



Kiowa Tribe District 7 Newsletter

May of 2023



Greetings, District 7 Kiowa Citizens!

We are excited to provide you with an update on our District 7 office's current work. On the political front, our district continues to remain a key player in local initiatives and legislation. Our representative, Warren Queton, has recently proposed a legislative resolution to establish a line-item vote on the budget. However, a motion was made to table until May, which means the line-item vote will mostly not occur until the next budget and modification. The bill is gaining traction and support from other legislators, and we are confident it will be passed.

Your legislative staff and office are unsatisfied with the efficiency and transparency of the budgetary process the tribe uses. District 7 proposes establishing an Appropriations Committee from within the legislature to negotiate and finalize a budget throughout the year instead of being rushed to submit a budget before the June election.

On another note, our legislative rules and procedures have not been revised since their

inception in 2017. Several processes are missing from the current legislative rules, which must be reviewed, revised, and approved by the legislature. We propose the establishment of a Rules Committee. The rules committee is crucial to the legislative process, ensuring that all laws and regulations are properly enforced. It also determines what rules can be created, modified, or eliminated. This committee is composed of elected officials who serve as its members. Its members review proposed laws and debate their merits before voting on them.

Finally, we must not forget the topic of blood quantum! There is still a lot of confusion about what the different options on the table regarding the blood quantum. I propose revisiting this issue in the next fiscal year through an amendatory convention to clear up confusion and propose an amendment to constitution. Changing the blood quantum requires an amendment to the Constitution, which is difficult. Therefore, citizens need to stay informed regarding the issue of blood quantum and understand the implications of each option which will be presented during the amendatory convention. An amendatory convention is intended to be a forum where citizens from each district come together to discuss an amendment to the Constitution.

Thank you for taking the time to read this brief update on District 7 Kiowa citizens! We hope this information was informative and helps you stay informed about all the goings-on in your District!

Citizens Affected by Recent Tornadoes

Emergency Assistance

Kiowa citizens are invited to apply for emergency assistance for utilities. This can be received yearly for \$250 in utility assistance.

Applications can be found online, [Kiowa Tribe Social Services](#)

Housing Assistance

Kiowa Citizens who are homeowners can apply for housing assistance. This program will assist with mortgage payments and utilities.

Applications can be found online at [Kiowa Housing](#)

Potawatomi Tribe

The Potawatomi tribe is working with the Red Cross to assist all tribes who were affected by recent tornadoes.

Details with assistance and how to apply can be found by reaching out to the Potawatomi tribe, at **405-878-3854**



Meet Our New Office Manager, Tara BigBow

Hello, I am happy to join the Kiowa Tribe District 7 office. I come from the BigBow family; my mother is Rhodene BigBow, my grandparents are Harding and Pearl BigBow, and I am a descendant of the War Chief, Zepko-ette BigBow. I reside in Norman, where I live with my little beagle, Burt Macklin.

My professional background is in software development. In 2016 I was awarded a full scholarship from Facebook to attend a programming bootcamp in San Francisco, where I learned how to become a software engineer. Since then, I have worked in several tech companies, including contract work at Microsoft and Apple. I have worked hard to grow my tech skills to help advance our tribe, and I am pleased to be given this opportunity.

When not working, I enjoy many hobbies, such as knitting, bead working, and listening to my vinyl record collection.

I will be the new point of contact for our District 7 newsletter. If you have any topics you would like to see discussed, please reach out to me at tbigbow@kiowatribe.org

Upcoming Events

Language Class

Enrollment

Kiowa District 7 Language Class

MAY 8TH

IN PERSON ACTIVITY BEGINS

@ 7:00PM

VIRTUAL CLASS BEGINS

@ 8:00 PM

POTLOCK! PLEASE BRING AN ITEM TO SHARE!

SPEAKERS | DELORES HARRAGARRA
VELMA EISENBERGER
MARTHA POOLAW

Location: Kiowa District 7 Office
123 24th Ave NW
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

ZOOM OPTIONS

Link: <http://bit.ly/3zqawmq>
Meeting ID: 896 1731 5150
Password: Kiowa QR Code



FOR ANY ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CLASS CONTENT PLEASE
CONTACT KRICKET CONNYWERDY AT RHOADSCONNYWERDY@GMAIL.COM



KIOWA TRIBE DISTRICT 7

TRIBAL ID CARD DAY



SATURDAY, MAY 13TH 2023

123 24TH AVE NW, NORMAN, OK 73069
10 AM - 2 PM CST
PHONE NUMBER: (405) 857-8408

ENROLLMENT SERVICES WILL BE AT THE
DISTRICT 7 OFFICE ONCE A MONTH

KIC Meeting Continued

The 2023 KIC Meeting is recessed until May 20th, 2023.

Doors will open at 8:00am, registration will be at 8:30am with the meeting commencing as soon as quorum is attained (150 enrolled citizens).

All citizens are encouraged to stay for the duration of the meeting. There will be drawings for a 55" TV, an Alexa device, and a tablet.

A catered meal will be provided.

Arvo Mikkanen



United States Department of Justice
United States Attorney Robert J. Troester
Western District of Oklahoma

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 28, 2023

Contact: Travis D. Smith
Phone: 405/553-8999

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY NAMES LONG-TIME FEDERAL PROSECUTOR ARVO Q. MIKKANEN TO SERVE IN NEWLY CREATED ROLE AS SENIOR COUNSEL FOR TRIBAL RELATIONS

OKLAHOMA CITY – Today, United States Attorney Robert J. Troester named Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) Arvo Q. Mikkanen to serve in a newly created role as Senior Counsel for Tribal Relations for the Western District of Oklahoma, as part of the office’s strong commitment to Indian country.

“Arvo Mikkanen has 30 years of federal prosecution experience and is one of the foremost authorities in the Department of Justice on the law related to Indian country,” said U.S. Attorney Troester. “It is only fitting that he serves in this newly created role as Senior Counsel for Tribal Relations to further solidify the commitment, service, outreach, and collaboration by my office with the Tribes in the Western District of Oklahoma.”

“I am extremely excited to accept this new position and look forward to utilizing my experience in the courtroom and knowledge of state, tribal, and justice systems to build upon what we have already accomplished,” said AUSA Mikkanen. “I also hope to improve the understanding regarding the complexities of providing justice in Indian country and strengthen the cooperation among the federal government, the 21 tribal governments in the district, and the various state and local law enforcement agencies. Ultimately, the goal is for both tribal and non-tribal citizens to feel an added sense of public safety across the Western District with law enforcement agencies working together more closely in a cohesive fashion.”

This position is historic—the first of its kind at the U.S. Attorney’s Office—and will be instrumental in coordinating Indian country law enforcement and public safety throughout the district, including training, management of law enforcement priorities, consulting with tribal leadership and justice officials, and strengthening relationships between federal, tribal, and state law enforcement partners. As Senior Counsel for Tribal Relations, AUSA Mikkanen will play a unique and crucial role in the Department of Justice’s effort to prevent and respond to violent crime in Indian country, as well as address such important issues as cross deputization, jurisdictional concerns, outreach to tribal communities, and improved strategies regarding Missing or Murdered Indigenous People.

The following Tribal Nations have land located within the Western District: Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, Apache Tribe of Oklahoma, Caddo Nation, Cherokee Nation, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Chickasaw Nation, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Comanche Nation, Delaware Nation, Fort Sill Apache Tribe, Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma, Kaw Nation, Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma, Kiowa Tribe, Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Indians, Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma, Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, Sac and Fox Nation, Shawnee Tribe, Tonkawa Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, and Wichita and Affiliated Tribes.

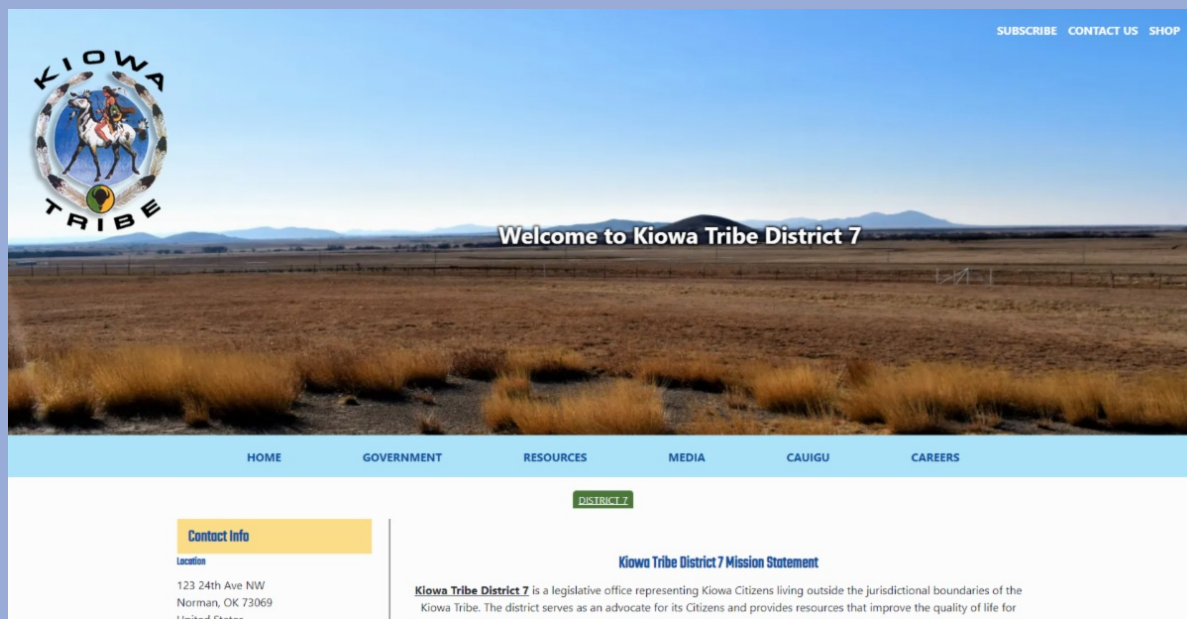
Today’s announcement follows the announcement last week of the U.S. Attorney’s adoption and implementation of Savanna’s Act Guidelines to improve the response and investigation of cases involving Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons, which Mikkanen was instrumental in drafting. More information on the guidelines can be found at <https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdok/pr/united-states-attorney-issues->

guidelines-part-new-federal-strategy-cases-involving.

AUSA Mikkanen is Kiowa/Comanche and an enrolled member of the Kiowa Tribe. He has served in both the civil and criminal divisions of the U.S. Attorney's Office, has served as a tribal liaison, and has been counsel of record in more than 750 cases in the U.S. District Court in Oklahoma City. AUSA Mikkanen has also served as a federal judicial law clerk, civil practitioner, tribal judge, tribal prosecutor, and law professor during his legal career. He received an A.B. *magna cum laude* from Dartmouth College in 1983, graduating Phi Beta Kappa, and a J.D. from Yale Law School in 1986.

AUSA Mikkanen has been well recognized throughout his career. He received the Gold United States Congressional Award from the U.S. Congress in 1985; the Oklahoma Bar Association's Outstanding Pro Bono Service Award in 1992; the Equal Access to Justice - Pro Bono Publico Award from Oklahoma Indian Legal Services in 1992; the American Bar Association's Spirit of Excellence Award in 2004; and the Sonja Atetewuthtakewa Award for Distinguished Service in the Protection of Native American Children in 2003. In 2011, the National Association of Former United States Attorneys presented AUSA Mikkanen with the Exceptional Service Award. In 2012, AUSA Mikkanen received the Attorney General's Award for Exceptional Service in Indian Country during the 60th Annual Attorney General's Awards Ceremony, which recognizes department employees and others for their outstanding dedication to carrying out the Department of Justice's missions.

Additional information about Indian country resources in the Western District of Oklahoma is available at <https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdok/programs/indian-country>.



New Website

District 7 has a new space on the Kiowa Tribe website! Please bear with us as this is a current work in progress. Please check back as we continue to update this

Blood Quantum

District 7 Legislator and staff are proposing a Special Meeting of the Kiowa Indian Council for an Amendatory Convention to consider the refinement of tribal criteria for Tribal Citizenship. The Kiowa Legislature resolution would call a Special Meeting of the Kiowa Indian Council to present, discuss, and determine the refinement and viability of its "tribal membership" criteria and by what means such should be offered for amendment purposes to the tribal membership.

Blood quantum politics is an issue of great importance to Native Nations. The term refers to the measure of Indian blood a person has, which can vary from tribe to tribe. Tribes use this measure to determine whether someone is eligible for enrolled membership and certain rights that come with it, such as receiving tribal benefits or participating in tribal government. The federal government uses blood quantum to determine which tribes are "recognized" and eligible for certain benefits. It is an idea imposed upon tribes, not a concept that is organic to tribal nations. Blood quantum politics raises questions about tribal sovereignty and self-determination. Advocates argue that the policy helps to protect a tribe's culture and identity, while those opposed point out its potential to cause division within tribal communities. Blood quantum also perpetuates the myth of racial purity, an idea used to oppress Native Americans throughout history.

This article informs Citizens that District 7 is proposing a Special Kiowa Indian Council meeting and Amendatory Convention to address blood quantum options with presentations and data analysis reports to be shared with all citizens.

Let's look at some alternatives to the recent 4/4s KIC Proposal.

- 1) 1/4 Blood Quantum - This is the current blood quantum enrollment, leaving 1/4 blood quantum to qualify for tribal citizen enrollment
- 2) 1/8 Blood Quantum - This has been discussed several times before but has yet to be enacted into law. If the tribe adopts a 1/8 blood quantum, it will allow the next generation of citizens whose parents are only 1/4 blood to enroll as citizens.
- 3) 1/16 Blood Quantum - This option is relatively new but is being discussed in the citizen community. It would address blood quantum and be a solution for the next 2-3 generations but would eventually need to be re-addressed.
- 4) Lineage Blood Quantum - Like Choctaw and Chickasaws, tribal citizens become citizens no matter their blood quantum amount, meaning as long you can prove you are a descendant of a citizen on the tribal rolls, you are eligible for citizenship.
- 5) 4/4 Blood Quantum - Raising everyone on the tribal enrollment to 4/4s Kiowa.
- 6) Pooling Blood Quantum - This converts Indian blood into Kiowa blood. For example, if you are half Comanche and half Kiowa, with appropriate documentation, your Comanche Blood is converted to Kiowa Blood, making you 4/4s Kiowa.



District 7 Office Space is Expanding!

Executive Branch is Coming to Norman

Our District 7 office space will soon occupy the office space for the executive branch. This is a work in progress, with more details to come.

New Tulsa Office Space

We will soon be opening office space in Tulsa. Details on location and grand opening will be announced in the summer.

Kiowa District 7 Legislative Office | 123 24th AVE NW, Norman, OK 73069 405-857-8408

[Unsubscribe wqueton@gmail.com](mailto:wqueton@gmail.com)

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