



Kiowa Tribe District 7 Newsletter

April of 2025



Photo by Codie Topetchy

Dear Kiowa District 7 Citizens,

I wish each of you a meaningful and joyous Easter season. This month, as we acknowledge the significance of renewal and community, we also recognize the importance of tradition within our collective life. Our April podcast series is devoted to Kiowa Hymns, examining their historical resonance and continuing influence. We invite you to listen and engage with this exploration of cultural heritage; find both the District and Podcast now on Spotify.

On the governance front, we diligently work as a Legislature to finalize the tribal budget. This is a complicated and critical process that ensures responsible

stewardship of our resources and the sustained well-being of our Nation. We encourage those interested to learn more about our financial priorities and the mechanisms guiding these crucial decisions.

We look forward to having some community meetings to discuss the budget and explain it in detail.

May this season bring peace and reflection. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the strength and future of our community.

With respect,

Warren Queton
District 7 Legislator



THOUGHTS FROM AN ELDER

Serving Kiowa Citizens

With all due respect to our Kiowa people, I am going to get a little personal with this op-ed piece for the newsletter. What is it going to take to get our District 7 citizens better service from our tribal government? Seems like one must live around Carnegie in order to receive tribal services provided by federal funds. Correct me if you think I am wrong but please be nice about it because I am an old-fashioned warrior with a lot of pride. I do bite back but with no teeth. When you examine the numbers of Kiowa citizens in the tribe as a whole and where they reside it is no surprise to see that most of them live in the District 7 region. Yet these citizens are not eligible in many cases to receive the services promised by our elected political officials and the constitution to put it mildly. Many of our tribal citizens living in the District 7 region are elderly in need of the type of service assistance available through the tribe, especially today and tomorrow considering the current inflationary environment and the trend of national administrative policy. Yet they are excluded from eligibility because we live outside the “tribal service area or make too much money”. I find it interesting that the tribe has a satellite office in Tulsa and Oklahoma City but the Kiowa people who live in those cities are not eligible for the type of services the tribe offers to others who live in their tribal service area. Why even be a member of the tribe if you are not eligible for any of its services? This sounds like something along the lines of double standards which is known as discrimination by common folks. Do the D7 citizens have to move to areas around Carnegie to get full services when D7 tribal population numbers are used to secure federal, or in some cases, tribal funding, for these services? The tribal chair and/or legislators need to get out to community meetings to address this growing condition and prevailing problem. The tribe needs some reform in order to meet its constitutional obligation of servicing tribal members.

Why even have the tribe organized into districts? It is not working for the majority of tribal citizens, and it needs to be changed. How? Ask the legislators. District 7 has almost half of the tribe's population, spread out all over the United States, yet it has only 1 legislator to represent them. The other 6 districts are minimal compared to the D7 population all concentrated in an area a quarter size of the state. D7 needs more than 1 representative and a substantial increase in its budget, especially the travel and staff line items if it is expected to meet the representation obligations in the constitution. That is one of the reasons they were elected, not selected, accordingly. Whatever, the current tribal constitution needs to be amended in this respect. The first thing we need to do is research our current demographics and use this data to plan strategies on how to better serve our tribal citizens. What happened to traditional strategic planning? We need to be mindful of what is occurring at the national level with the politics of the current administration and integrate such into the planning activities. I don't see any research activity monies budgeted in the current proposed tribal budget, so the tribe needs to get to work on funding this activity if they choose to conduct such research. Don't you know? ASK for heaven's sake. The chairman promised us a transparent government, yet we lost our vice-chair, and nobody seems to know why. Most of us didn't know he was terminated until we read that a new vice-chair was appointed last month. The KIC elected a new coordinator last year and we didn't have one KIC meeting under his coordination. What happened to him?

Let us take a step forward, ascertain our demographics, re-examine the needs of our tribal people and communities, upgrade our facilities, amend our constitution, reform our government/governance, and better organize our sources and resources for the sake of our future generations. But don't forget about your elders today. The future is uncertain for all of us as tribal citizens. We elderly need more up to date attention from our government too.



The Regular Session XCVI-96, convened on April 12, 2025, encompassed significant legislative advancements relevant to the interests of community citizens. Procedural adjustments and technical considerations opened the session, establishing a foundation for substantive deliberations on a series of resolutions, ordinances, and amendments central to tribal governance and institutional efficacy.

Key Legislative Actions

Among the most consequential initiatives, the legislative body approved amendments to the 2018 Nepotism Prevention Act, strengthening regulatory frameworks and operationalizing updated standards for prevention and compliance. The enactment of the Private Gaming Commission Ordinance Act of

2025 further institutionalizes oversight mechanisms, while a groundbreaking resolution affirming tribal data sovereignty demonstrates an acute awareness of emergent challenges in digital governance and external data-sharing relations. The tabled resolution regarding data-sharing agreements underscores an ongoing commitment to balancing sovereignty with necessary external collaboration. Education sector reforms were foregrounded through substantial debate and eventual adoption of amendments to agency resolution legislation. By introducing enforcement mechanisms and refining statutory language, legislators demonstrate sensitivity to administrative functionality and due process, as exemplified by deliberations over the semantic distinction between “suspend” and “terminate” in agency operations.

Further, the legislative session focused on procedural actions, as evidenced by the tabling of the Tribal Employment Rights Office Ordinance Act and the Emergency Assistance Regulation and Fairness Act for additional review and clarification.

Amendments to the 2022 election law and the Kiowa Tribe Leasing Code signal an orientation towards institutional modernization. The Kiowa election law amendment codifies the principles of impartiality, transparency, and the expanded authority of the Election Commission. The Leasing Code amendment authorizes extended trust land leasing, opening avenues for economic development aligned with community interests.

A final notable resolution requests a formal name change in the Federal Register, substantiating a project of communal self-determination and historical continuity.

Tribal Employment Rights Office

The TERO Commission’s discourse underscores the necessity of a comprehensive, standardized enumeration of categories shielded from discrimination—including, but not limited to, race, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, pregnancy status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, political affiliation, and disability. The intent is to harmonize local ordinances with broader legal and ethical standards, while adapting them to suit the specificities of tribal governance.

Legislative Drafting and Ordinance Modernization

Much of the session was devoted to reviewing and amending the tribal ordinance framework governing employment rights. Key figures engaged in iterative revisions, targeting several deficiencies in prior drafts. Notable among these were the explicit call to adopt gender-neutral language, an inclusive definition of “Indian-owned entities,” and the rectification of procedural ambiguities, such as the treatment of weekends and holidays within the workday construct. The Commission also evaluated the merits of rebranding the “Workforce Protection Act” as the “Tribal Employment Rights Act” to more accurately reflect scope and intent.

Procedural and Administrative Action Items

Scholarly rigor is evident in the Commission's deployment of precise action items:

- Determining the continued inclusion of the TERO Director as a voting member of the Commission.
- Drafting regulations distinguishing Indian-owned entities.

- Legislating a tribal minimum wage.
- Systematically amending legal language for inclusivity and precision (e.g., gender neutrality, encompassing all American Indians).
- Evaluating the extension of protected categories to encompass disability.
- Reviewing enforcement and penalty systems, such as the 10% late fee for TERO payments and the application threshold for mandatory 3% fees (set at \$200,000 annual gross revenue).
- Advancing fiscal discipline through structured budget preparation and monthly reporting.
- Ensuring legislative harmonization and historical continuity by reviewing ordinance versions from 1996 and 1997.

Action Items and Next Steps

The Commission resolved to:

- Revisit Commission composition and the authority of the TERO Director.
- Promulgate detailed criteria for Indian-owned entity status.
- Consult with the Legislature on minimum wage policies.
- Implement legal drafting changes for inclusivity (especially in protected classes and gender-neutral terminology).
- Finalize budget proposals and enhance fiscal reporting protocols.
- Reassess the law's nomenclature and enforcement mechanisms.
- Disseminate updated ordinance drafts among key stakeholders for review.
- Schedule follow-up meetings to ensure continued legislative and operational alignment.

Conclusion

The notes from the session reflect a deliberate scholarly inquiry into the complexities of tribal employment rights, offering both technical legislative refinements and a holistic integration of economic, legal, and cultural interests. The Commission's methodical approach, rooted in inclusive governance and jurisprudential awareness, sets a robust precedent for tribal legislative modernization and amplifying protections against discrimination within the Kiowa Tribe.



Last month the Kiowa Tribe was gifted 10 buffalo from Denver Parks to start our tribal herd. These buffalo will be the start of the first buffalo herd within the past decade. We received 4 female yearlings, one at only six months old, and 6 males.

They were welcomed home on March 10th, arriving late in the night transported by the Intertribal Buffalo Council. The Kiowa tribe hosted a Buffalo Harvest the following Thursday and a Return of the Buffalo celebration on Friday.

The harvest was held on Thursday at Indian City and members of the Kiowa community showed up to take part. There was a community feed held afterwards.

During the celebration we watched two films celebrating the buffalo and enjoyed a meal. We also heard some Kiowa Buffalo Dance songs and a Rabbit Dance song from students in the Kiowa language class at Anadarko. Lastly, there was a panel discussion with representatives from the Wichita Mountains and Intertribal Buffalo Council.

The return of the buffalo to our Kiowa tribal community is a monumental event. The buffalo was central to our lives as our food source, in our material culture, and also in our spiritual and religious practices. It is a blessing to see them live amongst our people once again.

Episode 14 available now on
YouTube and Spotify.



Links can be found on our Linktree, linktr.ee/kiowaD7

Attention Graduates

CLASS OF 2025



Kiowa

GRADUATE

**STOLES
AVAILABLE
FOR
PURCHASE**

\$25
in Kiowa Gift Shop
or
Add \$5 for
priority mail
requests. Kiowa Tribe
is not responsible for
U.S. Postal Service
times and delivery.
Please allow 5-10 days
for delivery.

**Available
April 29th
Limited
Supply
until sold
out!**

Kiowa Gift Shop
Located inside of the tribal complex,
100 Kiowa Way,
Carnegie, OK 73015
Open Mon-Fri 9-3pm
405-901-9353
405-901-9229 ext. 120

Upcoming Events



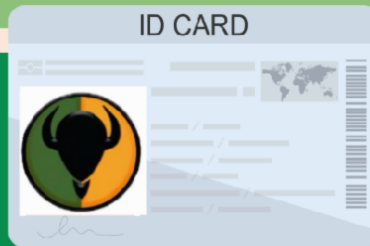
KIOWA TRIBE DISTRICT 7

ENROLLMENT WILL BE VISITING

NORMAN OFFICE

MAY 1ST 10AM-4PM

123 24TH AVE NW,
NORMAN, OK 73069
PHONE NUMBER: (405) 857-8408



TULSA OFFICE

MAY 2ND 9AM-3PM

15 E 16TH ST
TULSA, OK 74119
PHONE NUMBER: 539-525-0437

EMAIL
DISTRICT7LEGISLATURE@KIOWATRIBE.ORG



TULSA BEGINNING KIOWA LANGUAGE CLASS

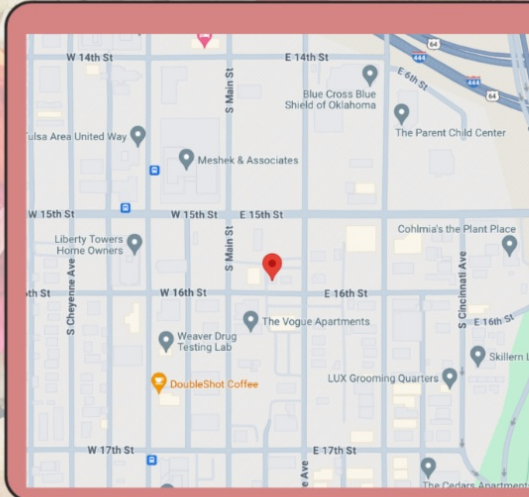
**LET'S LEARN
KIOWA!**

**INSTRUCTOR:
WARREN QUETON**

WHEN

**MAY 19TH
6 TO 7:30 PM**

POTLUCK



Kiowa District 7
Tulsa Office:
15th E 16th Street,
Tulsa OK 74119

WHERE



ALSO AVAILABLE ON ZOOM

Zoom link available on our Linktree:

[HTTPS://LINKTR.EE/KIOWAD7](https://linktr.ee/kiowad7)



(539) 525-0437



DISTRICT7LEGISLATURE@KIOWATRIBE.ORG

3rd Annual Youth Indian Police Academy

Calling all motivated 9th-12th grade students!
Applications for the Youth Indian Police Academy at Riverside Indian School
in Anadarko, OK, are open now through May 9th!

Get hands-on experience in the law enforcement and first responder careers,
including:

- Tactical Training
- Crime Scene Lams
- DUI Simulations
- K9 Demonstrations
- EMS Certification
- Teams Building & Field trips

Completely free—travel, meals, dorm stay, uniforms, and field trips are all
covered!

Make new friends, build confidence, and explore exciting career paths in
public safety.

Apply by May 9th! Takes place June 15-27, 2025

Submit your essays to: David.Conely@bia.gov

For details about the application packet or more information, please visit
<https://www.bia.gov/yipa> or email Carla Whiteman at
Carla.Whiteman@bie.edu.

YouTube Channel

District 7 has a YouTube channel. We aim to record and upload our webinars and
different events so everyone can stay involved.

This month, we have uploaded the following:

- Episode 14 of our podcast- Kiowa Hymns
- Our April Webinar with the KIC

To access these videos, please visit our linktree, <https://linktr.ee/kiowaD7>

THE KIOWA TRIBE HAS UPDATED SOME PHONE NUMBERS!



KIOWA COMPLEX
(405) 901-9229

TAX COMMISSION
(405) 901-9271

ENROLLMENT OFFICE
(405) 901-9239

JUDICIAL COURT
(405) 901-9237

HIGHER EDUCATION
(405) 648 -0916

SOCIAL SERVICES
(405) 648-0417

D7 Links



@kiowaD7

Kiowa Tribe District 7

district7legislature@kiowatribe.org

[Website](#)



[Sign Up for Our Newsletter](#)



[Schedule a Meeting with Legislator Warren Queton](#)

[YouTube Videos](#)

[September Zoom Meeting \(PIN 381420\)](#)

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

Kiowa District 7 Legislative Office | 123 24th AVE NW | Norman, OK 73069 US

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