



Kiowa Tribe District 7 Newsletter

September of 2026



Photography by the Kiowa Tribe Media Department

Greetings to all our District 7 tribal citizens — greetings and warm regards this September.

This month has been a demanding one in more ways than one. With temperatures hovering near 100 degrees across much of Oklahoma, we hope each of you has been staying cool, staying hydrated, and looking for your neighbors and elders. The summer heat is no small thing, and your well-being remains a priority. Please continue to check on one another during these extreme conditions.

Despite the heat, August has brought meaningful moments worth celebrating, and we are glad to share them with you here. The 91st Annual American Indian Expo, held August 12–15 in Anadarko, was a powerful reminder of the resilience and richness of our shared heritage. This year's event brought together 14 tribes in a vibrant opening parade through Caddo County, drawing families, dancers, artists, and community members from across the region.

The Expo has long served as a gathering point — a place where culture is not simply remembered but lived. From the dances and regalia to the arts and traditions on display, this year's event honored what our people have carried forward across generations.

We are proud that District 7 citizens were among those who attended, participated, and represented the Kiowa people with dignity and pride. For more pictures, please follow Kiowa Media on FB and Instagram.

With respect and gratitude,
Warren Queton
District 7 Legislator

The Kiowa Tribe participates at the 91st Annual American Indian Exposition

The 91st Annual American Indian Exposition brought together tribal departments, cultural leaders, and community members to celebrate Indigenous heritage. The Kiowa Tribe's participation across multiple departments demonstrated its enduring commitment to cultural preservation, governance, and community well-being. The American Indian Exposition, held annually in Anadarko, Oklahoma, stands as one of the longest-running celebrations of Native American culture in the United States. For 91 years, tribes from across the Southern Plains have gathered to honor their heritage through dance, art, ceremony, and community. This year, the Kiowa Tribe once again stood at the heart of that tradition—represented not by a single voice, but by many departments working in unity.

That breadth of participation speaks to something meaningful. A tribe is not one program or one office. It is a living institution, sustained by the coordinated efforts of its people and its governance. The 91st Exposition offered a clear and visible demonstration of that truth.

Which Kiowa Tribe Departments Participated in the 91st Exposition?

Across the course of the Exposition, multiple departments of the Kiowa Tribe contributed to the tribe's presence and programming. These departments represented a wide spectrum of tribal services and cultural functions, including:

- **Cultural Programs:** Kiowa cultural representatives played a central role in preserving and presenting traditional practices, including dance regalia, oral traditions, and ceremonial knowledge passed from generation to generation.
- **Health and Human Services:** Tribal health staff engaged community members with resources and information, reflecting the Kiowa Tribe's ongoing commitment to community well-being.
- **Education Department:** Education staff highlighted programs and opportunities available to tribal citizens, reinforcing the value of educational attainment rooted in cultural identity.
- **Tribal Governance and Administration:** Elected leaders and administrative staff represented the tribe's governmental standing, engaging with both tribal citizens and intertribal counterparts.
- **Economic Development:** Representatives from economic development initiatives used the Exposition as an opportunity to connect with community members and promote sustainable growth within the tribe.

Each department's involvement reinforced a shared message: the Kiowa Tribe's strength comes from unity across its institutions, not from any single program operating in isolation.

Why Does the American Indian Exposition Matter to the Kiowa People?

The Exposition is more than a cultural showcase. For the Kiowa people, it is an annual affirmation of sovereignty, identity, and continuity. The gathering brings together tribal nations who share a history rooted in the Southern Plains—nations that have endured displacement, assimilation pressures, and the ongoing work of reclaiming what was nearly lost.

For Kiowa citizens, attending or participating in the Exposition carries significance across generations. Elders pass on knowledge. Youth see their culture reflected back at them with pride. Families reconnect with relatives and with the broader intertribal community that shares their history.

The 91st year of the Exposition carried that same weight. Each dance, each drumbeat, and each departmental booth represented an act of preservation—a deliberate choice to sustain what matters. Perhaps one of these days, we can have our own Kiowa Fair and invite our friends to come and dance with us.







Photography by the Kiowa Tribe Media Department

Press Releases



Kiowa Tribe awarded over \$100,000 to strengthen the care and documentation of the Kiowa Tribal Museum collection

Three year project brings professional conservation standards, Kiowa cultural protocol, and a complete account of the museum's holdings

Carnegie, OK

Award No. MA-259862-OMS-26

The Kiowa Tribe has been awarded over \$100,000 through the Fiscal Year 2026 Museums for America program to conduct a complete, item by item review of the Kiowa Tribal Museum collection and to build the systems required to care for it permanently.

Of 343 applications submitted nationally this year, 92 were selected for funding. The Kiowa Tribal Museum was one of them. The project runs from September 1, 2026 through August 31, 2029.

"What sits in that museum is not inventory. It is the work of our ancestors' hands, and it came with responsibilities attached. Meeting those responsibilities takes more than good intentions. It takes trained people, proper materials, and Kiowa protocol governing how these things are handled and who handles them. This award lets the Tribe do that work to a standard our ancestors deserve, and it is the standard I expect this government to hold itself to."

Chairman David Sullivan, Kiowa Tribe

"I am beyond thrilled to share some incredible news: the Gáuihòñàun Museum has officially been awarded an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant directly supports critical behind-the-scenes work; specifically, completing a comprehensive inventory and cataloging of our entire collection, both in storage and on display."

Rainy Attocknie, Curator.

The project is directed by the Kiowa Tribal Museum. A Project Registrar will carry out the physical and digital review of the collection. A professional conservator will train museum staff in the handling of fragile textiles and ledger art, so that the expertise remains with the museum after the grant closes.

The work covers verifying accession numbers, recording condition, and tagging each object with an archival safe barcode. Aging and acidic storage materials will be replaced with acid free boxes, unbuffered tissue, and Mylar sleeves, and high-density archival shelving will relieve overcrowding that puts stress on fragile textiles and ledger art. The museum will move from paper records to a secure collections management database.

The database will be owned and controlled by the Kiowa Tribe. Cultural protocols set through the museum's advisors, including handling restrictions and specialized storage for sensitive items, govern how the collection is managed and what is shared. The Tribe will report on the project's progress as the work advances.



For more information about the Kiowa museum or the Kiowa Tribal Historic Preservation office email museum@kiowatribe.org or thpo@kiowatribe.org.



PRESS RELEASE

RELEASE DATE:
AUGUST 13, 2026

LAWSUIT FILED TO RECOVER KCOA BOARD MEMBER OVERPAYMENTS

CARNEGIE, OK - In 2023, following an anonymous tip, the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) issued a Letter of Concern against the Kiowa Tribe asserting a "...potential misuse of net gaming revenues..." in violation of federal law by the Kiowa Casino Operations Authority (KCOA) Board of Directors. The NIGC identified stipends paid to five KCOA Board Members that, according to the NIGC, appeared to be "excessive" and in violation of the KCOA Charters that limit the amount of compensation that Board Members may receive. The NIGC Letter of Concern listed five former KCOA Board Members, Luke Yeahquo, Joe Poe, Jr., Susan Dunlap, Richard McMahon, and James Kennedy, and the stipends they received from 2017 to 2020 totaling \$301,150. The NIGC Letter of Concern also cited a 2017 memo from then-Chairman of the Tribe, Matthew Komalty, to the KCOA that directed the KCOA to limit "excessive costs incurred by the Board" and to reduce KCOA Board fees "...from \$1,000 per meeting to no more than \$500 per meeting."

As a result of the 2023 NIGC Letter of Concern issued against the Kiowa Tribe, then-Chairman of the Tribe, Lawrence SpottedBird ordered an internal investigation which confirmed that the five former KCOA Board Members received excessive compensation in the form of stipends. Another concern included payments made for "non-quorum" meetings, in violation of the Tribe's Constitution and KCOA Charter. Former Chairman SpottedBird also issued letters to each Board Member demanding they reimburse the Tribe for the overpayments.

After meeting with the KCOA Board Members, former Chairman SpottedBird reversed course by notifying the NIGC that the "...alleged overpayments were justified and necessary..." and "...the matter merits no further investigation." The NIGC disagreed and continued to pursue its investigation of the KCOA demanding the production of additional documents and information regarding the compensation paid to the former KCOA Board Members. The NIGC, as the federal agency responsible for Indian gaming, possesses significant enforcement powers, including the authority to impose monetary penalties and order the temporary closure of the Tribe's casinos.

Following former Chairman SpottedBird's impeachment and removal from office, Chairman David Sullivan reviewed the file, removed Richard McMahon as Chairman of the KCOA Board, and with support from the Kiowa Legislature, directed the filing of a civil lawsuit against the five former KCOA Board Members seeking reimbursement of the overpayments and the enforcement of Kiowa law. The lawsuit is now pending in the Kiowa Tribal Court. Chairman Sullivan states, "As Chairman, I have a duty to protect the Tribe's assets and ensure the integrity of our gaming operations. When our review finds the Tribe's funds have been misused, we have the responsibility to seek reimbursement."



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JULY 31, 2026

PRESS RELEASE

Kiowa Tribe Awarded \$1 Million to Continue Cleanup of Orphaned Oil Wells on Tribal Land

U.S. Department of the Interior funds Phase 2 of the Tribal Orphaned Well Plugging, Remediation and Restoration Program, advancing the Kiowa Tribe's work as a caretaker of its ancestral lands

CARNEGIE, Okla. — The Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma has been awarded \$1,000,000 from the U.S. Department of the Interior through the Energy Community Revitalization Program to continue its work plugging, remediating, and restoring orphaned oil and gas wells on Tribal land. This represents Phase 2 of an ongoing program that is putting the Kiowa Tribe on a clear path to completion of this critical environmental work.

Orphaned oil and gas wells are wells that have been abandoned without proper plugging. They often appear as little more than a pipe in the ground, but the real danger is invisible. Left unaddressed, they can leach pollutants directly into the soil and water table, threatening the safety of water sources that Kiowa communities and lands depend on. The Tribal Orphaned Well Plugging Program, established under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, provides federally recognized Tribes with resources to address these legacy conditions on Tribal land. The Kiowa Tribe's Phase 2 award builds directly on Phase 1 work, moving from program development into active inventory, assessment, and remediation operations.

"Every orphaned well we plug is a direct investment in the safety of our water and our land. Contamination from these wells does not stay in one place. It moves through the soil and into the water table, and that is a risk we take seriously. This is not just environmental work. It is sovereignty work. Our Natural Resources team is building the program from the ground up, and this funding lets us see it through to the finish line."

— Burke Thompson, Oil and Gas Manager, Natural Resources Department, Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma

The grant will fund staffing, equipment, contractor services, and the systematic inventory and physical verification of orphaned wells across Kiowa Tribal land. Remediation activities will include soil restoration and habitat reclamation designed to protect the integrity of the water table and ensure Kiowa land remains safe for members, future generations, and the ecosystems that sustain them.

For more information about the Orphaned Oil and Gas Well Restoration Program, please contact Burke Thompson at bthompson@kiowatribe.org.



PRESS RELEASE

*A New Chapter for Kiowa Workers: The Kiowa
Legislature Passes the TERO Act*

August 21, 2026
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



CARNEGIE, OK—The Kiowa Legislature has taken a meaningful step for our people. By passing the act that regulates the Kiowa Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO), our leaders have strengthened a tool that puts Kiowa workers, families, and businesses first. This is more than a legal update. It is an act of self-determination, rooted in the belief that economic activity on our land should first serve our own community.

What Is TERO?

The Tribal Employment Rights Office exists to ensure that work on tribal land benefits Native people. At its heart, TERO enforces what is known as Indian Preference — the principle that qualified Native Americans should be given priority in hiring, training, and contracting for jobs on our lands. For generations, our people faced barriers to fair employment. Discrimination, limited access to training, and being passed over for work in our own territory kept opportunity out of reach. TERO was created to correct that history. Its purpose is clear: to reduce economic hardship, build a skilled workforce within the tribe, and move our community toward true self-sufficiency.

When a contractor breaks ground on tribal land or a business opens its doors here, TERO helps ensure that Kiowa citizens are part of that work — not left on the sidelines.

The Key Functions of TERO:

The office carries out several important responsibilities that keep this promise alive:

- **Enforcing Indian Preference.** TERO requires employers and contractors operating on tribal land to prioritize qualified Native workers and Native-owned businesses.
- **Monitoring compliance.** The office keeps watch to ensure businesses comply with tribal law, holding them accountable when they fall short.
- **Supporting workforce development.** TERO invests in training and apprenticeships, so our citizens gain the skills to compete for good jobs, now and in the future.
- **Certifying Indian-owned businesses.** By verifying which companies are genuinely Native-owned, TERO protects honest business owners and prevents others from wrongly claiming Native status.
- **Collecting fees.** Businesses and contractors working on our land contribute fees. Those dollars flow directly back into employment programs that serve the community.

What's New in the 2025 Kiowa TERO Ordinance

The Legislature did not simply renew an old document. It modernized the ordinance to reflect our current needs and to align with the Kiowa Constitution. Several updates stand out.

- **Defining Kiowa Land and Jurisdiction**

The new act clearly defines what land falls under Kiowa jurisdiction and where TERO authority applies. Clear boundaries mean clear enforcement. When the reach of tribal law is well understood, businesses know their obligations and our office can act with confidence. This clarity is an expression of our sovereignty — the inherent right of the Kiowa people to govern our own affairs on our own land.

- **Reaffirming Indian Preference**

The ordinance renews and strengthens Indian Preference in hiring, training, and retention. Importantly, it places focus on local tribal citizens. This means the people who live in and around our community stand to benefit most directly. It is not enough to hire a worker and move on; the law emphasizes keeping our people employed and helping them grow in their careers.

- **Fee Structures That Fund Apprenticeships**

The act introduces updated fees for businesses and construction contracts operating on tribal land. These are not fees that vanish into paperwork. Proceeds are directed toward apprenticeship programs and employment initiatives. In other words, the money earned from work on Kiowa land helps train Kiowa hands. A young citizen learning a trade today may build the roads, homes, and facilities of tomorrow.

- **Rigorous Certification for Indian-Owned Businesses**

The updated certification process sets firm standards for what qualifies as a genuine Indian-owned business. This protects the integrity of our economy. Honest Native entrepreneurs deserve to compete without being undercut by companies falsely claiming Native ownership to gain an advantage. Strong certification keeps opportunity where it belongs.

- **Modernizing Outdated References**

Finally, the ordinance updates old language and adapts to the realities of today's workforce and technology. Laws must keep pace with the times to remain effective. By refreshing outdated references, the Legislature ensures the ordinance can serve our people well into the future.

- **Why This Matters for the Kiowa People**

This act is about more than jobs and contracts. It is about the strength of our community and the exercise of our sovereignty.

The Legislature's passage of the TERO Act reflects a simple, lasting value: what happens on Kiowa land should first lift Kiowa people. It honors those who came before us by protecting opportunity for those who come after.

For more information on the Kiowa Tribe TERO office, please visit <https://www.kiowatribe.org/departments/tribal-employment-rights-office>

Elder Distribution



Elder Distribution

Monday, November 16, 2026

Glenpool Conference Center
12205 S. Yukon Ave.
Glenpool, OK 74033

Wednesday, November 18, 2026

Chickasaw Nation Community Center
1004 NW 39th St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

Friday, November 20, 2026

Kiowa Tribe Red Wolf Community Center
100 Kiowa Way
Carnegie, OK 73015

Event schedule for each location:

Check Disbursement: 10:00 a.m.

Lunch Served: 11:30 a.m.

Event Concludes: 2:00 p.m.



NEW FOR 2026

Elder Payment Mailing Option

Kiowa elders have the option to receive their Elder Payment by mail. Checks will be mailed on November 6, 2026.

Want your check mailed?

Complete The Elder Check Form by October 23, 2026.

Complete the form on our website:

<https://www.kiowatribe.org/form/elder-check-form>

Attending in Person?

Elders residing in the following ZIP codes must attend the Carnegie Elder Payment Distribution: 73005, 73006, 73015, 73038, 73062, 73507, and 73651.

If you need assistance completing the form please contact our Enrollment Office at (405)901-9239.

Scan Here for Mailing Option!



Link to application: <https://www.kiowatribe.org/form/elder-check-form>

Upcoming Events

Link to join the Zoom can be found on our Linktree: <https://linktr.ee/kiowaD7>



KIOWA HYMNS AND LANGUAGE LESSON CLASS

**LET'S LEARN
KIOWA!**

**INSTRUCTOR:
WARREN QUETON**

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

September

**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



DENVER MUSEUM OF

**NATURE &
SCIENCE**

AVENIR
CONSERVATION
CENTER

2001 Colorado Blvd Denver CO 80205

Southern Plains Beadwork Project Denver Area and Colorado **Kiowa Community Gathering** Saturday October 3rd 1pm to 7pm

Members of the Kiowa Tribal Community are invited to the Museum on Saturday October 3rd to examine Kiowa beaded items from the DMNS Collections, learn about the Southern Plains Beadwork Project, and enjoy meals and time in community.

The day will begin and close with shared meals. In between the beadwork items will be available for examination and discussion and for community lead program.

The Kiowa Tribal leadership and Beadwork Project colleagues look forward to welcoming the Kiowa community to the Museum on October 3rd.

1-2 pm	Arrival, greetings, light lunch
2- 5 pm	Examine Kiowa items / Community led programming
5 – 7 pm	Dinner and evening program
	Coffee tea and beverages will be available through the day

Questions: Kiowa Tribe Historic Preservation Office THPO 405 648 0379



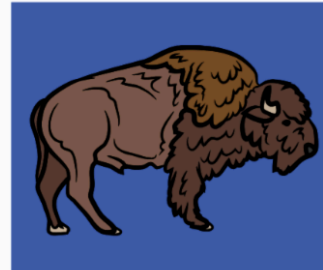
Through collaboration between the Kiowa Tribe Historic Preservation Office and the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Kiowa Citizens and their descendants in the Denver Area are invited to the Denver and Colorado Kiowa Community Gathering on Saturday, October 3rd, from 1 pm to 7 pm at the Avenir Conservation Center (2001 Colorado Blvd, 80206). The event includes examining Kiowa beaded items from the DMNS Collection, learning about the Southern Plains Beadwork Project, shared meals, and community time together.



DISTRICT 7 SERVICE WEBINAR

TOPIC: KADAP DIRECTOR, KYLIE CALLAHAN

OCTOBER 14TH
12-1:00 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



539-525-0437



KIOWA NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH FALL BENEFIT GOURD DANCE

OCTOBER 17, 2026, 2 P.M. - 9 P.M.
SUPPER @ 5 P.M.

APACHE TRIBAL GYM, ANADARKO, OKLAHOMA

**M.C. EDMOND NEVAQUAYA
H.S. O.J. LITTLECOOK
H.G.D. JOHN SHOTTON
H.L.D. MINDI KEE
A.D.'S KIOWA NAC YOUTH MEMBERS**

COHOST- INTERTRIBAL CHAPTER NAC OF NE OKLAHOMA

SPECIAL INVITATION TO THE KIOWA TRIBE PRINCESS TEAGAN
GOUGE
& ALL OTHER PRINCESS ROYALTY
SPECIAL INVITATION ALSO TO ALL NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH
ORGANIZATIONS AND MEMBERS
**ALL PROCEEDS WILL FUND OUR TRIP TO THE
PEYOTE GARDENS IN JANUARY**



KIOWA NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH

Mark your calendars—the Kiowa Chapter of the Native American Church is hosting a Fall Benefit Gourd Dance at the Apache Tribal Gym in Anadarko on October 17, 2026, from 2 PM to 9 PM! Supper will be served at 5 PM, followed by 50/50 raffles and drawings for NAC items throughout the evening. Kiowa Chapter members, we're asking for your help—please consider donating a side dish or dessert for the meal or cake walk. Every contribution strengthens this gathering for all who attend.

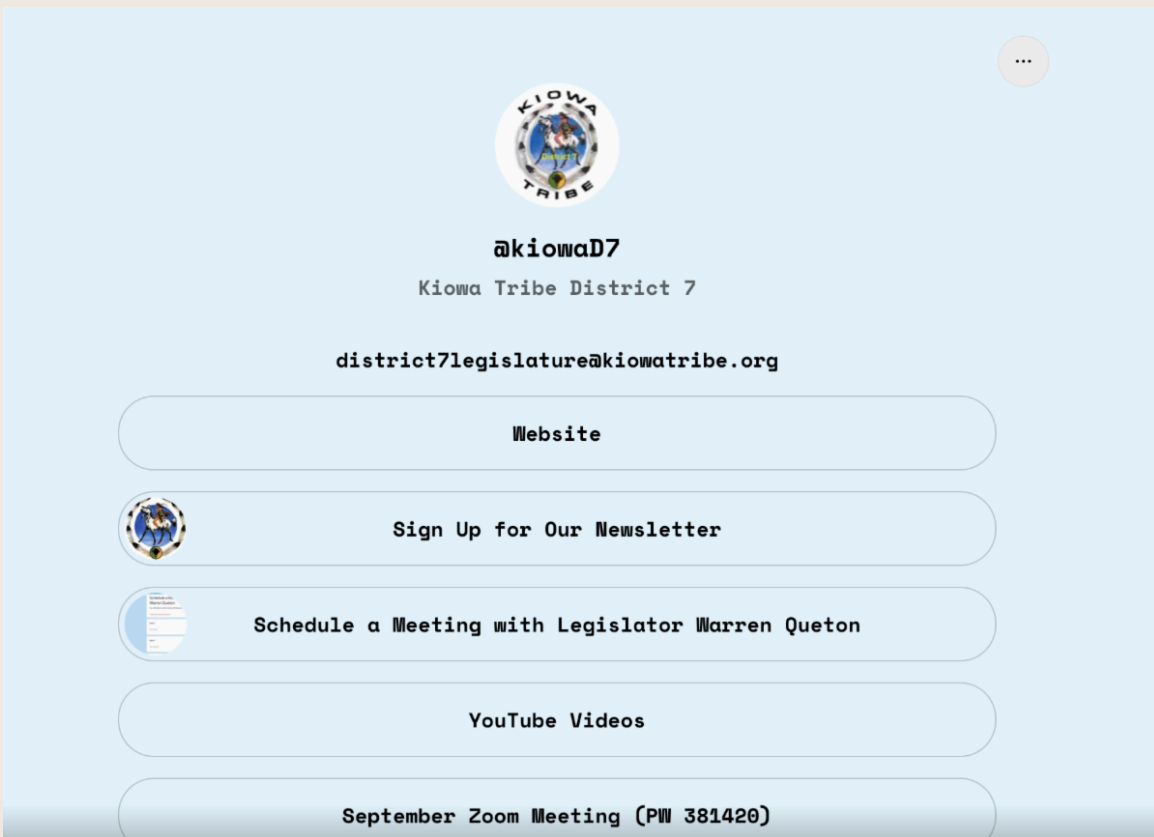
Head Staff for the evening includes MC Edmond Nevaquaya, Head Singer O.J. Littlecook, Head Gourd Dancer John Shotton, Head Lady Dancer Mindi Kee, and our Arena Directors, the Kiowa NAC Youth Members.

A special invitation goes out to Kiowa Tribe Princess Teagan Gouge, all visiting Princess Royalty, and all Native American Church organizations and members —

come honor this tradition with us. All proceeds support the Fall Chapter Meeting and our upcoming trip to the Peyote Gardens in January. We look forward to gathering as a community.

For more information, call (405) 441-8774.

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 | 15 E 16TH ST | Tulsa, OK 74119 US

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