



# Kiowa Tribe District 7 Newsletter

April/May of 2026



Photo by David Anderson

## Kiowa Citizens,

Welcome to the May edition of our newsletter, dedicated to sharing important updates and stories from within the Kiowa community, especially for our District 7 citizens. This month, we're excited to highlight several key topics:

- The arrival of a new buffalo calf, born on Kiowa land—a symbol of hope and renewal for our people.
- An overview of the tribal budget and its implications for our community.
- Details about the upcoming election on **June 6, 2026**—a vital opportunity for all Kiowa citizens to make their voices heard.
- Updates to our Kiowa language classes for District 7, aimed at preserving and strengthening our cultural heritage.
- A recap of the regular legislative session held on **May 9th**.

- A brief introduction to the new appointees serving on various tribal commissions.

As we step into June, I want to extend my heartfelt greetings to all Kiowa people. I hope the storms have not disrupted your lives. On the Kiowa reservation, we are in great need of rain. I call upon all our prayer warriors to lift their voices for Kiowa land, asking for the rain that will nourish and sustain our lands.

Lastly, I encourage everyone to participate in the upcoming election on **June 6, 2026**. Your vote is your voice, and it's crucial for shaping the future of our tribe. For more information, please visit the Kiowa Election Commission website at [kiowatribe.org](http://kiowatribe.org).

Thank you for staying connected and engaged with our community.

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## THOUGHTS FROM AN ELDER

### **Productive Thoughts from The Old Folks for Our Newly Elected Leadership**

I don't have much to say, only because our newly elected chairman and his vice-chair said it so well with their post-election commentary. Well said, Chairman Sullivan. Your words are received as sincere and assuring to many of the Kiowa citizens of all ages.

However, I personally want to say, "***a big welcome to our newly elected chairman and vice-chairperson team***". I pray, like many of our Tribal Elders do, that both of you and our tribal members experience a positive part of life during your tenure. I get a little anxious when I think about the recent tribal chair/vice-chair election and realize that we have a new "team" of leadership elected by tribal members. Why do I get anxious? Because it means younger, educated people guiding the tribe through a new frontier of technology, energy, economic development, education, health, housing, local, state, and federal developments. It means a fresh approach to the components of tribal government working closer together to provide the best possible services to tribal members while making investments in and generating future tribal thrusts, which contribute to the quality of life for our tribal members. Sounds a little too rosy for some of you? Let me say I realize it sounds and maybe even looks rosy, but I am old enough to know that every rose has its thorns. This is where our Tribal Elders come into play in assisting this new tribal regime. Being ***anxious*** leads to me becoming ***excited*** about positive change in government/governance for our tribal communities. Focused leadership understands that our Tribal Elders are guides to those in leadership. Hopefully, the Tribal Elders will play a stronger role in maintaining, retaining, attaining, and obtaining a meaningful Kiowa life, especially

in the area of Kiowa culture. Seems like a perfect fit for Kiowa Tribal Elders, the role of cultural advisors to and for the tribe. Our identity is critical to our continued sovereignty and existence as a federal tribe. Younger people must become proponents of our Tribal Elders being invited to serve as advisors for various thrusts of the tribe for the cause of the Kiowa people, while they can. Time takes a toll on existence. New leadership should organize, formalize, provide structural grounding within the tribal government structure, and initiate this body of Tribal Elders, calling them to meet on a regular basis and at special times when cultural expertise is needed for meaningful planning and decision making for the tribe. Kiowa Tribal Elders in District 7 have a difficult time being and keeping informed about related services, not to mention they are not eligible for many of the services because they live outside of the “tribal service area,” which is a federal imposition related to the expenditures of certain federal funds for tribes. In addition, the focus for Kiowa tribal elders coming together for various service activities occurs at the Tribal Elders Building in Carnegie, far from Tulsa, Dallas, Wichita, Albuquerque, Denver, etc., which is unrealistic, especially in these times.

Our tribal communities must learn and attempt to move forward. All too often, we, as a tribe, are content with maintaining the status quo (a few per cap dollars, some cultural/socio stimulus where we can relax and enjoy being tribal and complaining about one another and families). I seldom hear or read about the future of the tribe by the tribe, areas such as education, health, housing, jobs, technology, government/governance, and the tribe’s position on federal, state, local, and other tribal relations. I guess if the aforementioned activities satisfy your “being a Kiowa” then knock yourself out. I, for one, am more focused on our children, grandchildren, parents, teens, elders, and their future here in this state and country. Leadership and vision are so critical for movement. This is why I get excited about some new leadership for our communities. I encourage all our Elders to support this new leadership with your prayers and positive thoughts about their work and our tribe. District 7 tribal members represent the largest district population of the tribe and can provide leadership as well when it comes to encouraging other elders to participate in tribal government beyond the past. We must participate but we need the opportunity to participate. This is where the newly elected tribal leaders must plan and execute that plan. Tribal Elders are a strong human resource of the tribe and should be expected and encouraged to use their skills, politics, spirit, and education to contribute to the well-being of this generation and future generations of the Kiowa People. That is the KIOWA WAY.

### **Some suggested areas of focus for the new leadership**

Transparency from tribal leadership and officials must be implemented and demonstrated within the overall tribal government. The past years have been like trying to see through eyeglasses affected with cataracts. Most Elders understand this metaphorical statement. Not only do we need to **hear** what the tribal government is doing, but we need to **see** what it is doing in order to support and engage if we choose to. As a result, proven, effective communication is imperative. Accountability standards and guardrails need to be re-addressed and adhered to for current conditions, achieve efficient governance, and develop clear, realistic future plans. We, Tribal Elders, need to know and understand what is going on at the tribe as much as possible. How? This is one reason why we selected the new tribal chair and vice-chair and pay them. They need to show their leadership skills and creativity in communication.

### **Other Areas of Recommended Focus for the New Leadership**

- Creating new Revenue Streams for more effective, meaningful service for citizens.
  - How to identify and address (develop a plan) critical Kiowa identity needs for All Kiowa tribal members.
  - No More “On the Job” training for tribal officials. They must demonstrate productivity in order to be accountable. Train them before they get elected, especially in technology and communication.
  - Establish a Research Department/Thrust/Focus/Goal/Objectives for Planning, Assessment, Educational, and relevant Policy Development.
  - institutionalize Kiowa Education and Training Thrusts and hire Kiowa Cultural/Educational Professionals to research and submit a plan for addressing and maintaining Kiowa Identity.
  - Make Our Annual Kiowa Budget transparent and understandable to the layman.
  - Conduct a forensic audit of tribal funds over the duration of the previous chairman’s tenure for accountability purposes.
- Create an economic development plan with real goals, objectives, activities, and expected products/profits. Organize and build partnerships and co-ops with neighboring tribes and municipalities, and focus on creating more jobs for all citizens (manufacturing, small businesses, job training thrusts, investment, tourism, tribal funeral home, etc.)

Did I say I didn’t have much to say at the beginning of this commentary? Sorry, my Kiowa blood still dominates who I am, and I get a little verbose even with my writing at times. Good luck with your tenure, Mr. Chairman and Ms. Vice-Chair. This elder is ready to serve when asked. Some of us elders would like to have you address what you would like to see from us elders during your tenure. Maybe you could write a few words addressing this question for our next District 7 newsletter?

**District 7 Elders**

**DO NOT FORGET TO VOTE IN THE UPCOMING JUNE 6 GENERAL ELECTION REGARDING THE ANNUAL BUDGET AND RESOLUTIONS. COMPLETE YOUR MAIL-IN BALLOTS AND MAIL THEM IN BEFORE THE DEADLINE.**



**Summary of Kiowa Tribe Regular Legislative Session 109 – May 9, 2026**

The Kiowa Tribe convened its 109th Regular Legislative Session on May 9, 2026, in Carnegie, Oklahoma. The session, called to order at 9:08 a.m., was attended by five legislators (two online) with two absentees. Key legislative actions and discussions are summarized below.

### **Key Legislative Actions**

- **Item 27: First Amendment to the Grant Application and Authorization Act of 2017 was passed, authorizing an IHS self-governance compact.**
- **Item 28: The First Amendment to the Self-Determination 638 Contracts Authorization Act of 2017 was passed, enabling a BIA self-governance compact.**
- **Item 29: The 2026 Amendment to the Title Code of 2017 was passed with a minor amendment to renumber duplicate sections.**
- Six legislative items were introduced, including amendments to economic development acts, a resolution to repeal a 2025 moratorium, and the Kiowa Broadband Business Act of 2026. These items initiated their respective public notice or hearing processes.

### **Announcements**

- **Community Events:**
    - Upcoming events include an enrollment and SoonerCare event, a budget summary webinar on May 12, a Kiowa language class on May 18, and a rabbit dance at Red Buffalo Hall on May 20.
  - **General Election: The upcoming ballot will include the budget, with resolutions from the April 2026 meeting expected soon.**
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Photo by David Anderson

### **Introducing Gáuímhàtànì - Kiowa Baby Girl**

The month of May brought a significant historical milestone to the Kiowa lands with the birth of a new buffalo calf. This event marks a profound restoration of life in a landscape that previously suffered from the absence of the buffalo on the plains. The arrival of the calf is not merely a biological occurrence; it represents a

cultural resurgence and a tangible gift from the Dawk'ee, bringing new life to a place that once stood empty.

Observation of the herd reveals a remarkable social cohesion. The new calf is now fully integrated into the collective group. Behavioral patterns show that whenever the mother and her young one shift locations, the remainder of the herd follows closely behind them. This instinctual protective mechanism demonstrates the herd's complete acceptance and the species' innate resilience. Both the mother and the calf present strong indicators of health and vitality.

The successful return and expansion of this herd rely heavily on dedicated human stewardship. We extend our profound gratitude to the team caring for the buffalo herd, whose eagerness to witness and pray for the new calf underscores the deep spiritual significance of this birth.

Animal behavioral studies dictate that the initial two weeks of a buffalo calf's life constitute its most fragile period. Consequently, we are maintaining a strict, safe distance to minimize stress on the animals while continuing our observational duties. We respect the delicate nature of this early developmental stage and will provide subsequent updates on the calf's progress as it continues to grow stronger on Kiowa lands.

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## **District 7 Guide to the 2026 Kiowa Tribe General Election on June 6, 2026**

Tribal citizen participation forms the foundational structure of our tribal governance. In accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Kiowa Tribe, we will hold our General Election on Saturday, June 6, 2026. This election provides you with the direct opportunity to shape the tribe's operational framework by voting on the KIC 2026-2027 Annual Budget. Additionally, voters will decide the outcome of any KIC Resolutions submitted to the Kiowa Election Commission by the Kiowa Indian Council Coordinator.

To help you prepare for this important civic event, we have detailed the procedural requirements, voting methods, and critical deadlines below.

### **Voter Eligibility and Ballot Distribution**

If you are an enrolled member of the Kiowa Tribe and will be at least 18 years of age on the day of the election, you hold full eligibility to vote.

The Kiowa Election Commission prioritizes an accessible voting process, offering both mail-in and in-person voting options. For those utilizing the mail-in system, the Election Commission will distribute ballots on or around May 9, 2026. To receive your ballot, you must maintain a current address on file with the Enrollment Office. We encourage you to call the Election Commission at 405-247-0477 to verify your registration details.

When completing a mail-in ballot, you must sign the affidavit located on the back of the return envelope. Without this signature, the commission cannot count your vote. Please return your ballot by mail as quickly as possible. Polling places will not accept mail-in ballots on Election Day. If you find yourself unable to mail your ballot in time, you retain the right to vote in person at any authorized polling location.

### **In-Person Voting Locations**

For members voting in person, all designated polling locations will open at 8:00 am and close at 5:00 pm on Saturday, June 6, 2026. You may cast your vote at any of the following seven official sites:

- **District 1 Ah-Kaw-Lay/Anadarko: Office of the Legislature District 1, 125 W. Main ST, Anadarko, OK**
- **District 2 Zoletone/Carnegie: Kiowa Tribal Complex, 100 Kiowa Way, Carnegie, OK**
- **District 3 DoHau-doy/Medicine Bluff: Office of the Legislature Dist. 3, 101 Thomas Dr, Suite D, Elgin, OK**
- **District 4 Qop-aydle/Jimmy Creek: Office of the Legislature District 4, 1621 SW Lee Blvd. Lawton, OK**
- **District 5 P'au-aydle/P'au-gul/Red River: Sherwood Tsoitigh UMC 501 S. 7th ST. Cache, OK**
- **District 6 Qocau P'au/Elk Creek: Office of the Legislature District 6, 430 S. Main ST, Hobart, OK**
- **District 7 Cauigu/All Kiowa: Kiowa District 7 Outreach Office, 4111 Perimeter Center PL, OKC, OK**

### **Election Challenge Period and Oversight**

To ensure strict electoral integrity, the Kiowa Tribe maintains a formalized challenge process. If you need to submit a protest regarding the General Election, you must provide it in writing to the Election Commission no later than 4:30 pm on June 10, 2026. The Commission will review all evidence and render a final determination on any challenge within 48 hours. Upon the conclusion of this challenge process, the Commission will post the official election results.

A dedicated team of commissioners oversees this electoral process to ensure fairness and adherence to our tribal laws. If you have questions regarding your voting status, polling locations, or election procedures, please contact the Kiowa Election Commission directly at 405-247-0477. Active engagement secures the continued strength and structural integrity of our tribal governance.

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### **Kiowa Tribe 2026-2027 Proposed Budget Summary**

On June 6, 2026, you will vote on the proposed budget for the Kiowa Tribe. District 7 has prepared this summary to provide an overview of our financial discussions surrounding the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Our primary objective is to get back on track and prioritize an investment strategy while maintaining and expanding essential services for our tribal members.

#### **Core Revenue and Financial Reserves**

The financial foundation of this proposed budget rests on a projected operating revenue of \$58.1 million. This funding stems from a careful consolidation of diverse sources, including self-governance federal programs, state tax agreements, and direct casino revenues.

Furthermore, we maintain a secure beginning cash balance of \$25 million in restricted reserve funds. We derived these funds from prior casino distributions. We placed this capital into interest-bearing accounts to protect it. These reserves serve as the base for a future revenue allocation plan, ensuring we secure and grow tribal wealth through calculated investments.

#### **Strategic Allocations and Priorities**

The budget directs resources toward critical areas that support our community's health, infrastructure, and independent governance. Major funding allocations include:

- **Social Services and Elder Support:** We allocated \$2.1 million directly to social services. This commitment funds vital burial assistance programs and guarantees sustained financial support for our elder population.
- **Economic Development:** We designated \$1 million to launch targeted economic initiatives. A primary focus is expanding broadband infrastructure to ensure all tribal members have reliable access to essential communication networks.
- **Tribal Governance:** The executive branch requires \$2.8 million to manage comprehensive daily operations. The legislative, judicial, and Kiowa Indian Council branches will operate effectively with a combined budget of \$2.5 million.
- **Program Administration:** We set aside \$5.6 million for indirect cost administration. This supports the foundational departments—such as finance, human resources, and security—that allow our specific tribal programs to function efficiently.

### **Commitment to Transparency and Stability**

This budget represents a highly structured, measured approach to tribal governance. We designed these financial plans to maximize the operational impact of every dollar we receive. By prioritizing targeted economic development and protecting our core trust funds, we establish a firm foundation for lasting financial independence.

We remain strictly committed to transparent financial practices, ensuring you have the precise data needed to understand how we invest in tribal resources. District 7 has published a YouTube video that discusses the summary of the budget. You can view it at [https://youtu.be/kZLRUqpRcjw?si=NeMStcODqdB\\_JoiG](https://youtu.be/kZLRUqpRcjw?si=NeMStcODqdB_JoiG). We also encourage you to review these budget appropriations on the Kiowa Tribe website at [kiowatribe.org](http://kiowatribe.org).

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## **Upcoming Events**



# DISTRICT 7 SERVICE WEBINAR

**TOPIC:**  
DISCUSSION OF THE  
LINE ITEM BUDGET

**GUESTS:**  
CHAIRMAN SULLIVAN AND  
FINANCE

JUNE 1ST  
12-2 PM CST



FOLLOWED BY A Q&A SESSION  
WITH LEGISLATOR WARREN QUETON  
Zoom Meeting: <https://linktr.ee/kiowaD7>

 [HTTPS://WWW.KIOWATRIBE.ORG/DISTRICT-7](https://www.kiowatribe.org/district-7)

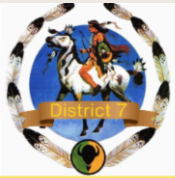
 [DISTRICT7LEGISLATURE@KIOWATRIBE.ORG](mailto:DISTRICT7LEGISLATURE@KIOWATRIBE.ORG)  539-525-0437

## **District 7 Beginning Kiowa Language Class is now learning Hymns!!**

We cordially invite the citizens of the Kiowa Tribe to participate in the District 7 Kiowa language seminar, available both in person and virtually. In our ongoing effort to preserve our cultural heritage, the pedagogical framework of our curriculum has recently been expanded to incorporate the study and learning of Kiowa hymns.

We extend our profound gratitude to the Kiowa Language Department for providing a booklet of twelve Christian hymns. These texts have been translated into the Kiowa language and transcribed utilizing the modified Parker McKenzie orthography, ensuring linguistic precision and historical continuity. The District 7 language sessions meet on the final Monday of each month, with necessary adjustments to accommodate tribal events or recognized holidays. Our

forthcoming class is formally scheduled for June 29th at 6:00 PM. We encourage all Kiowa citizens to attend and help preserve the Kiowa language!!



# KIOWA HYMNS AND LANGUAGE LESSON CLASS

**LET'S LEARN  
KIOWA!**

**INSTRUCTOR:  
WARREN QUETON**

**JUNE 29TH  
6 TO 7:30 PM**



**LIGHT  
REFRESHMENTS**

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

## **ALSO AVAILABLE ON ZOOM**

Zoom link available on our Linktree:  
**[HTTPS://LINKTR.EE/KIOWAD7](https://linktr.ee/kiowaD7)**



**(539) 525-0437**



**DISTRICT7LEGISLATURE@KIOWATRIBE.ORG**

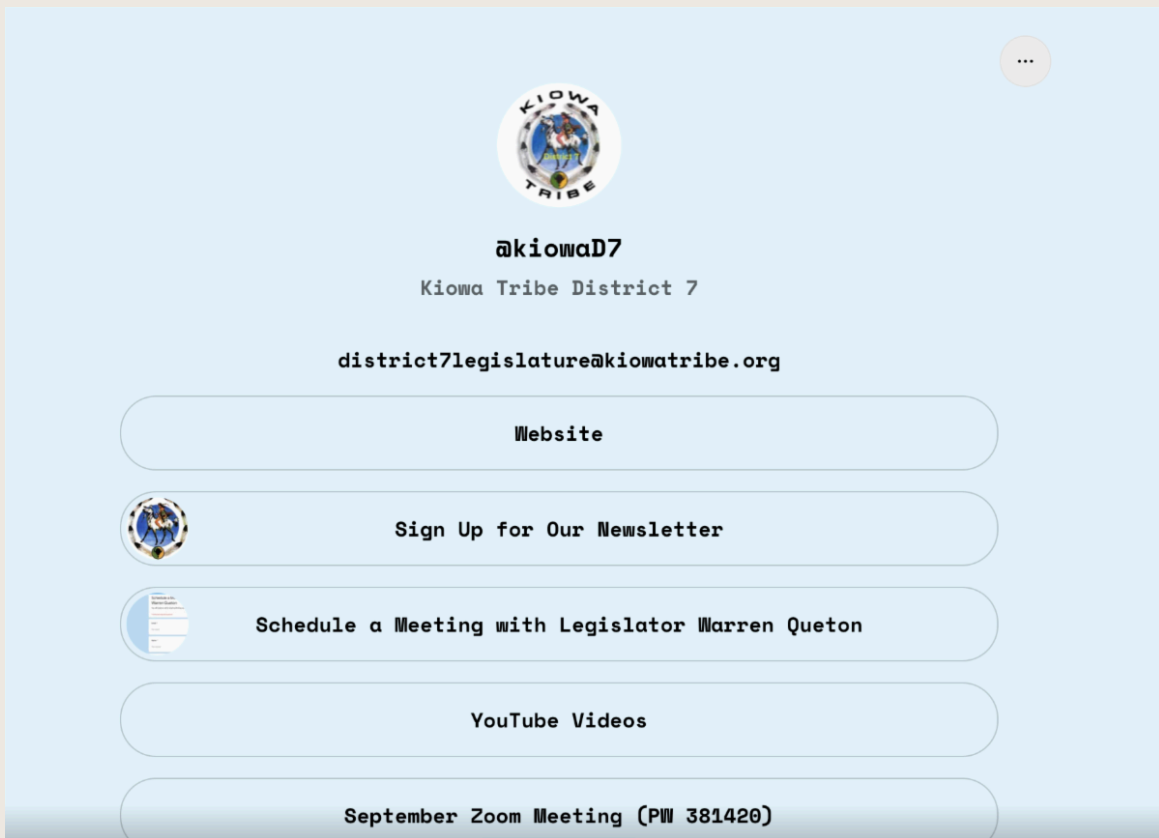
Link can be found on our Linktree, <https://linktr.ee/kiowaD7>

## **Past Events**

Please check out our YouTube channel to see recordings of:

Links can be found on our Linktree, <https://linktr.ee/kiowaD7>

# D7 Links



The screenshot shows a social media profile for @kiowaD7. At the top is the Kiowa Tribe logo, a circular emblem with a horse and rider. Below the logo is the handle @kiowaD7 and the name Kiowa Tribe District 7. The email address district7legislature@kiowatribe.org is listed. There are five rounded rectangular buttons: 'Website', 'Sign Up for Our Newsletter' (with a globe icon), 'Schedule a Meeting with Legislator Warren Queton' (with a meeting icon), 'YouTube Videos', and 'September Zoom Meeting (PIW 381420)'.

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

Kiowa District 7 Legislative Office | 15 E 16TH ST | Tulsa, OK 74119 US

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