



# Kiowa Tribe District 7 Newsletter

April of 2024



Image taken from Oklahoma Historical Society

**Dear Kiowa District 7 Citizens,**

I hope you are in the gentle thaw of spring, where new beginnings blossom and the earth renews its vows of growth. I trust you all had a joyful and reflective Easter holiday, surrounded by those who nurture your spirit and uphold our traditions. I enjoy all the dances and celebrations going in our Kiowa traditions. Our youth uplifted my heart by showing and speaking our language at the Native

American Youth Language Fair on April 1-2. It was awe-inspiring, and congratulations to all the winners.

As we appreciate the burgeoning life around us, our gaze turns toward the vital stewardship responsibilities in our community. In this season of budding potential, we also prepare for the election period, a time to voice our hopes and choose our path forward.

This newsletter comes bearing the fruits of diligent labor - a comprehensive update from the recent Kiowa Indian Council meeting. We discuss the strides we've taken and the challenges we face as transparently and openly as our ancestors shared their wisdom.

We continue to uphold the ethos of our legislative branch in the spirit of unity and perseverance. We wish you a great spring season!

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## Thoughts from an Elder



### Early Schooling and Oklahoma Tribal Character

The education of our Kiowa people has always been one of my favorite subjects for visitations, discussions, and debates. I have been reminiscing over the past few days, probably because of Easter Sunday, about our family gatherings and the discussions I heard about my elders' lives, including their educational experiences. Regardless of what the non-Indian research says not all Indians who went to federal schools had bad experiences. My research and experiences with

Indian schooling suggest Oklahoma-born Indians do not always fit into the stereotype Indian boarding school characterization we read about in today's Indian affairs areas. Sure, there is evidence of mistreatment (mental and physical) but I question to what extreme was this condition a contributor to the current mental and identity state of our Oklahoma Indian people today. Personally speaking, I do not fit the non-Indian imagery of "Indian" (still stoic, introverted, unsure of self, non-verbal, limited in schooling, broken English, etc,) and I resent being patronized because of someone's ignorance about our people and ancestry. The early "Indian" schools' ultimate goal was to eliminate the Indian/Tribal cultural base as a means of assimilating Indian/Tribal children, thus eliminating the "Indian problem" for the expansion of the United States. This approach was effective to a certain extent. I maintain that Oklahoma Indian people are made from different backgrounds. However, they are all still viewed by the non-Indian segment as all the same even to this day.

Please click on the "Read More" to read the full article

[Read More](#)

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## Legislative Update



# Latest Legislature News

## District 7 Legislative Update

**April 2024-** We at District 7 are committed to the continued growth and prosperity of the Kiowa Tribe. This month has been particularly eventful, with substantial progress in several legislative areas. Here's a recap of the central outcomes and ongoing endeavors from our latest Legislative Regular Session:

### **Opposing the Cobalt Refinery in Lawton**

**Resolution Passed:** A firm statement of opposition was sponsored and successfully passed against the proposed Cobalt refinery in Lawton. We stand resolute in protecting our lands and maintaining the health and safety of our tribal members. Our next step is to meet with Westin Elements Inc. and our legislative legal team is researching options to oppose this pilot refinery further.

### **New Family Code for the Kiowa Tribe**

**Bill Passed:** With concerted efforts from our legislative attorneys and community input, we have sponsored and enacted a groundbreaking bill to adopt a Family Code. This code aims to strengthen family ties and safeguard the interests and rights of each family member within our community. Thank you to our legislative, legal, and judicial branches for collaborating on this code.

### **Setting Standards for Kiowa Commissions and Boards**

**Resolution in Progress:** In pursuit of exemplary governance, we tabled a

resolution to establish a Minimum Standards Act for those serving on Kiowa commissions and boards. Although this resolution was tabled due to community concerns voiced during a public hearing, we are fervently working this month to refine and resubmit this proposal to serve our tribe with integrity and fairness.

### **Commencing Fiscal Year Audit**

**New Resolution Initiated:** Upholding fiscal responsibility, we have begun the process to audit the past fiscal year's activities. Accountability and transparent financial practices are pivotal to fostering trust and efficiency within our tribal operations. District 7 is sponsoring a new bill to enact this audit process.

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In our continuous aim to foster connectivity with our community, we want every tribal member to be well-informed and involved in our collective legislative pursuits. We encourage everyone to participate, offer feedback, and join discussions as we strive to make impactful decisions that reflect our community's values.

Stay updated on our legislative accomplishments and join us as we forge paths towards a brighter and thriving future for our Kiowa Tribe.

Questions, comments, or suggestions can be directed to our office through email, phone number, and website. Your engagement is invaluable and deeply appreciated.

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## **The Kiowa Budget: A Crucial Vote Approaching**

On April 6th, the members of the Kiowa Indian Council were presented with a pivotal opportunity to shape the financial roadmap of their community for the upcoming year 2024-2025. Currently, there are two distinct fiscal matters the Kiowa people are asked to vote on—the budget modification and the annual budget approval. Understanding the significance and the differences between these two votes is essential for each tribal citizen before casting their ballots.

### **Two Votes This Year**

At the core of this election process lies a fundamental question: How will the Kiowa community allocate its resources to pave the way for a prosperous future? But before answering this question, we must distinguish between the two items on which votes will be cast.

Firstly, the budget modification encompasses adjustments and reallocations of the current fiscal year's budget. Whether responding to unforeseen expenses or redistributing surplus funds, the revision is an optimization tool to ensure that the community's immediate needs are met effectively.

Secondly, the approval of the annual budget is a forward-looking vote. It's about setting financial goals and priorities for the year ahead. It's a blueprint that guides the community's spending, investment, and savings, reflecting our aspirations and long-term commitments.

Both decisions require thorough consideration and an understanding of their long-term implications. This year, they are treated as separate entities, bearing distinct consequences for the governance and administration of community finances.

## The Pinnacle of Preparation

In anticipation of these momentous votes, a dedicated booklet outlining the details of the annual budget has been crafted. This vital document was introduced at the recent Kiowa Indian Council meeting, offering a comprehensive view of the proposed financial plans for the following year. It represents the meticulous efforts of the Legislative branch, which has worked closely with the Finance Department and the Executive Branch to ensure transparency and sufficiency of information. The budget booklet serves as a starting point—a foundation upon which informed decisions can arise. While it's acknowledged that the contents may not be immaculate, the budget represents a commitment to collective responsibility and progress. It grants every member of the Kiowa Indian Council the chance to scrutinize, question, and ultimately understand the flow and distribution of the community's resources.

A citizen may still request the total detailed line item from the Executive Branch. Send your request to the Executive Branch and they will authorize its release,

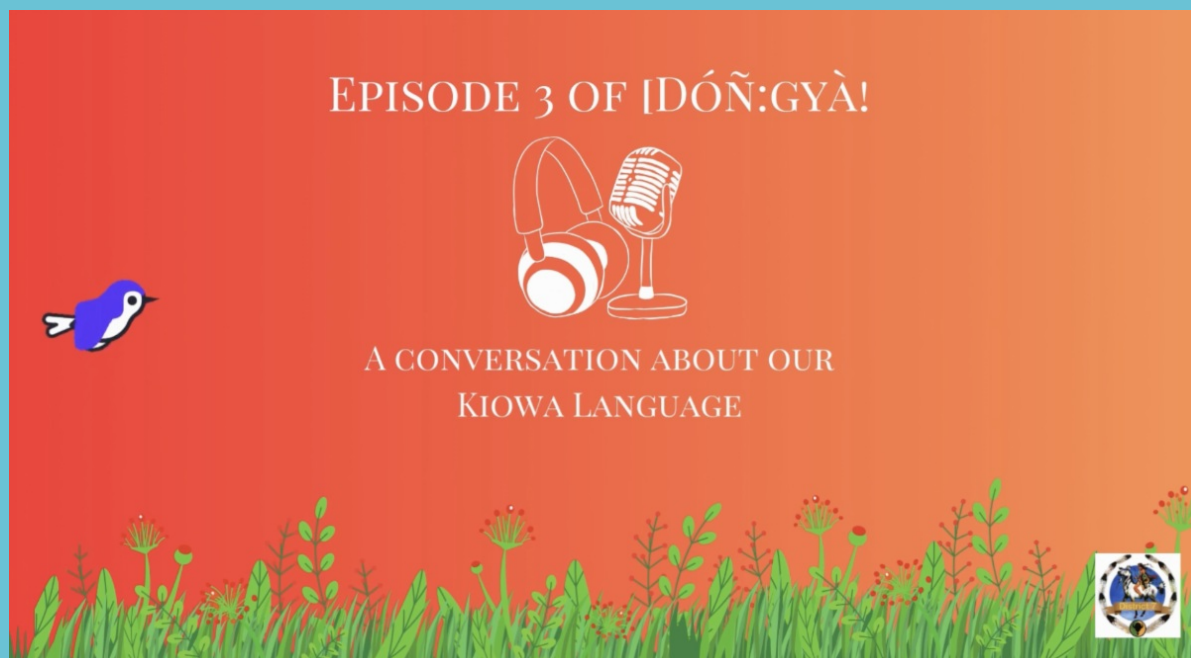
## Call to Action and Reflection

Every vote in this upcoming election is not merely a formal approval but an active contribution to the welfare and success of the Kiowa people. It is a step towards being a well-informed, financially responsible community that can move towards growth and stability.


As the Kiowa Indian Council prepares to cast these critical votes, citizens are encouraged to reflect on their community's values, needs, and prospects. The decisions made on June 1st will be a collective step toward a vision for the future. Together, with every page turned in the budget booklet and each thoughtful vote cast, the Kiowa Indian Council will map out their community's financial priorities. Vote and make your voice heard.

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## District 7 Podcast



EPISODE 3 OF IDÓN:GYÀ!



A CONVERSATION ABOUT OUR  
KIOWA LANGUAGE





### **Episode 3 available now on Spotify and Youtube**

We met with Kiowa Language instructors Ramon Granado and Dane Poolaw and had a conversation about our Kiowa language.

District 7 now has a podcast on Spotify and YouTube. Episode 3 is now available. Links can be found on our Linktree, <https://linktr.ee/kiowaD7>

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## **Updates from the KIC**





**The Kiowa Tribe**

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On Saturday, April 6, 2024 the K.I.C voted and elected the new K.I.C Coordinator, Steve Geronimo Hopkins!

If you have any questions for Mr. Hopkins please call him at 580-514-4838 or send an email to [kic.coordinator@gmail.com](mailto:kic.coordinator@gmail.com).



### **Kiowa Indian Council Meeting Summary – April 6, 2024**

The latest assembly of the Kiowa Indian Council (KIC), held on April 6, 2024, was able to conduct business as a quorum was maintained for the duration of the meeting. The all-day meeting was headlined by the election of Steve Hopkins as the KIC Coordinator and the approval of two pivotal resolutions from 2023.

#### **Election of New KIC Coordinator**

The council saw the election of Steve Hopkins as the new KIC Coordinator. Steve Hopkins, whose vision for the Kiowa Indian Council garnered the support needed for his new role, is expected to oversee key initiatives aligning with the tribe's goals and set long-term policy.

#### **Approval of Critical Resolutions**

Two central resolutions from 2023 were brought to the table and approved by the council. These will be placed on a Special Election ballot before the

- 1. Constitutional Amendment Resolution: This resolution proposes an amendment to the Kiowa Constitution that clarifies the number of votes necessary to amend the constitution. The council consented to stipulate that at least 30% of eligible voters must participate in the amendment process to ratify any changes.**

2. **Blood Quantum Resolution:** The second resolution addressed the criteria for tribal membership, focusing on the blood quantum requirement. Specific details of this resolution were to increase all citizens of the Kiowa Tribe to 4/4 blood members of the Kiowa Tribe. It was discussed and agreed upon, marking a significant change in how tribal membership eligibility is determined.

3.

### **Necessity for a Follow-Up Meeting**

The breadth of discussions and the complexity of the issues on the council's agenda made it clear that further dialogue is needed to move the 2024 resolutions forward. A follow-up special meeting must be scheduled to flesh out the implementation of the new measures and act on additional items that still need to be fully addressed during the next session.

Details on the reasons for the special meeting and its specific focus areas will be shared with the council members as arrangements are finalized.

The Kiowa Indian Council continues to show its dedication to proactive governance and the welfare of its members through such engaged and deliberative sessions. In due course, the Kiowa citizens will receive further updates and outcomes from the upcoming special meeting.

You can read the minutes on the KIC webpage,  
(<https://www.kiowatribe.org/department/kiowa-indian-council>)

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## **District 7 YouTube Channel**

**KIOWA TRIBE DISTRICT 7**

**Kiowa Tribe District 7**  
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22 views · 3 weeks ago
- March Webinar with Comanche Citizen, Brandon...  
34 views · 4 weeks ago
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87 views · 1 month ago
- Podcast Trailer  
11 views · 1 month ago
- September Zoom Webinar  
24 views · 6 months ago

District 7 has a YouTube channel, <https://linktr.ee/kiowaD7>.

Currently, it has uploads from our past Webinars and podcast episodes. We are aiming to get past 50 subscribers (it is free to subscribe) so we can livestream future events. If you are interested in staying up to date with events, please consider subscribing.

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# Upcoming Events

## Kiowa District 7 Language Class

### MAY 13TH

**IN PERSON ACTIVITY BEGINS**

**@ 7:00PM**

**VIRTUAL CLASS BEGINS**

**@ 8:00 PM**

POTLUCK! 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 OPTION**

Meeting ID: 876 3205 2759  
Password: kiowa

FOR ANY ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CLASS CONTENT PLEASE  
CONTACT KRICKET CONNYWERDY AT [RHODSCONNYWERDY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:RHODSCONNYWERDY@GMAIL.COM)



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## New Tulsa Language Class

We had our first Kiowa language class in Tulsa (and Zoom). We have uploaded the video and we encourage you to attend our next class. Details on the sign-up or to access the Youtube video, please visit our Linktree, <https://linktr.ee/kiowaD7>

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## Learn More About the Cobalt Refinery

YouTube Search

### TIMELINE – WESTWIN ELEMENTS, INC.

- Westwin Elements, Inc. formed on April 7, 2022
  - Jurisdiction: Oklahoma
  - Entity Type: Domestic For-Profit Business Corporation
  - Current Status: Dissolved
- Westwin Elements, Inc. was incorporated on June 15, 2022
  - Jurisdiction: Delaware
  - Entity Type: Foreign For-Profit Business Corporation
  - Current Status: Active
- Westwin Elements, Inc. – OK formed on April 28, 2023
  - Entity Type: Foreign For-Profit Business Corporation
  - Branch of Westwin Elements, Inc
  - Jurisdiction: Delaware

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March Webinar with Comanche Citizen, Brandon Parker

Kiowa Tribe District 7 21 subscribers

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On March 12th, we had a webinar with Comanche Citizen, Brandon Parker. He gave a very detailed presentation on the Cobalt Refinery. You can watch this recorded webinar on our YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/@kiowatribedistrict7>

## D7 Links

**@kiowaD7**  
Kiowa Tribe District 7

[district7legislature@kiowatribe.org](mailto:district7legislature@kiowatribe.org)

Website

Sign Up for Our Newsletter

Schedule a Meeting with Legislator Warren Queton

YouTube Videos

September Zoom Meeting (PW 381420)

Please bookmark and save <https://linktr.ee/kiowaD7> this page will be updated with easy-to-

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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