

COHARIE PEOPLE, INC.
LOCAL ELECTION RULES AND PROCEDURES
Approved and Adopted July 2021

Election Rules

An election/ballot committee consisting of one Coharie People, Inc. board member from each of the three (3) districts (Herring, Shiloh and South Clinton) and three (3) impartial members of the organization will be designated by the Coharie People, Inc. Board for the purpose of facilitating and conducting a legal, fair and proper election of any and all new Coharie People, Inc. board members. In accordance with the local By-Laws of the Coharie People, Inc. the rules and procedures for all Coharie People, Inc. board member elections are as follows:

Section 1 – General Provisions

- A. Elections will be held on the first Saturday in November of each year that an election is scheduled in accordance with the By-Laws of the Coharie People, Inc.
- B. Elections will be held by secret ballot
- C. Candidates will be elected to fill one three year term seat in each of the following local tribal districts:
 - Herring
 - Shiloh
 - South Clinton
- D. Candidates may be appointed by the Coharie People, Inc Board to fill other vacant seats, if any, in an interim capacity and in accordance with the By-Laws of the Coharie People, Inc.
- E. Candidates will be considered only for a vacant seat within the district where the candidate resides. (Residency for candidate is determined by the residence/address where candidate has lived for more than 51% of the year).
- F. Candidates who do not live within one the three (3) districts (Herring, Shiloh, South Clinton) may run for and be elected only within the district in which Candidate's parents reside or at the discretion of the Coharie People, Inc. Board. Should a Candidate have parents living in two (2) separate districts, the Candidate must select, at the time of nomination, which district Candidate wishes to be considered.
- G. Absentee ballots will be permitted.
 - Absentee ballots may be mailed, only upon written (emails accepted) request to the Coharie Tribal Enrollment Officer on the required form.

- Absentee ballots will be sent to qualified individuals who live outside of the voting areas or who may not be able to personally present themselves at their voting station on the date of an election.
- The official ballot return envelope will have on its face an official number assigned to the member by the election/ballot committee along with the appropriate polling station. A list of absentee ballots mailed, along with their corresponding official number will be maintained by the election/ballot committee. The election/balloting committee shall assign this number to each absentee ballot for the purpose of checking, at the time of ballot, the voting eligibility of the member whose ballots have been returned.
- Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in these election procedures, all ballots will be returned to the Coharie Tribal Enrollment Officer who shall present the unopened absentee ballots to the election/ballot committee to ensure the secrecy/confidentiality of the ballots prior to the election.
- Ballots will be held, unopened until the time designated for the counting of such ballots, at which time a member of the election/ballot committee shall remove the absentee ballot from its sealed envelope and directly place ballot into predetermined depository.
- Using the absentee ballot information maintained by the election/ballot committee, the absentee ballot received will be checked against the enrolled/registered tribal roll to insure there is not a duplication of vote both in person and in an absentee vote.
- Early voting may be permitted at a time and place to be designated by the Coharie People, Inc. Board.
- Notification of nomination and election dates will be posted on the Coharie Tribe website and Facebook.
- Except as otherwise specifically provided herein, any challenge to the conduct of an election must be presented to the currently seated Coharie People, Inc. Board at the Coharie People, Inc. community meeting or board meeting, whichever is first, following the election.

Section 2 – Candidate Requirements and Responsibilities

Candidates must meet the following requirements for qualification:

- A. Must be 18 years of age or older.
- B. Must be in good standing within the Tribal Community.
- C. Must be an actively enrolled/registered member of the Coharie Tribe.
- D. Must provide a current (six (6) months) Criminal Background Check to the Tribal Enrollment Officer; submitted with nomination form in a sealed envelope by nomination deadline date; to be reviewed by the Coharie People, Inc. Board.

Candidates must be willing and able to perform the following:

- E. Must be able to attend weekly, monthly or quarterly community and business meetings as needed to conduct business on behalf of the tribal community.

- F. Must be present and actively participate in functions conducted by the Coharie People, Inc. Board or its designated committee(s) for the tribal community.
- G. Must be present and actively participate in the preparation and production of the annual Coharie Tribe Cultural Pow-Wow.

Section 3 – Nominations

- A. A candidate for the Coharie People, Inc. Board must be nominated by a tribal member in good standing from the candidate's district and must accept the nomination. A nomination form must be completed and be delivered to the Tribal Enrollment Officer by a date and time designated by the Coharie People, Inc. Board.
- B. The Tribal Enrollment Officer will be charged with the safekeeping of the nominations.
- C. The election/ballot committee will be charged with confirming valid tribal enrollment of all candidates with the current Tribal Enrollment Officer.
- D. The election/ballot committee shall provide the collective Coharie People, Inc. Board with all nominations at a time and date designated by the Coharie People, Inc. Board.
- E. The Coharie People, Inc. Board shall deem a candidate qualified/disqualified. (See Appendix A for listing of disqualifying offenses). If a candidate is disqualified, the candidate must be notified in writing and a reason for the disqualification within one week of disqualification.
- F. Qualified candidates will be notified by the Coharie People, Inc. Board.

Section 4 – Balloting Procedure

- A. The election/ballot committee will assist the Tribal Enrollment Officer to ensure the proper and timely preparation of ballots without partiality as to candidates. The names of the candidates for each separate district will appear in alphabetical order. The ballots will contain voting instructions consistent with these election procedures.
- B. The ballots prepared by the election/ballot committee and the Tribal Enrollment Officer will be the only official ballots. No others may be used. A sufficient number of ballots will be printed and distributed. The election/ballot committee and the Tribal Enrollment Officer will maintain a record of all the ballots.
- C. Ballots must be sent to a predetermined depository. Secrecy/confidentiality of the ballots must be ensured. No signatures of any voter or other distinguishing mark will appear on the ballot. A signed or unmarked ballot will be ruled ineligible.

Section 5 – Ballot Collection, Tally Procedure

- A. The election/ballot committee will ensure that the total number of ballots received from each polling location is equal to the total number of highlighted tribal member names in the tribal roll book at the polling location.
- B. The election/ballot committee and the Tribal Enrollment Officer will validate and count the ballots on the date of the election at the Coharie Tribal Center.
- C. The election/ballot committee is charged with the tally of all ballots and the preparation of a report detailing the results of the election.

Section 6 – Runoff Procedure

- A. In the event of a runoff election, the election/ballot committee and the Coharie People, Inc. Board will schedule a runoff election to be held within three (3) weeks of the original election and at the earliest possible date and time.
- B. The election/ballot committee and the Coharie People, Inc. Board will provide notification of a runoff election via the Coharie Tribe website, Facebook and local publications within one (1) week of the original election.
- C. The runoff election will be conducted in accordance with Section 4 & 5 of this document.

Section 7 – Polling Stations

- A. The Coharie People, Inc. Board will insure that a secured polling booth will be made available for private voting at each selected polling station.

Section 8 – Installation of Officers

- A. New officers will take office in January of the next year following the election year at the first board meeting of the new year. In the result of a runoff election such officers will take office at the next scheduled Coharie People, Inc. board meeting following the runoff election.

COHARIE PEOPLE, INC.
LOCAL ELECTION RULES AND PROCEDURES
APPENDIX “A” – Disqualifying Offenses

Any person will be disqualified from consideration as a nominee for the Coharie People, Inc. Board of Directors if the individual has been (1) found guilty or entered a guilty or no contest plea regardless of the adjudication for any of the disqualifying offenses (2) as a charge pending against him or her in which it is alleged that he or she has committed any of the following crimes or (3) has a record of a conviction of an equivalent offense in another state.

- Possession of marijuana once in the last three (3) years or more than once in the last ten (10) years
- Possession of a controlled substance other than marijuana once in the last ten (10) years or more than once
- Assault and battery once in the last five (5) years or more than once in the last ten (10) years
- Driving while intoxicated two (2) or more times in the last five (5) years
- Distribution of controlled substances
- Delivery of controlled substances to prisoners
- Possession with intent to distribute controlled substances or marijuana
- Murder or manslaughter
- Malicious wounding by mob
- Abduction, abduction for immoral purposes
- Assaults and bodily wounding (this includes, but is not limited to, shooting, stabbing, malicious wounding, and reckless endangerment)
- Allowing firearm access to children
- Robbery
- Burglary and related offenses
- Carjacking
- Extortion by threat
- Felony stalking
- Sexual assault
- Arson
- Drive by shooting
- Use of a machine gun in a crime of violence
- Aggressive use of a machine gun
- Use of a sawed-off shotgun in a crime of violence
- Pandering
- Crimes against nature involving children
- Incest
- Taking indecent liberties with children
- Abuse and neglect of children
- Failure to secure medical attention for an injured child
- Obscenity offenses involving children

- Possession of child pornography
- Electronic facilitation of pornography
- Abuse and neglect of incapacitated adults
- Employing or permitting a minor to assist in an act constituting a criminal offense
- Escape from jail
- Felonies by prisoners

Approved and Adopted by the Coharie People, Inc. Board

Phillip Strickland, Chairperson

Gnaynelle Ammons-Faircloth, Vice Chairperson,

Joanna Chance, Secretary

July 26, 2021

Date