

The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

A Resolution Urging Citizens of the Five Tribes to Vote in the Upcoming 2020 Elections

Resolution No. 20-07



Chuck Hoskin Jr
Principal Chief

WHEREAS, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes (ITC) is an organization that unites the tribal governments of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations, representing more than 750,000 Indian people throughout the United States; and



Bill Anoatubby
Governor

WHEREAS, the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations are Indian tribes whose inherent sovereignty preexists that of the United States and who have held a historic and continual government-to-government relationship with the United States; and



Gary Batton
Chief

WHEREAS, 2020 is a presidential election year; and

WHEREAS, American Indian people were conferred United States citizenship and granted the right to vote in United States elections by the Indian Citizenship Act in 1924, but some state laws barring Indian people from voting remained unchanged until the 1960s when Congress passed the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and



David W. Hill
Principal Chief

WHEREAS, American Indian people continue to face barriers to voting and voter disenfranchisement, such as voter identification laws, the location and limited number of polling places, and exclusionary address requirements. Yet, the resolve of Native people to overcome these barriers to vote remains strong. American Indian people continue to advocate through the courts and the policymaking process for expanded voting rights and robust voter protections; and



Greg P. Chilcoat
Chief

WHEREAS, American Indian people represent 12 percent of Oklahoma's total population and the Citizens of the Five Tribes constitute a significant voting bloc and maintain the ability to impact elections through voting; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans make up a significant population of eligible voters in New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Washington state and other states and are responsible for electing officials in state and federal offices who champion issues facing Indian country; and

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WHEREAS, four American Indians serving in the United States House of Representatives include: Markwayne Mullin, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation representing Oklahoma's 2nd congressional district, Tom Cole, a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation representing Oklahoma's 4th congressional district, Deb Haaland, a citizen of the Laguna Pueblo representing New Mexico's 1st congressional district, and Sharice Davids, a citizen of the Ho-Chunk Nation representing Kansas 3rd congressional district.

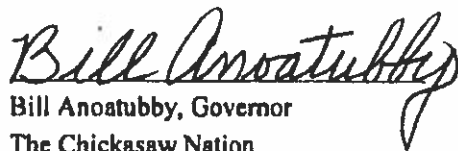
WHEREAS, there are 18 American Indian elected officials who serve in the Oklahoma Legislature, and more than 70 serve in other state legislatures; and


WHEREAS, voting is a powerful tool through which tribal citizens can strengthen the rights of their respective tribal nations and create respect for tribal sovereignty at the local, state, and federal levels; and

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes hereby urges citizens of the Five Tribes to exercise their right to vote in the upcoming 2020 elections.


CERTIFICATION


The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes meeting virtually on this 10th day of July, 2020, by a vote of 19 for 0 against and 0 abstentions.


Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation


David W. Hill, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation


Gary Bolton, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma


Greg P. Chilcoat, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma


Chuck Hoskin Jr., Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation