

**Osage Nation Government  
Reform Commissioners**

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**Osage  
Nation  
Government  
Reform  
Office**

**Vote on Referendum  
November 19th, 2005**

**Vote on  
November 19th**



**Make Your  
Voice Heard**

**Osage Nation Government Reform Office**

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**Ballot Summary**

**QUESTION 1**

Option A. The 1906 Osage Allotment Roll should be used as the base roll and thus shall constitute the base membership of the tribe. All lineal descendants of those Osages listed on the 1906 Osage Allotment Roll shall have the right to enroll as members of the Osage Nation, and those enrolled members shall constitute the citizenry. OR

Option B. A minimum Osage blood quantum requirement shall be used to determine the right to enroll as a member of the Osage Nation and those enrolled members shall constitute the citizenry.

**QUESTION 2**

Membership of people on the base roll will be subject to challenge by the new government if it is proven that fraudulent measures were used to establish membership into the tribe.

**QUESTION 3**

An enrolled member of the Osage Nation, can choose to be dually enrolled as a member of another Indian tribe without forfeiting Osage membership.

**QUESTION 4**

All members of the Osage Nation eighteen (18) years of age and over shall be deemed qualified electors, provided they are duly registered to vote.

**QUESTION 5**

The newly reformed Osage Nation government will be organized to include legislative, executive and judicial branches with checks and balances among the branches that include veto power granted to the chief executive, a legislative over ride of an executive veto and no branch shall be permitted to exercise the powers or functions delegated to another branch.

**QUESTION 6**

The legislative branch, responsible for making the laws of the Osage Nation, shall contain a legislative body composed of 12 representatives who shall select from amongst its members a Speaker of the House and such other officers as deemed necessary. The legislative representatives must be Osage citizens, 25 years of age or older, and all shall be elected at large.

**QUESTION 7**

Staggered Terms shall be established for the legislative body which shall be elected at large by the adult members of the Osage Nation such that 1/2 of the representatives shall serve four year terms following the 2006 election and the other 1/2 of the representatives shall serve six year terms following the 2006 election. When candidates file for office in the 2006 election, they will file for either a four year term or a six year term at their discretion. Thereafter, all legislative representatives will serve four year terms with elections

## Ballot Summary

of half of the representatives to be held every two years commencing in 2010.

### QUESTION 8

Option A: The newly reformed Osage government is reorganized under one governing constitution of the Osage Nation with one governing body organized into a 3 branch system that does not include the Osage Tribal Council as part of that system. The Osage Tribal Council functions as an independent body with no governmental authority, yet retaining all its' present fundamental organization, authority and responsibilities over the Osage mineral estate in accordance with the Osage Allotment Act of June 28, 1906 (sec.9, 34 Stat. 539).

OR

Option B: The newly reformed Osage government is reorganized under one governing constitution of the Osage Nation with one governing body organized into a 3 branch system that does include the Osage Tribal Council as part of that system. The Osage Tribal Council is established as a second chamber in a bicameral, or two house system, within the legislative branch of the newly reformed Osage government. Elected by Osage shareholders, the Osage Tribal Council retains all its' present fundamental organization, authority and responsibilities over the Osage mineral estate in accordance with the Osage Allotment Act of June 28, 1906 (sec.9, 34 Stat. 539). All legislative authority, other than that specified to manage the mineral estate, is delegated to a house of representatives elected at large by all adult members of the Osage Nation. A bright line must be drawn between the two houses to clearly delineate duties and responsibilities.

### QUESTION 9

The executive branch, which has responsibility for ensuring that the laws of the Osage Nation are carried out and for the framing of tribal policy, shall have executive power vested in a chief executive and in the chief executive's absence, a deputy chief executive. Both the chief executive and the deputy chief executive must be Osage citizens, age 35 years or older, and shall be elected to serve four year terms by a majority of votes cast by eligible voters in elections of the Osage Nation.

### QUESTION 10

Candidates for the offices of chief executive and deputy chief executive shall be elected as running mates on the same ticket.

OR

Candidates for the office of chief executive and deputy chief executive shall be elected independently of each other.

### QUESTION 11

A Department of Treasury shall be established within the executive branch to oversee fiscal policy and ensure financial accountability within the new government of the Osage Nation. The executive director of the Department of Treasury shall be called the Treasurer of the Osage Nation and shall be appointed by the chief executive of the tribe and confirmed by the legislature. The Treasurer shall accept, receipt for, keep and safeguard all tribal funds as directed by the legislature and shall maintain and provide an accurate record of such tribal funds. The Treasurer shall ensure that an annual financial statement is audited by a Certified Public Accountant and presented to the legislature in a timely manner, and will submit un-audited reports as required.

### QUESTION 12

The judicial branch should be responsible for interpreting the laws of the Osage Nation and it's powers will include, but not necessarily be limited to, the trial and adjudication of certain civil and criminal matters, the redress of grievances, the resolution of disputes and the judicial review of certain holdings and decisions of administrative agencies and of the trial court. Judicial power shall be vested in a Supreme Court of the Osage Nation, a lower Trial Court of the Osage Nation and such lower courts of special jurisdiction and other forums as deemed necessary and authorized by the legislature. There shall be one Chief Justice, who is a citizen of the Osage Nation, licensed to practice law for no less than ten (10) years and at least 40 years of age, and two Justices of the Supreme Court who are licensed to practice law for no less than five (5) years. There shall be one Chief Judge who is a citizen of the Osage Nation, and who has been licensed to practice law for no less than five (5) years and other Associate Judges as deemed necessary by the legislature.

### QUESTION 13

Option A: The Chief Justice and Justices of the Osage Nation Supreme Court, along with the Chief Judge of the Osage Nation Trial Court, shall be appointed by the chief executive and confirmed by the legislature. The Chief Justice and the Chief Judge, once appointed, shall in turn jointly appoint such Trial Judges as are deemed appropriate for the efficient and proper administration of justice.

OR

Option B: The Chief Justice and Justices of the Osage Nation Supreme Court and the Chief Judge of the Osage Nation Trial Court shall be appointed by the chief executive and confirmed by the legislature and shall serve one full term prior to standing for retention by a vote of the Osage people. At the conclusion of a full term, each will stand for retention in the next general election and repeat this cycle thereafter. The Chief Justice and the Chief Judge, once appointed, shall in turn jointly appoint such Trial Judges as are deemed appropriate for the efficient and proper administration of justice.

### QUESTION 14

All elected officials are subject to removal and /or recall from office for

## This is not an official ballot

willful neglect of duty, malfeasance in office, habitual drunkenness or drug abuse, inability to meet qualifications to serve, conviction of a felony, a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude or offenses against the Osage Nation committed while in office.

### QUESTION 15

Amendments to the constitution may be proposed by the Osage people by citizen's initiative or by the house of representatives in the legislative branch, with a super majority vote. The proposed amendments must go to the citizens of the Osage Nation for approval by vote. If favored by a majority vote of the Osage people, the constitution shall be amended.

### QUESTION 16

Tribally owned enterprises shall be managed by boards in which the members are qualified professionals appointed by the Osage Nation legislature. In order to insulate tribal enterprises from politics, no elected official shall be appointed to a tribal enterprise board. The legislature shall maintain general oversight and approve the Annual Plan of Operation for the coming year, including projected budgets, appropriations, major acquisitions, and strategic plans.



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"A new day is coming. Let's go into it together."