



# KIOWA TRIBE

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**OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATURE**

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October 3, 2025

**LEGISLATURE INITIATES PROCESS OF**  
**REVENUE ALLOCATION PLAN (RAP) DEVELOPMENT,**  
**CONTINUES PASSAGE OF CRITICAL LEGISLATION**  
**TO ADVANCE INTERNAL CONTROLS FOR TRIBE FINANCES**

On August 9, 2025, Speaker of the Kiowa Legislature Michael Primus II read into record The Revenue Allocation Plan (RAP) For the People Act of 2025. Build-out and refinement of this vital legislation will ensue in the forthcoming months as the Legislature collectively makes strides in constructing regulatory architecture that will support more robust accountability and authentic transparency for Tribe assets and resources. For far too long, a dearth of statutory frameworks – as well as an extension of good faith which ultimately proved to be misplaced – has permitted a practice of excessive disbursements (including a \$75,000 sponsorship expenditure for the Anadarko Indian Relay Races in August 2023; a \$25,000 outlay in September 2024 for the Annual Tribal Chairman’s Golf Tournament; and at least one \$5,000 gala sponsorship) by the Executive Branch and Kiowa Casinos leadership to flourish while many Tribe citizens contend with housing instability, food insecurity, the effects of both national and local economic uncertainty, and aid allocations in the Chairman’s Annual Budget that simply do not meet the reality of on-the-ground hardships. Passage of a RAP is an imperative for any future per capita distributions to Tribe citizens as well as an essential measure to ensure that appropriations procedures for Tribe monies prioritize the fundamental needs of all Cauigu families rather than center the pursuit of self-gratification by a select few. While these steps have notably garnered opposition in the abstract by KCOA Chairman Richard McMahon – who proclaimed on social media in recent years, “I will never support a RAP or percap” [sic] – the Legislature is united in making inroads on this important and necessary project: all legislators have formally signed on as co-sponsors. And while The Revenue Allocation Plan (RAP) For the People Act of 2025 will be the first legislation in Tribe history to implement cohesive infrastructure vis-à-vis Tribe funds, the Legislature extends its recognition and appreciation to former District 7 Legislator Modina Waters, former Speaker of the Legislature Marilyn Bread, and former Secretary of the Legislature Anita Onco Johnson for their sponsorship of and work on gestural support codified into the Revenue Allocation Plan (RAP) Development Act of 2019, which is locatable within the digital law library at <https://law.kiowatribe.org/>.



Beyond introducing the beginnings of a RAP into the public legislative process, the Legislature has expanded upon the steps outlined in its most recent update published on September 9, 2025, by advancing four key resolutions to promote equity and clarity with respect to the stewardship of Tribe monies by the Executive Branch. All of these measures were approved unanimously by the full Legislature at Legislative Regular Session C-(100) on August 9, 2025. Following subsequent vetoes by Chairman Spottedbird, the Legislature overrode all of same vetoes at Legislative Regular Session C-(101) on September 13, 2025, in accordance with the provisions of the Kiowa Constitution. Now effective, those four laws are:

- KL-CY-2025-012 A Resolution of the Kiowa Tribe Implementing a 3% Cost of Living (COLA) Raise for All Employees of the Executive, Legislative, Judicial, and Kiowa Indian Council Branches – Sponsored by Legislator Warren Queton, this enactment responds to the stark disparity in wage increases applied by the Chairman in the last four Annual Budgets and Modifications. As documented in prior public statements issued by the Legislature, the FY-26 draft developed by the Chairman included pay hikes of 8% to 17% for a curated group of Executive Branch personnel; by contrast, the overwhelming majority of Tribe staff were assigned rates of compensation reflecting a standard 3% increase. The statistics are even more disquieting when one evaluates the pay jumps promoted by the Chairman over the cumulative span of time between the FY-23 Budget Modification and his FY-26 proposal with senior Finance positions enjoying raises of 35% across those three years. In context, these alarming figures demonstrate a disquieting approach by Chairman Spottedbird to principles of pay equity and demand protocols clearly delineated in statute for COLA adjustments. **The Legislature overrode the Chairman's veto of this legislation by unanimous vote.**
- KL-CY-2025-013 The First Amendment to the Law-Making and the Production of Documents and Testimony Act of 2017 – Sponsored by Legislator Cole Kickingbird DeLaune, this enactment expands the scope of the Legislature's subpoena authority to additionally encompass past elected officials, appointees, and employees of the Tribe as well as contractors. Amid ongoing legal proceedings involving contracting entities engaged during the construction of the Hobart Kiowa Casino; a continuing inquiry by the Office of Inspector General Department of the Treasury into Tribe expenditures of Coronavirus Relief Funds between March 2022 and September 2022; and an investigation by the National Indian Gaming Commission into alleged overpayments received by Chairman McMahon and four former Trustees of the Kiowa Casino Operations Authority, an unequivocal delineation of the Legislature's fact-finding authorities is now

more urgent than ever to ensure that Cauigu citizens enjoy a forthright view into their Tribe government. **The Legislature overrode the Chairman's veto of this legislation by unanimous vote.**

- KL-CY-2025-014 2025 Moratorium on the Creation of New Tribally Owned Corporations and KL-CY-2025-015 2025 Moratorium on Funding for Existing Tribally Owned Corporations – Also sponsored by Legislator DeLaune, the genesis of these complementary enactments is rooted in the troublingly contradictory responses the Legislature received when querying the Executive Branch about funding sources for Kiowa, Inc. In April 2025, the Chairman asserted that ARPA monies had been earmarked to support the operations of tribal businesses; such a set aside was not reflected in the FY-25 Annual Budget. During follow-up dialogue in May 2025, Chief Financial Officer William Weaver stated that no bank accounts in existence contained funds for or in connection with Kiowa, Inc. However, when asked to confirm this attestation in writing, Mr. Weaver ultimately declined to do so and deferred to Chairman Spottedbird. Finally, amid further discussion with the Chairman and Finance Department, the Executive Branch stipulated that monies for Kiowa, Inc. undertakings had been drawn from the Local and Tribal Consistency Funds line item in the Annual Budget, a funding pool valued at \$3,778,178.70 in the Chairman's FY-25 budgetary workbook and at \$3,778,179.00 in his FY-26 draft. Without any deconstruction of intended allocations – and absent additional line itemization – this volume of federal dollars would operate as a de facto slush fund for the Executive Branch. The lack of internal controls on such a substantial amount of money is doubly unnerving when one considers that Indian City Screen Printing, Chairman Spottedbird's marquee economic development initiative to date, netted a total loss of \$448,294.10 between July 2022 and December 2023. Unchecked spending in the guise of "building capacity" is, quite simply, not a sustainable paradigm, and sturdier guardrails must be designed to protect our Cauigu people against future half-million-dollar implosions. These moratoria are only 30 days away from repeal at any given time, and the Executive Branch has conceded that no contractual engagements exist to be impeded from forward progress. It is the hope of the Legislature that the Chairman will recognize the imperative of developing detailed business plans for any future investments of Tribe funds so that genuine economic development can occur with unambiguous benchmarks and financial transparency for Kiowa citizens. **The Legislature overrode the Chairman's veto of this legislation by unanimous vote.**



The Legislature remains committed to the truth that Tribe funds belong to you, the people – not to any elected or appointed officials – because our democracy and its power belong to our Membership at large. Please pray that these values find actualization in the heart of our Chairman as well. May Dawkee guide all of our Kiowa government in putting the interests of the most vulnerable among us first.

In service to our citizens,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Primus". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Michael Primus  
Speaker of the Legislature  
The Kiowa Tribe Legislature