

Delaware Tribe of Indians General Election Results

Voters issue Directives with Ballots

Bartlesville, Okla – The November 3, 2007 General Election of the Delaware Tribe of Indians sends a resounding message from the voice of the Delaware people through their ballots, to the Tribal Council, divisive factions, and to the Oklahoma Congressional representatives and the 110th congress of the United States. Delaware Tribal members cast their votes for four Trust Board positions, four proposed changes to the Tribe's Constitution, and a Tribal Council advisory question to restore the Tribe's federal recognition.

The overwhelming majority of Delaware Tribal voters viewed the 2007 General Election ballot as an opportunity to voice their decisions on tribal leadership, fundamental constitutional rights, and the survival of a great people for future generations. The format of the ballot polled tribal members for the selection of Trust Board candidates, four tribal constitutional amendments defining and clarifying specifics for the inclusion of all tribal voters in the decision making process of the tribe's annual membership meeting, and the establishment of procedures for the conduct of the tribe's annual general council meetings. The final ballot item polled Delaware tribal voters on a most urgent and important issue regarding Tribal Council's actions necessary to obtain congressional legislation for the restoration of the Delaware Tribe of Indians to the list of federally recognized tribes.

Two candidates filed for Delaware Trust Board Chairman. The Trust Board Chair position was a square off between Rusty Creed Brown and incumbent Raymond Cline. Cline easily defeated Brown by a 2 to 1 vote. Brown received 366 votes to Cline's 737 votes. Raymond Cline's 66.34% to Brown's 32.94% votes earns Cline his 3rd term of office as Trust Board Chairman.

Five candidates filed for three Trust Board positions. The top three vote getters for the Trust Board positions were Verna Crawford, William "Bill" Hatch, and Doyle Hayes. Incumbent Johnney Tucker received 416 votes or 14.15%, Incumbent Verna Crawford received 742 votes or 25.24%, Tonya Anna received 415 votes or 14.12%, William "Bill" Hatch received 700 votes or 23.81%, and Doyle Hayes received 667 votes or 22.69%. The winners of the 2007 Delaware Trust Board Election; Raymond Cline, Verna Crawford, William "Bill" Hatch, and Doyle Hayes are scheduled to participate in a swearing in ceremony to be held during the Delaware Tribe's Annual General Council meeting, November 17, 2007 at 5100 Tuxedo Blvd., Bartlesville, OK, from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. All tribal members are strongly encouraged to attend.

The Tribal Constitutional Amendments were all approved by a wide margin of victory and indicates that tribal members want to protect their right to vote and have a voice in the decisions of the General Governing Body of the tribe. Proposition one was approved by 84.07%, proposition two was approved by 79.48%, proposition three was approved by 83.69%, and proposition four was approved by 82.64%.

In recent months, news articles have appeared in local, state, and national news sources from supposedly Delaware Tribal organizations and groups alleging to represent the majority of the tribe in rejecting a negotiated agreement with the Cherokee Nation for the restoration of Delaware tribe's federal recognition via congressional legislation. The advisory question for federal recognition restoration was approved 867 votes to 216 votes, or 80.06% to 19.94%.

According to Tribal Chief Jerry Douglas, "this election, the candidates, and the overwhelming victory of the advisory question is a testimony that our tribal membership wants good qualified leadership, structure and order to our tribal government and business affairs. And our tribal members support our efforts to have our status as a federally recognized tribe restored....as it should be." Chief Douglas believes in his promise to move the tribe forward in a new direction and says, "We will continue working with our congressional representatives to have our recognition restored. I know we face a number of challenges going forward, and the victory in this election certainly will help."