



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

September 14, 2021

Dear NCAI Membership and Partners:

I am writing you on behalf of the Administrative Board to provide an important update on the elections that will be taking place at the National Congress of American Indians' (NCAI) upcoming 78th Annual Convention & Marketplace, to be held virtually on October 7-14, 2021.

As you may be aware, NCAI's Executive Committee met on Friday, August 13, 2021, and exercised its authority pursuant to Article IV, Section B of the NCAI Constitution in order to amend the By-Laws to allow for safe meetings to occur virtually when necessary and to continue our long-standing practice of voting for new leadership every two years. The amendment can be found in the electronic version of NCAI's By-Laws on the website and includes the requirement that:

"When a virtual meeting is utilized, reasonable modifications may be enacted to carry out NCAI business, including modifications to the credentialing requirements, quorum requirements, voting requirements, voting procedures, and elections. Modifications must be approved by the Administrative Board prior to taking effect."

In compliance with this requirement, the Administrative Board has approved the following changes (a detailed list of the specific provisions altered is enclosed with this letter):

1. To accommodate virtual voting, the timing of elections has been altered so that voting will start at approximately 2:30 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, October 13, 2021 and will end at 10:00 a.m. EDT on Thursday, October 14, 2021.
2. To respond to the reality of virtual voting, all provisions referencing physical objects (e.g. ballot boxes, registration tables, paper lists, etc.) are temporarily suspended in favor of the use of virtual counterparts.
3. To adapt our procedures to conform with the independent election company that will carry out and monitor the elections, the development of specific step-by-step instructions on how to access the ballot and cast a vote will be developed and widely circulate

On behalf of the Administrative Board, thank you for your support and understanding of this decision. We are looking forward to continuing NCAI's tradition of fair, safe, and secure elections with these new processes. Please reach out to our Events team at events@ncai.org for any questions about this announcement and we are happy to assist.

Siokwil,

Fawn Sharp
President

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT
Fawn R. Sharp
Quinalt Indian Nation

1ST VICE PRESIDENT
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Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

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Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community

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Blackfeet Nation

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Nancy Carnley
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SOUTHERN PLAINS
Robert Tippeconnie
Comanche Nation

SOUTHWEST
Joe Garcia
Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo

WESTERN
Amber Torres
Walker River Paiute Tribe

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ADDENDUM
List of Virtual Meeting Modifications
Approved by Administrative Board on September 10, 2021

Modifications to Timing Rules

- Temporary modification of *Standing Rules of Order, Sec. V, Subsection B*, which states “The voting process shall take place from 8:00am to 10:00am on Thursday of an election year”, so that allows for virtual voting to take place from 2:30 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, October 13, 2021, through 10:00 a.m. EDT on Thursday, October 14, 2021.

Modifications to Physical Voting Elements:

- Temporary suspension of *Standing Rules of Order, Section V, Subsection B, Para. 3*, which states “Ballot boxes will be placed in an area that can be clearly viewed by the Elections Committee members, other election officials and the nominees.”
- Temporary suspension of *Standing Rules of Order, Section V, Subsection B, Para. 3*, which states “The ballot box or boxes will be inspected by the Elections Committee Chair prior to the balloting to assure that each box is empty and secure.”
- Temporary suspension of *Standing Rules of Order, Section V, Subsection B, Para. 1*, which states “Tribal delegates will pick up one of the official ballots at the registration tables.”
- Temporary suspension of *Standing Rules of Order, Section V, Subsection B, Para. 1*, which states “Each of the registration tables will have a list of tribal delegates, the correct number of ballots with appropriate number of tribal votes, and a sign in sheet for tribal delegates.”
- Temporary suspension of *Standing Rules of Order, Section V, Subsection B, Para. 2*, which states “Elections Committee volunteers will be selected by each Regional Vice President and will check the delegate against the official delegate list and monitor the signature while the other hands out the ballots.”
- Temporary suspension of *Standing Rules of Order, Section V, Subsection C, Para. 1*, “Registration tables shall be set up and Elections Committee members in good standing shall be appointed to distribute ballots to members whose name appears on the list assigned to that table.”
- Temporary suspension of *Standing Rules of Order, Section V, Subsection C, Para 1*, “The list of all Indian individual members shall be divided equitably between the tables.”
- Temporary suspension of *Standing Rules of Order, Section V, Subsection B*, which states “The balloting will take place in a separate room while General Assembly continues.”
- Temporary suspension of *Standing Rules of Order, Section IV*, the portion that states, “Only individuals wearing official convention badges with ribbons designating them as tribal delegates will be recognized as eligible to vote.”

Modifications to Voting Procedures

- Approval to create voting procedures that align with the election company and software used for virtual voting. Approval for these procedures to be reviewed by the Elections Committee Chair and sent out to membership in the NCAI Elections Memo.

Specifically, the procedures will indicate:

- how an individual will access their individualized ballot;
- how an individual fills out their ballot; and
- how an individual submits the ballot.