

Races set for Chairman, Districts #4 and #8

CPN Election Code - Legislative Districts Map available online

With the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Election Committee having certified the slate of candidates for the 2009 CPN elections, races are set up for three positions – Chairman and legislative districts #4 and #8. In Kansas, District #4 voters will choose between two candidates for a full four-year term. In the Pacific Northwest, District #8 voters will choose from among six candidates for the remaining portion of the late Jacqueline Taylor's term, which ends in late June 2010.

Seeking to continue the CPN's entrepreneurial growth and cultural advances of the past three decades, Chairman John 'Rocky' Barrett filed for re-election, and drew two challengers. Jeremy B. Finch, an erstwhile CPN employee and resident of Macomb, Oklahoma, and Diana J. Brasfield, of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, are hoping to replace Chairman Barrett.

Three CPN legislators earned new four-year terms without opposition. They are Roy Slavin in District #1, Eva Marie Carney in District #2, and Robert Whistler in District #3. (See the map at the link on this on page 1 for the contours of the CPN legislative districts.)

In District #4, which is the state of Kansas, incumbent Rep. Theresa Adame drew one challenger, Topeka resident Jon Boursaw, a retired U.S. Air Force colonel who recently retired from a position as director of the CPN Cultural Heritage Center. Adame is also a Topeka resident.

With no incumbent in District #8, six members anted up the \$150 filing fee to offer themselves to serve fellow district #8 members. The candidates are: William Edward Anderson of Whitefish, Montana; Ginger Lee Blackmon, Ed. D. of Seward, Alaska; Dave Carney of Olympia, Washington; Patrick Nelson Shannon of Missoula, Montana; Clyde B. Slavin of Vancouver, Washington; and Keli Jo Willard of Bothell, Washington.

Candidates for Tribal Chairman must be at least 35 years old upon being sworn in on June 27, 2009 and must have lived in Oklahoma for at least six months before Election Day. Candidates for the legislative seats must be at least 18 years old by Election Day. Additionally, they must have resided in the district from which they are elected for six months on Election Day.

The 2009 election ballot will also contain the annual budget for spending interest and earnings from the Nation's set-aside funds. Because of that and the presence of a Chairman's race, **all eligible CPN voters will participate in this election.**

A Ballot Request Period will begin on April 1, 2009 and end on June 7, 2009. There will be in-person voting from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 27, 2009 at the courtroom in the CPN administration building, 1601 S. Gordon Cooper Dr., Shawnee, OK 74801 for all six positions.

The Election Committee will mail Absentee Ballot Request Forms to all members who will be eligible to vote in the 2009 election. Additionally, to assist in CPN voters' obtaining an absentee ballot, a Ballot Request Form will be published in intervening editions of the *HowNiKan*. It, too, is posted on the internet at www.CPNElectionCentral.org.

Voters who wish to cast absentee ballots can obtain an absentee ballot by mailing back the postage-paid request form that will be mailed to them, clipping the request form from the *HowNiKan*, or downloading it from the Web site, completing it, and mailing it to Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Election Committee, P.O. Box 310, Tecumseh, OK 74873.

Voters who cast an absentee ballot will not be able to vote in-person in Shawnee on June 27, 2009. However, if a voter obtains an Absentee Ballot then decides to vote in person, he can exchange the Absentee Ballot for an in-person ballot on June 27, 2009 at the polling place.

Voters should remember that the Ballot Request Form must be postmarked no later than June 7, 2009. **Voted absentee ballots must arrive** in the Election Committee's post office box in Tecumseh, Oklahoma **no later than 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 27, 2009.**