Ouray, Tulsa. My name is Jay Neugin, candidate for the At Large seat on the Cherokee Nation Tribal Council. I’m 53 years old and have been married to my high school sweetheart for 32 years. We have two daughters and four grandchildren. I come from a rural community and like many, I was raised with limited means and had to work for everything I ever got. I’m not complaining because it was these same hardships and life experiences that formed me into the man I am today. My hard work, good decisions and efforts finally put me on the track to success. That hard work eventually paid off and landed me into positions of leadership and management in the company I worked for. I went to school during the night and supported my wife and I have been blessed to have owned and operated three different businesses. I have over 25 years of volunteer experience in my community supporting schools and families in need. Given my age, I honestly feel that I have a clear understanding of what our families face every day. I know all too well what it’s like to have more bills than money. I know what it’s like to have no medical insurance and yet have kids with needs like braces. I know the cost and concerns associated with college because I’ve helped both my girls complete their degrees. Please don’t read this and think I’m bragging. I’ve said all this to help you understand that I’m not rich, but I do know what hard work is. I’m not a “career politician,” but I do know the importance of making good sound decisions. As a descendant of some great Cherokee leaders, I feel compelled to serve the people and protect the legacy the leaders before me left. I want to ensure that there is a bright future for all Cherokee people. I would consider it an honor to represent you on the Tribal Council and I promise to, without a doubt, do the best that I can as your next At Large Tribal Councilor. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to me on Facebook or email me at neugin4alc@yahoo.com and I will answer everything to the best of my ability. Wado.

Paid for by Jay Neugin • P.O. Box 68, Howe, OK 74404

Healthcare is a priority for At-Large citizens.
ABSENTEE & IN-PERSON

BY STACIE GUTHRIE

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. – Whether Cherokee Nation citizens are voting absentee or in person, there are different steps to take for each. The first step for citizens to take for both is to make sure they are registered to vote with the Cherokee Nation’s Election Commission.

According to a press release, the deadline to register to vote in the June 3 general election, as well as any necessary June 22 runoffs, was set midnight March 31. Absentee ballot application forms and can be picked up at the CNEC offices at 17763 S. Muskogee Ave. or can be downloaded from www.cherokee.org/elections and will be accepted until midnight April 21 by fax (918-458-6101) or email (election-commission@cherokee.org).

According to the release, the EC will begin mailing absentee ballots to eligible voters April 25-26. Voters “must return the voted ballot” to the EC by mail or to the “Personal Delivery” box located within Election Commission Office from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., May 27 and from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., May 30-June 3.

If eligible voters who requested an absentee ballot did not receive one the EC suggests they report the problem to the EC. According to the EC calendar, the last day to mail replacement ballots is June 1.

If citizens are voting in person, they can vote from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on June 3 at their designated precinct. If an eligible voter is in line at 7 p.m. they will be “entitled to vote,” the release states.

EC officials said they recommend citizens bring their voter identification card when voting.

Your voter identification card can help precinct officials find your name in the Precinct Signature Book, and it may also help them resolve the problem if you are not listed in the Precinct Signature Book,” the release states.

If a voter’s name is not found in the PSB, or if a voter disagrees with the information in the book, EC officials suggest the voter cast a “challenged ballot.”

“A challenged ballot is sealed in a special envelope and counted after the challenged ballots are returned to the CNEC office if the voter’s information can be verified by the Cherokee (Nation) Election Commission,” the release states.

In-person voters can also vote early at the Election Commission Office from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on May 27, May 30-31 and June 1.

For more information, contact the Cherokee (Nation) Election Commission at 918-458-5899 or 1-800-353-2899.
MARY BAKER SHAW
FOR AT-LARGE TRIBAL COUNCIL

I am Mary Baker Shaw, daughter of retired Tribal Councilman Amon Baker and I am descendant from the Cherokee Nation’s oldest families. My family can be traced back to Greater Tellico of the Cherokee Overhill settlement in Tennessee as a direct descendant of Old Corn Tassel. My lineage includes family names such as Fields, Emory, Martin, Fox, Thompson, Cowan and Gritts. My family came as Old Settlers one year before removal, and my ancestors settled at Gooseneck Bend, which still holds fond memories for me from my childhood. I’m a member of the daughters of the American Revolution, Oklahoma Cherokee County Chapter as a direct descendant of Cherokee Beloved Woman, Nancy Ward.

As a Cherokee Nation Citizen, I have served my tribe and Indian Country my entire life. I am a member of the Tulsa Community College Foundation Board, the largest community college in the U.S. serving Native Americans, where I advocate for our Native students’ education and career preparedness. I am on the Board of Trustees at Bacone College, the oldest Native American institution of higher learning in Oklahoma. I serve the American Indian Resource Center for Tulsa City-County Public Libraries to provide regular culture and education programming for Cherokees and our broader Native community. Additionally, I am a member of the Tulsa Cherokee Community Organization, which has served At-Large Cherokees for more than 20 years.

In the past, I served on the Cherokee National Historical Society Board of Directors, Salvation Army Board of Directors, the March of Dimes Board of Directors, the Tulsa Opera Board and Guild, Advocates to The Oklahoma Osteopathic Association, and The Oklahoma Educational Foundation of Osteopathic Medicine Board of Directors. Currently, I serve the greater Tulsa community through the Advisory Board of the Signature Symphony.

After receiving my nursing degree from Bacone College in 1974, I studied nursing anesthesia at the Mayo Clinic. Upon my return to Oklahoma, I accepted the Director of Surgery position at Doctor’s Hospital in Tulsa. Currently, I serve as the Business Manager for University Heights Medical Clinic in Muskogee, OK.

“Mary has the integrity we need at this time to help the Tribal Council become an independent branch of the Cherokee Nation to offer advice and consent where required for the operation of the Nation, its businesses and social programs including education, health care, housing and the general welfare of Cherokee people.”

- Russ Ow-Immmer, Principal Chief 1973-1985

ELECTION GUIDE
CHEROKEE PHOENIX
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- Experienced in Building a number of his families houses throughout life.
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CHEROKEE PHOENIX  •  ELECTION GUIDE

BALLOT BOXES

E-Scan Voting Machines

BY JAMI MURPHY
Senior Reporter

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. – Elections Director Connie Parnell of the Cherokee Nation’s Election Commission gave in 2015 the Cherokee Phoenix an overview of the EC’s voting machines to be used during this year’s elections.

The EC purchased 60 of the machines with ballot boxes from Hart InterCivic for $384,778.25, according to EC documents and officials.

“And it’s called an ‘E-scan.’ It’s a PC-based system that is completely prepared here in the Election Commission office from the date the election is set to the casting of the ballots and the certifications,” she said. “Everything is done here in the office.”

Parnell said all the software and computers needed to run the election was included in the purchase.

“The devices have been through an acceptance test. Not only do they get the acceptance test, and that’s to test all the logistics of the machine to make sure that we are getting equipment that is completely usable, which they are new..., she said, “they also go through a logic and accuracy test with the election.”

She added that when ballots to be used for the upcoming election are printed, the printer company would send those ballots to the EC. Parnell said she would test a sampling of those printed ballots to ensure they read properly on the equipment.

Once Cherokee voters feed ballots through a voting machine, the number accumulated is checked against those ballots within the machine’s ballot box. Within each voter booth are instructions for the voter on how to mark and cast a ballot.

“If they have mismarked one, the machine will tell them that they have over voted a race and it gives them that opportunity to not lose any of their votes,” Parnell said.

Once a ballot is accepted the machine will read on the screen “thank you for voting.”

With this being the first election the tribe has run itself without contracting an outside company, Parnell said it’s something the Cherokee voters should be proud of.

“It’s really good that the Cherokee Nation is providing for the Cherokee citizens their own election. They own it (the election), they own it,” she said.

Early walk-in voting days are May 27, May 30-31 and June 1 at the Election Commission Office located at 1770 S. Muskogee Ave. in Tahlequah. The general election will be held at area precincts on June 3. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on each voting day, including early voting days.

For information about a precinct, absentee ballot request or general information regarding the tribe’s election, call 918-458-3889.

In this 2015 photo, Election Commission Elections Director Connie Parnell discusses how a sample ballot goes into one of the EC’s voting machines during a test run at the tribe’s Election Services Office in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

STACIE GUTHRIE/CHEROKEE PHOENIX

FRANKIE HARGIS

PROVEN LEADERSHIP FOR OUR NATION

Cherokees stick together. We stand as one nation through tough times and celebrate with each other through the good. We give a helping hand to every Cherokee -- because when one of us succeeds, we all succeed. That’s why we provide education for our children so they can provide for our grandchildren. That’s why our Nation creates jobs for Cherokees, invests in expanding access to affordable health care and provides assistance to help Cherokees secure affordable housing right here in Adair County.

FRANKIE BY THE NUMBERS

• $80,000 to establish a shelter in Stilwell for survivors of domestic violence
• $1 million for roads and bridges in Adair County
• $4.2 million dollars for Child Development Center expansion in Stilwell
• More college scholarships for Cherokees than ever before
• $11 million for the Stilwell expansion of the Wilma P. Mankiller Clinic

FRANKIE IS FIGHTING FOR:

• Education funding for Cherokee children and students
• High speed internet service for every Cherokee home in Adair County
• Good paying jobs for Cherokees close to home
• Affordable housing for every Cherokee family

JUNE 3RD, VOTE FOR PROVEN LEADERSHIP, RE-ELECT FRANKIE HARGIS.

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By: Jami Murphy

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ELECTION GUIDE

• CHEROKEE PHOENIX

2017 GWY 5/20-J

ELECTION DAY ETIQUETTE

BY LINDSEY BARK

Reporter

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. — According to Title 26, Section 52 of the Cherokee Nation’s Elections Code, candidates and campaigners must follow a code of conduct pertaining to electioneering at voting precincts on election day for the 2017 Tribal Council elections.

Electioneering is the act of engaging in a political campaign for the success of a particular candidate or party.

The following are the do’s and don’ts of electioneering at voting precincts:

• No person is allowed to electioneer inside any precinct or within 300 feet outside the precinct entrance while an election is in process.

• Prohibited activities which may be interpreted as electioneering include: wearing any article of clothing with a candidate’s name or office on it; holding any article such as signs with a candidate’s name or office on it; distributing or displaying written material, campaign literature, or campaign items of any nature within the specified area unless provided by Election Commission officials.

• Only precinct officials or other authorized persons are allowed to approach the ballot box while an election is in process.

• No person is allowed to obstruct or hinder a voter’s access to a polling place including any entrances or exits being used by voter’s vehicles to travel to and from the polling place.

Any use of the official website of the Cherokee Nation, the Cherokee Nation intranet, employee address list or office phone extensions is prohibited for use of political purposes. Candidates or other persons violating this rule will be assessed a civil penalty for each occurrence.

Any candidate, voter, or other person who is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation or citizen of a federally recognized Indian tribe who violates the requirements or prohibitions of the Title 26, Section 52 is “guilty of a crime” and are subject to removal by local law enforcement and/or the Cherokee Nation Marshal Services at the request of Election Commission officials or other authorized precinct officials.

Cherokee Nation citizen Linda Keener, of Rose, Oklahoma, votes in the Tribal Council elections on June 22, 2013, at the precinct located in the tribe’s A-mo Health Center in Salina.

JAMI MURPHY/CHEROKEE PHOENIX

In this 2007 photo, a supporter of former Tribal Councilor Tina Glory Jordan holds a sign on election day beyond the mandated 300 feet of a precinct’s entrance.

WILL CHAVEZ/CHEROKEE PHOENIX

DO’S AND DON’TS OF VOTING

ELECTIONEERING IS THE ACT OF ENGAGING IN A POLITICAL ELECTION OR CAMPAIGN FOR THE SUCESS OF A PARTICULAR CANDIDATE OR PARTY.

NO HOLDING SIGNS WITH A CANDIDATE’S NAME OR OFFICE WITHIN 300 FEET

NO DISTRIBUTING OR DISPLAYING WRITTEN MATERIAL, CAMPAIGN LITERATURE OR CAMPAIGN ITEMS

DON’T WEAR ANY CLOTHING WITH A CANDIDATE’S NAME OR OFFICE ON IT

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RE-ELECT SPEAKER JOE BIRD

GWV TRIBAL COUNCIL DISTRICT 2

BRINGING OUR NATION TOGETHER

In a time when it seems like folks can’t agree on anything, the Cherokee Nation is moving forward. We have a Tribal Council that works with our Chief and Deputy Chief, instead of against them. That’s because, for the first time in a lifetime, our Cherokee leaders are finding ways to work through our differences and solve problems together.

JOE BYRD BY THE NUMBERS:

• Passed a $900 million budget with one unanimous vote
• Invested more than one hundred million dollars for Cherokee Health Care
• Provided more Cherokee scholarships than ever before
• Led the $200 million expansion of the WW Hastings Hospital

JOE BYRD IS FIGHTING TO:

• Continue building storm shelters in our schools and making our roads safe.
• Honor the hard work of our Cherokee farmers and ranchers by helping them maintain financial security and honor our agricultural heritage.
• Strengthen the relationship between Northeastern University, City of Tahlequah and Cherokee Nation.

JUNE 3RD, VOTE FOR A UNIFIED CHEROKEE NATION. VOTE FOR JOE BYRD.

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**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**

April 10: Mail voter ID cards
April 15: Candidates' financials due
April 21: Absentee request deadline
April 26-28: Mail absentee ballots
May 1: Candidates’ financials due
May 7: Early walk-in voting
May 30: Verifying absentee ballots,
and results
June 1: Early walk-in voting
June 1: Last day to mail replacement
absentee ballots
June 7: General election
June 13: Request for recount
June 16: Request for recount
June 19: Absentee request for runoff
deadline
June 20-27: Mail runoff absentee
ballots
July 15: Candidates’ financials due
July 17: Verifying absentee ballots,
and results
July 18-26: Early walk-in voting
July 20: Recount election
July 23-30: Request for recount
July 30: runoff election
July 31: Election appeals deadline
Aug. 1: Candidates’ financials due
Sept. 1: Candidates’ financials due
Oct. 1: Candidates’ financials due
Nov. 1: Candidates’ financials due
Dec. 1: Candidates’ financials due

**ELECTION RECORDS’ FEES**

$285
$675
$15
$5
$6

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ELECTION GUIDE

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**LEADERSHIP FOR ALL**

**BY JAMI MURPHY**

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. - Cherokee Nation citizens have the right to public records held by the tribe’s Election Commission, but they come with costs that the EC has established.

According to an EC document, an electronic reproduction of voter lists are $20 for one district, $35 for the At-Large District and $50 for all districts, including At-Large. The price for mailing labels are $60 for one district, $681 for At-Large and $875 for all districts.

The document states that financial disclosure reports are $10 per month for candidates and $5 for a revised monthly report per candidate. Also, the document states voter history lists per election year are $10, while individual sheets of paper will be $25 and CDs are $1 each. A $10 per hour research fee will also be charged if a large amount of research is needed to complete an information request.

EC staff members said prices were determined by taking the cost of labels, ink and the work it would take to produce such list. The electronic file was figured on how much it would cost to get it to each person. According to the tribe’s Freedom of Information and Rights of Privacy Act, citizens have the right to inspect or copy any public record of a public operation of the public body without the requestor being required to make a written request or inspect or copy the records when the requestor appears in person. Those records include minutes of the meetings of the of a public body, certain reports and documents identifying people confined in any jail, detention center, or prison.

According to CN election law, the most recent voter list shall be made available to the public at the EC office, but they come with costs that the EC has established.

**ELECTION RECORDS’ FEES**

$285
$675
$15
$5
$6

The act states the public body may establish and collect fees to exceed the actual cost of searching for or making copies of records. Fees charged by a public body must be uniform for copies of the same record or document. Also, the records must be furnished at the lowest possible cost to the person requesting the records.

The act further states that it is both constitutional and practical for public bodies to charge a reasonable fee to cover the costs of searching for or making copies of the records. The EC staff members said prices were determined by taking the cost of labels, ink and the work it would take to produce such list. The electronic file was figured on how much it would cost to get it to each person. According to the tribe’s Freedom of Information and Rights of Privacy Act, citizens have the right to inspect or copy any public record of a public body in accordance with reasonable rules and procedures.

The act states the public body may establish and collect fees to exceed the actual cost of searching for or making copies of records. Fees charged by a public body must be uniform for copies of the same record or document. Also, the records must be furnished at the lowest possible cost to the person requesting the records.

According to CN election law, the most recent voter list shall be made available to the public at the EC office, but they come with costs that the EC has established.

According to the tribe’s election, code, LA 22-16, the EC shall be subject to the CN Constitution and laws pursuant to its constitutional independent and autonomous status. Reports shall be maintained by the Election Commission Office, which shall preserve them in a secure location for at least five years, during which time they shall be a public record available for inspection and copying for a reasonable fee for any reasonable purpose for the purposes of the CN Freedom of Information Act.

The voter list shall be made available on paper, computer diskette, or mailed and available. The Election Commission may charge a nominal fee to cover the costs of duplicating the voter list, provided that the voter list shall be subject to inspection free of charge during the business hours of the Election Commission, the law states. According to the tribe’s election, code, LA 22-16, the EC shall be subject to the CN Constitution and laws pursuant to its constitutional independent and autonomous status. Reports shall be maintained by the Election Commission Office, which shall preserve them in a secure location for at least five years, during which time they shall be a public record available for inspection and copying for a reasonable fee for any reasonable purpose.

According to the tribe’s election, code, LA 22-16, the EC shall be subject to the CN Constitution and laws pursuant to its constitutional independent and autonomous status.
In Dist. 10, the ballot order is: Freddie Ferrell, incumbent Joe Byrd and Claude Buzzard.

In Dist. 11, incumbent Frankie Hargis is slated to run unopposed after the EC denied Randy White’s candidacy on Feb. 23. However, on Feb. 28, White’s attorney filed an appeal in the Cherokee Nation Supreme Court regarding the EC’s decision that stated White is not a “Cherokee by blood” and thus was not qualified to run. White’s hearing was held March 20 for the appeal, but as of publication a decision had not been issued as of publication.

In Dist. 16, the ballot order is Michelle Scurbrough and incumbent bitcoins.

For the At-Large seat, the ballot order is Rocky Miller, Shane Jett, Jay Neugin, Mary Baker Shaw, incumbent Joe Byrd and incumbent Harley Hartley.

For the At-Large seat, the ballot order is Sharilyn Van House, Brian Hartley and incumbent Harley Hartley.

In Dist. 8, the ballot order is returning candidates Robert Buzzard and Rocky Miller.

In Dist. 9, the ballot order is returning candidates Sharilyn Van House, Brian Hartley and incumbent Harley Hartley.

In Dist. 7, the ballot order is returning candidates Rocky Miller, Shane Jett, Jay Neugin, Mary Baker Shaw, incumbent Joe Byrd and incumbent Harley Hartley.

In Dist. 4, the ballot order is: Richard Brackeen, incumbent Joe Byrd and Claude Buzzard.

In Dist. 2, the ballot order is: Richard Brackeen, incumbent Joe Byrd and Claude Buzzard.

In Dist. 15, the ballot order is: Richard Brackeen, incumbent Joe Byrd and Claude Buzzard.

In Dist. 14, the ballot order is: Richard Brackeen, incumbent Joe Byrd and Claude Buzzard.

In Dist. 13, the ballot order is: Richard Brackeen, incumbent Joe Byrd and Claude Buzzard.
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