

Kiowa Tribe

Kiowa Indian Council (KIC)

Date: June 21, 2025

Red Buffalo Hall, Carnegie, OK

Resolution Number: KIC-CY-0001-2025

Date Submitted: 05/04/2025 Date Posted: 05/22/2025 Date Approved:

SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE AND ACCOUNTABILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PROPOSED INITIATIVES, ENROLLMENT CHANGES, AND BUDGET ACTIONS, AND SUPPORTING THE KIOWA TRIBE ANNUAL BUDGET TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2023

WHEREAS: The KIC and its collective Tribal Members of the Kiowa Tribe in practicing its Constitutional right organized under the Constitution approved by Tribal Membership on April 17, 2017, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior, U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs on May 5, 2017; and

WHEREAS: Article V, Section 3(b) of the Constitution “The Council shall have the following powers; provided, that no such action of the Council shall become effective until the voters approve such matter in a subsequent election”; and

WHEREAS: In accordance with Article V, Section 3(b); “(i) The Council shall have the power to set policy for the Tribe; (ii) The Council shall have the Power to authorize the Chairman to enter into treaties, compacts, or contracts, and such authorization may include the power to waive Sovereign Immunity; (iii) The Council shall have the power to initiate the process to amend the Constitution by voting to call a Special Election to place before the voters the text of a proposed amendment along with the question of whether such proposed amendment should be placed before the voters in a subsequent Special Election to be held within one year and following the requirements of Article XIV of this Constitution”; and

WHEREAS: In accordance with the requirements and powers granted under Article V-Kiowa Indian Council, Section 3 Reserved Powers. We, the [Kiowa] people of the Kiowa Tribe, pursuant to our inherent sovereignty and under the guidance of Dau:k'i (God), seek to improve, promote, and maintain our [Kiowa] language, culture, traditions, and the independence of our [Kiowa] people, to guarantee individual rights and freedom of religion, to preserve our right of self-government, to promote the social and economic welfare of our [Kiowa] members, and to utilize, increase, and protect our [Kiowa] tribal resources, maintain peace and order, and safeguard individual rights, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, over the years, numerous proposed resolutions and amendments have been submitted by members of the Executive Branch, Legislative Branch, and the Kiowa Indian Council (KIC), many of which—whether approved in the past or pending future approval—require funding for their implementation and ongoing maintenance; and

WHEREAS, regardless of the relative merits of such proposals, actions seeking to expand financial assistance, housing, education, emergency relief, and other social service programs inherently impose additional financial obligations on the Tribe; and

WHEREAS, these proposals frequently lack critical financial disclosures, including total projected cost, identification of funding sources, and assessments of the potential impact on existing tribal programs and services; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe faces an essential question as to whether new funding sources will be identified to support such initiatives, or whether current, already-funded programs will need to be reduced or eliminated to accommodate the costs of new proposals; and

WHEREAS, members of the Kiowa Tribe have publicly expressed, through social media forums, interest in increasing tribal enrollment by modifying current eligibility requirements, including reducing blood quantum standards or recognizing lineage-based claims of membership; and

WHEREAS, any such changes in enrollment criteria—particularly those based on lineage—will have a significant impact on the financial resources available for distribution to members, absent the identification and acquisition of new funding sources; and

WHEREAS, nearly one-half of the Tribe’s declared enrollment resides in District 7, whose citizens have advocated for equal eligibility to tribal benefits, potentially increasing the number of benefit recipients, although no data has been publicly provided to demonstrate whether such a change would be beneficial or detrimental to the Tribe over time; and

WHEREAS, no comprehensive public data has been provided to detail the projected increase in enrollment, the financial resources necessary to support such an expansion, or the administrative costs associated with managing a substantially larger tribal membership base; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of tribal citizens have advocated for the implementation of per capita payments as an alternative to current benefit structures, citing concerns about the transparency and management of revenues generated from tribal enterprises, including casino operations; and

WHEREAS, such financial constraints, if not addressed, would limit the funds available not only for direct distribution to members but also for existing Kiowa government departments, programs, and expenditures supported by those revenues; and

WHEREAS, the Kiowa Tribe's annual operating budget is primarily reliant upon federal funding, which is currently under review due to an active federal investigation into allegations of financial mismanagement, including but not limited to: misappropriation of funds, unauthorized expenditures, questionable salary increases, improper travel, and the unilateral creation of government positions with associated compensation; and

WHEREAS, these allegations—whether substantiated or unsubstantiated—have diminished public trust in tribal governance and underscore the urgent need for transparency, accountability, and comprehensive fiscal reform across all branches of tribal government; and

WHEREAS, given the current national political climate and growing scrutiny of tribal fiscal practices, there is no reasonable expectation of increased federal financial assistance, and the Tribe risks reductions in funding or federal penalties should any wrongdoing be confirmed; and

WHEREAS, the Chairman of the Tribe has failed to discharge the constitutional obligation to prepare and submit an annual budget to the Legislature by February 1st, as required under Article VII, Section 4(a) of the Kiowa Tribal Constitution, thereby compounding concerns regarding the transparency and timeliness of tribal financial operations;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that any proposal submitted to the Kiowa Indian Council or Legislature that involves expanded enrollment, changes in benefit eligibility, creation of new programs, or reallocation of funds from the approved annual budget—including proposals affecting casino operations, use of casino revenues, or newly received federal funding—must include, at a minimum:

1. A comprehensive **impact assessment** shall be conducted, identifying the necessary funding level and administrative capacity required for the implementation of new initiatives and business ventures, the expansion of existing programs, and consideration related to projected population growth.
2. A **transparent budget plan** identifying funding sources and ensuring no compromise to existing essential programs.
3. A **disclosure statement** explaining how the initiative will be sustainably financed over time.
4. Clearly identified **fiscal effects** on current tribal programs or expenditures, including potential reductions or eliminations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kiowa Indian Council hereby supports and affirms the intent and principles of the *Kiowa Tribe Annual Budget Transparency Act of 2023*,

and further adopts this resolution as an official expression of the Council's request for increased transparency and a clearer understanding of the formulation and structure of the Kiowa Tribe's annual budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall not be construed to conflict with any provision of the Kiowa Constitution or existing tribal law and shall remain in full force and effect unless and until it is amended, modified, or rescinded by subsequent resolution duly adopted by the Kiowa Indian Council.

2025 SPECIAL KIOWA INDIAN COUNCIL MEETING OF THE KIOWA TRIBE

Chairperson

ATTEST:

Secretary, Kiowa Indian Council

KIOWA INDIAN COUNCIL, RESOLUTION NO. _____:

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was duly voted upon by the 2025 Special Meeting of the Kiowa Indian Council of the Kiowa Tribe; was present at the duly called Special Kiowa Indian Council Meeting held on the ___ day of _____, 20__, and that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the affirmative vote: For: _____ Opposed: _____ Abstention: _____

Secretary, Kiowa Indian Council