

Bowden chosen to CPN Business Committee

Bobbie Bowden, a Citizen Potawatomi Nation member who lives in Choctaw, Oklahoma, has won overwhelming election to the Nation's Business Committee. Bowden is Vice President of Capitol Abstract & Title Company and Branch Manager of the Midwest City location for 11 years. She defeated incumbent Jimmy Snow of Lexington by a final vote count of 886 to 437; that is 66.97% of the votes, in what was a run-off. Bowden and Snow were the top two vote-getters in the general election held in late June.

Bowden tallied 862 absentee votes and 23 in in-person balloting at the CPN tribal courtroom on Saturday, August 25. Snow had 403 absentee votes and 34 walk-in votes.

Bowden was immediately sworn in as a member of the Nation's five-member lawmaking body. If the will of the Nation's voters, as expressed in a constitutional revision election that ended on August 16, is followed, Bowden's position will morph into one as one of 16 legislators in a new Citizen Potawatomi legislature.

John Barrett, CPN Chairman said of Bowden, "Bobbie graduated from Choctaw High School in Choctaw, Oklahoma and attended the University of Oklahoma and Rose State University in Oklahoma City. She is professional, dedicated, and capable. Bobbie Bowden will serve the Citizen Potawatomi Nation with hard work and intelligent decisions."

In the constitutional revision election, CPN members cast 1,806 yes votes and 374 no votes, approving extensive revision of the constitution with 82.84% approval. However, three dissident members of the Nation have filed protests of that election, delaying implementation of the changes. The BIA conducted the election. Its Anadarko area office has referred the election protests to Washington, D.C.

The constitution changes will extend more control of the legislative and budget writing authority of their tribe to members who live outside Oklahoma. Of the Nation's approximately 26,600 members, some 16 live outside the Sooner State.

The change will also be the next-to-final step in setting up a true three-branch tribal government for the Citizen Potawatomis. Currently, the Chairman Vice Chairman, and Secretary-Treasurer perform both legislative and executive functions.