time the Tribal Constitution and By-laws were first adopted in 1937 and feels it would be in the Tribe's best interests to request a referendum vote be placed on the ballot to raise the requirement of eligible voting Tribal Members requesting a Special General Council Meeting, NOW

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Business Committee of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma does hereby request the following proposed amendment be put up for a referendum vote before all voting Members of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma in accordance with the Tribe's Constitution, Article XI - Amendments:

Shall the Constitution and By-laws of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma, By-laws, Article III – Regular and Special Meetings, Section 2., be amended as follows, in its entirety:

*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 Seventy-Five (175) members of the Tribe.*

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing Resolution was passed at a meeting of the Business Committee of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma conducted on February 27, 2014 with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstaining.

ATTEST:

Thomas Weidman  
Thomas Weidman, Secretary-Treasurer

William L. Fisher  
William L. Fisher, Chief



SENECA-CAYUGA TRIBE  
OF OKLAHOMA

Resolution # 15-061213

**“REQUEST FOR REFERENDUM VOTE – PROPOSED AMENDMENT #3  
RAISE TERMS OF ELECTIVE OFFICE TO 4 YEARS”**

**WHEREAS:** The Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma is a federally recognized Indian Tribe organized under the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act of 1936 with a Constitution and By-laws approved by the Secretary of Interior on April 26, 1937 and ratified by vote of the General Council of the Tribe on May 15, 1937, **AND**

**WHEREAS:** The Business Committee is empowered under Article VI of the Constitution and By-laws to transact business and otherwise speak or act on behalf of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe in all matters on which the Tribe is empowered to act, **AND**

**WHEREAS:** In Accordance with the Constitution of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe, Article XI – Amendments, proposed Amendments to the Tribe’s Constitution and By-laws may be submitted by a majority vote of the Business Committee and if approved by the Secretary of the Interior, shall be submitted for referendum vote to voting Members of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma, **AND**

**WHEREAS:** The Constitution and By-laws state, under the Constitution, Article VIII – Annual Meetings, “Annual meetings shall be held on the first Saturday of June of each year for the election of officers, receiving reports, or any other business which may come before the Council. In order to provide for staggered terms of office, in the first regular election under this amendment, the Chief, and two (2) Councilmen shall be elected to a two (2) year term of office, and the Secretary-Treasurer, two Councilmen and Second Chief shall be elected to a one (1) year term of office. Thereafter, each member of the Business Committee shall be elected for a two (2) year term of office, and shall serve until his successor shall be duly elected and installed in office. Regular elections of the Business Committee shall be held annually pursuant to a Tribal election ordinance prescribed by the Business Committee.2a/3f”, **AND**

**WHEREAS:** The Business Committee of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe feels it is in the Tribe’s best interests to provide better consistency and stability in the Tribal government by raising the term of office to four (4) years, **NOW**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Business Committee of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma does hereby request the following proposed amendment be put up for a referendum vote before all voting Members of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma in accordance with the Tribe’s Constitution, Article XI, Amendments:

Shall the Constitution and By-laws of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma, Constitution, Article VIII – Annual Meetings, be amended as follows, in its entirety:

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, provided that such election is appropriate under this Amendment. In order to provide for staggered terms of office, in the first annual meeting after the



adoption of this Amendment, the Second Chief, Secretary-Treasurer, Second Councilperson and Fourth Councilperson shall be elected for a four (4) year term of office. In the third annual meeting after the adoption of this Amendment, the Chief, First Councilperson and Third Councilperson shall be elected for a four (4) year term of office. Thereafter, each member of the Business Committee shall be elected for a four (4) year term of office, and shall serve until his/her successor shall be duly elected and installed in office. Any member of the Business Committee in office on the date of adoption of this Amendment shall remain in office until his/her successor is duly elected and installed in office under this Amendment, regardless of the resulting length of the term for such member. Regular elections of the Business Committee shall be held pursuant to a Tribal election ordinance prescribed by the Business Committee.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing Resolution was passed at a meeting of the Business Committee of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma conducted on February 17, 2014 with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstaining.

ATTEST:

Thomas Weidman  
Thomas Weidman, Secretary-Treasurer

William L. Fisher  
William L. Fisher, Chief

SENECA-CAYUGA TRIBE  
OF OKLAHOMA

Resolution # 17-061213

**“REQUEST FOR REFERENDUM VOTE – PROPOSED AMENDMENT #5  
CHANGE NAME OF TRIBE TO SENECA-CAYUGA NATION”**

**WHEREAS:** The Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma is a federally recognized Indian Tribe organized under the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act of 1936 with a Constitution and By-laws approved by the Secretary of Interior on April 26, 1937 and ratified by vote of the General Council of the Tribe on May 15, 1937, AND

**WHEREAS:** The Business Committee is empowered under Article VI of the Constitution and By-laws to transact business and otherwise speak or act on behalf of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe in all matters on which the Tribe is empowered to act, AND

**WHEREAS:** In Accordance with the Constitution of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe, Article XI – Amendments, proposed Amendments to the Tribe’s Constitution and By-laws may be submitted by a majority vote of the Business Committee and if approved by the Secretary of the Interior, shall be submitted for referendum vote to voting Members of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma, AND

**WHEREAS:** The Tribe’s Constitution and By-laws state, under the Constitution, Article I – Name, “*The name of this organization shall be the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma*”, AND

**WHEREAS:** The Business Committee of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe feels it is in the Tribe’s best interests to change the name of the Tribe to the *Seneca-Cayuga Nation*, NOW

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Business Committee of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma does hereby request the following proposed amendment be put up for a referendum vote before all voting Members of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma in accordance with the Tribe’s Constitution, Article XI – Amendments:

Shall the Constitution and By-laws of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma, By-laws, Article I – Name, be amended as follows, in its entirety:

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

And any place within the Constitution and By-laws of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma 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”.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing Resolution was passed at a meeting of the Business Committee of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma conducted on June 12, 2013 with a vote of 6 for, 0 against, 0 abstaining.

ATTEST:

Thomas Weidman  
Thomas Weidman, Secretary-Treasurer

William L. Fisher  
William L. Fisher, Chief

## RULES OF ELECTION

RULES TO GOVERN THE SECRETARIAL ELECTION TO VOTE ON WHETHER TO ADOPT/RATIFY/OR REJECT A PROPOSED REVISED CONSTITUTION OF THE SENECA-CAYUGA TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA. THESE RULES ARE IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE 25 PART 81 OF THE CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS.

1. **ELECTION DATE: THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2014** (Absentee Ballots must be received by 11:00 a.m. Central Standard Time May 15, 2014).
2. **ELIGIBLE VOTERS:** All enrolled members who are 18 years old or older on the day of the election and who have registered with the Secretary of the Interior will be permitted to vote to ratify or reject the proposed revised Constitution.
3. **REGISTRATION:** The "Voter's Registration Form" must be completed and received by the Secretarial Election Board, by mail or FAX no later than 12:00 p.m. Central Standard Time on April 11, 2014. "Voter's Registration Forms" are available at the following offices:

Paul Yates  
Secretarial Election Board  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
34 "A" Street NE (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)  
Miami, Oklahoma 74354  
(918) 542-3396  
paul.yates@bia.gov

William L. Fisher  
Seneca-Cayuga Tribe  
23701 South 655 Road  
Grove, Oklahoma 74344  
(918) 533-2792  
wfisher@sctribe.com

Mail the "Voter Registration Form" to P.O. Box 391, Miami, Oklahoma 74355 or FAX to (918) 542-7202.

**IMPORTANT:** If you do not properly register with the Secretary of the Interior, you will not be allowed to participate in this election.

4. **REGISTRATION FORM:** Voters that sign the Voter Registration Form using an "X" or a thumbprint must have two (2) individuals sign as witnesses.
5. **VOTERS LIST:** The registered voter list shall be in alphabetical order and shall be posted for review no later than April 11, 2014, at 4:30 p.m. at the following places:

Bureau of Indian Affairs  
34 "A" Street NE (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)  
Miami, Oklahoma 74354

Seneca-Cayuga Tribe  
23701 South 655 Road  
Grove, Oklahoma 74344

6. **ELIGIBILITY DISPUTES:** Any individual whose name does not appear on the Official Eligible Voter's List can claim the right to vote by presenting a written claim to the Secretarial Election Board. The right to vote of anyone whose name is on the list may also be challenged in writing to the Secretarial Election Board.

Such claims or challenges must be sent to: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Miami Agency, Mr. Paul Yates, Chairperson, Secretarial Election Board, P.O. Box 391, Miami, Oklahoma

74355. Claims and challenges must be received by 4:30 p.m. Central Standard Time, May 1, 2014. The Election Board shall meet on the same day to pass on any claim or challenge – ***ITS DECISION SHALL BE FINAL.***

7. **ABSENTEE VOTING:** Registered voters will vote by absentee ballot. **Hand delivered absentee ballots will not be accepted under any circumstances. You must return ballot by mail.**
8. **OBSERVERS:** Observers must be a registered voter for this Secretarial Election. Once counting begins, observers will be permitted to leave at any time, but will not be allowed to re-enter. Observers are not to interact or distract the Secretarial Election Board officials and workers or they will be expelled.
9. **POSTING ELECTION RESULTS:** The results of the election shall be posted on May 15, 2014 by 4:30 p.m. at:

Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Miami Agency  
34 "A" Street NE (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)  
Miami, Oklahoma 74354

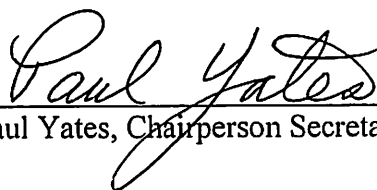
Seneca-Cayuga Tribe  
23701 South 655 Road  
Grove, Oklahoma 74344

10. **CONTESTING OF ELECTION RESULTS:** Any eligible voter may challenge the ~~election within three (3) days following the posting of the results of the election. The~~ challenge must be in writing, filed with the Secretary of the Interior through the Secretarial Election Board Chairperson, and must give the grounds for the challenge with **substantiating evidence**. If, in the opinion of the Secretary, the objections are valid and warrant a recount or new election, the Secretary shall so order. The results of the recount or new election shall be final.

CONTEST MUST BE FILED MAY 19, 2014, BY 4:30 P.M. AT:  
BUREAU OF INDAIN AFFAIRS  
MIAMI AGENCY  
ATTN: TRIBAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES  
34 "A" STREE NE (2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR) (PHYSICAL ADDRESS)  
P.O. BOX 391 (MAILING ADDRESS)  
MIAMI, OKLAHOMA 74355

**RATIFICATION:** The proposed revised Constitution shall be considered ratified and become effective immediately, if the majority vote in favor of ratification; provided at least thirty percent (30%) of the registered voters have cast ballots in the election.

**ADOPTION:** The proposed Amendments shall be considered adopted, if the majority vote in favor of adoption; provided, at least thirty percent (30%) of the registered voters have cast ballots in the election.



Paul Yates, Chairperson Secretarial Election Board