

# Osage Nation Election Board Rules and Regulations



## Table of Contents

RULE ONE – Rules and Regulations .....	2
Section 1. Authority .....	2
Section 2. Purpose .....	2
Section 3. Definitions .....	3
Section 4. Candidate Filing Fees & Requirements .....	5
Section 5. Political Action Committee Filing and Requirements .....	6
Section 6. Campaign Code of Ethics .....	7
Section 7. Emergency Preparations .....	7
Section 8. Election Board Participation in Campaigns .....	8
RULE TWO – CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTING AND PRACTICE .....	9
Section 1. Campaign Reporting Requirements .....	9
Section 2. Campaign Reporting Statement Deadlines .....	11
Section 3. Campaign Funding Restrictions and Prohibitions .....	12
Section 4. Use of Osage Government Resources Prohibited .....	12
Section 5. Procedures and Penalties for Violations of These Rules .....	13
CERTIFICATION .....	16

### RULE ONE – Rules and Regulations

#### Section 1. Authority

The Osage Nation Election Board (“Board”) has the authority and responsibility to promulgate rules and regulations, concerning any matter within its jurisdiction pursuant to The Osage Nation Election Code (“Code”), as amended.

#### Section 2. Purpose

In an effort to ensure fair elections, the Board finds that it is necessary to develop rules and regulations for the proper operation of the Osage Nation’s Elections for which the Board is responsible.

### Section 3. Definitions

For the purposes of these Rules, the following definitions apply:

- A. "Candidate" means any person who has publicly announced such intent, authorized promotion for, or filed a declaration of candidacy or petition to appear on the ballot for election as a tribal official, whether successfully elected or not.
- B. "Campaign" means a systematic course of activities by
  - 1. Rival political candidates or organizations supporting candidates seeking public office in the Osage Nation government, or
  - 2. Groups of individuals or organizations supporting or opposing ballot issues to be considered by the Osage electorate.
  - 3. "Campaign activities" or "campaign purposes" means
    - a. selling, purchasing, or distributing campaign fundraiser tickets, including complimentary tickets;
    - b. conducting campaign meetings;
    - c. distributing campaign literature or materials;
    - d. soliciting campaign assistance or support;
    - e. producing campaign literature or materials, or storing such materials;
    - f. traveling to or from campaign meetings; or
    - g. encouraging voters to vote for or against a candidate or ballot issue.
- C. "Congress" means the Osage Nation Legislative branch or Congress.
- D. "Donations" means any self-donations, cash, goods, or services received by the candidate or the campaign, from any business entity, individual, or family member.
- E. "Executive branch" means the Osage Nation Executive branch or Principal Chief and Assistant Principal Chief.

- 56 F. "Minor" means any person less than 18 years of age.  
57  
58 G. "Osage Nation equipment or software" is all tangible property or  
59 software purchased for and leased or owned by the Osage Nation  
60 government, which includes, but is not limited to, telephones, copy  
61 machines, fax machines, computers, and vehicles.  
62  
63 H. "Osage Nation premises or property" means property owned or leased by  
64 the Osage Nation, excluding residential areas. It includes, but is not  
65 limited to, Osage Nation offices, conference rooms, and working areas.  
66  
67 1. Osage Nation facilities that are available to the public for use may  
68 also be used for campaign activities on the same basis as the  
69 facilities are available to the public.  
70  
71 I. "Osage Nation supplies" means stationery, paper, stamps, and other  
72 supplies normally associated with government offices.  
73  
74 J. "Osage Nation time" means the actual time during which an Osage  
75 Nation official or employee is performing, or should be performing, his or  
76 her duties as an Osage official or employee during normal operating  
77 hours of the Osage Nation government.  
78  
79 K. "Personal use" means anything purchased for use outside the campaign.  
80  
81 L. "Petitioner" means an individual, group, or organization that presents a  
82 petition.  
83  
84 M. "Political Action Committee ("Committee") means any individual, group,  
85 or organization receiving donations or making expenditures for campaign  
86 activities to support or oppose ballot issues to be considered by the  
87 Osage electorate.  
88  
89 N. "Remedial action" includes, but is not limited to, orders for repayment of  
90 costs associated with Board inquiries, corrections of reports required by  
91 this Rule, and other actions consistent with the Board's authority and  
92 Osage law.  
93  
94  
95  
96

## Section 4. Candidate Filing Fees & Requirements

A. The filing fees shall be as follows:

1. Principal Chief \$500.00
2. Assistant Principal Chief \$400.00
3. Congressional Candidates \$300.00
4. Judicial Retention \$ 0.00

B. Payment shall be by debit/credit card, cashier's check, or money order, only withdrawn from the campaign account. No personal checks shall be accepted.

C. Prior to filing for office, candidates shall be required to:

1. Establish a separate bank account to be used for campaign purposes only in the name of the candidate or the candidate's campaign;
  - a. All campaign donations shall be deposited into this account, including the candidate's personal funds used for campaign purposes.
  - b. All expenditures used for campaign purposes shall be spent from this account.
  - c. Failure to use this account for any and all donations and expenditures shall result in a fine pursuant to Rule Two, Section 5(G).
2. Provide proof of the established campaign account upon filing that shows the account name and number.

D. Each candidate shall be required to file for candidacy in person at the Osage Nation Election Office ("Office") located in Pawhuska, Oklahoma.

E. After the close of the filing period, decisions certifying or disqualifying filed candidates shall be rendered within four (4) business days after the receipt of the background checks.

## Section 5. Political Action Committee Filing and Requirements

- A. Individuals, groups, or organizations receiving donations for campaign activities to support or oppose ballot issues to be considered by the Osage electorate shall file a statement of organization with the Board before the commencement of campaign activities.
1. Upon filing, provide proof of a separate bank account that shows the account name and number.
- B. Prior to filing, committees shall be required to:
1. Designate an individual responsible for the filing of required documents and reports;
2. Establish a separate bank account to be used for campaign purposes only in the name of the individual, group, or organization;
3. All campaign donations shall be deposited into this account, including the committee's personal funds used for campaign purposes.
4. All expenditures used for campaign purposes shall be spent from this account.
5. Failure to use this account for any and all donations and expenditures shall result in a fine pursuant to Rule Two, Section 5(G).
- C. Committees shall be required to file a statement of organization in person at the Osage Nation Election Office ("Office") located in Pawhuska, Oklahoma.
- D. Any individuals, groups, or organizations violating this section shall be referred to the Osage Nation Attorney General's Office for further legal action.

## Section 6. Campaign Code of Ethics

During their campaign, candidates and committees shall:

1. Comply with all laws and regulations of the Osage Nation;
2. Avoid even the appearance of impropriety;
3. Refrain from abusive conduct, personal charges, or verbal affronts upon the character, motives, or intents of other officials, employees, or Osage citizens;
4. Not hinder or obstruct the proper administration of the Osage Nation government, officials, or employees in the administration of their duties;
5. Not use elected positions to influence or otherwise effect government decisions for personal gain;
6. Not gift or promise future benefit in exchange for preferential treatment;
7. Refrain from the use of tribal resources when not acting in an official capacity;
8. Abstain from influencing or in any manner attempting to influence any vote, official decision or determination which would favor or advance such person's personal interest in such matter; and
9. Refrain from using tribal positions to improperly influence deliberations, administrations, or decisions of Board proceedings.

## Section 7. Emergency Preparations

- A. The Board shall assure that to the extent of their ability, the balloting shall not be interrupted due to power outages or inclement weather.
- B. The Board may utilize back-up power sources to operate the balloting equipment should the electrical power fail during the election process.
- C. Should the inhabitants of the polling place be required to take cover due to a tornado warning, the Board shall make every effort to secure the

balloting device to prevent any tampering with the balloting device or the absentee ballots, so received and segregated.

## Section 8. Election Board Participation in Campaigns

- A. No Board member, Board contractor, or Office employee shall participate in any event in support of or opposition to a particular candidate or issue.
- B. Such prohibition on participation shall not prevent any qualified Osage Nation Voter from casting his or her vote for the candidate or ballot issue of his or her choice during the balloting process.
- C. Such prohibition on participation shall include the following: attending any candidate campaign/fundraiser event, making donations to candidates, wearing buttons or clothing in support of a particular candidate or issue; volunteering to assist a candidate with mailings or any other activities generally considered to be campaigning, or defined as "Campaign Activities" or "Campaign purposes".
- D. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Board members, Board contractors, and Office employees shall be permitted to attend nonpartisan community functions.



## RULE TWO – CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTING AND PRACTICE

### Section 1. Campaign Reporting Requirements

- A. All donations, including self-donations, for any and all campaign purposes, shall be deposited into the campaign account. All expenditures for any and all campaign purposes shall be spent from the campaign account. Failure to use this account for any and all donations and expenditures shall result in a fine pursuant to Rule Two, Section 5(G), except as follows:
1. Electronic transfer fees charged that cannot be deposited or spent from the campaign account shall be reported and are exempt from the Failure to Use Account fine.
- B. The first report filed shall include donations and expenditures from the beginning of the campaign, whether or not such campaign began prior to the official candidate filing period.
- C. The last report filed shall include outstanding donations and expenditures.
- D. A standard form for campaign reporting statements, including deadlines, shall be provided by the Board.
- E. The campaign reporting statement shall be completed electronically, except for the signature, which shall be handwritten, and accompanied by bank documentation showing the campaign account deposits and expenditures from the campaign reporting period start date until the end date.
- F. Campaign reporting statements shall include the balance of funds at the time of the end date.
- G. All donations recorded in the campaign reporting statement shall include the following information for each donor:
1. First and last names of each donor or the name of the business entity;
  2. Employer, or indicate self-employment or unemployment, if known;

3. The date the donation was made to the candidate or campaign;
4. The amount of the donation; and
5. The equivalent of such amount in goods or services from an individual or family received by the candidate or the campaign;
6. The general services of volunteers shall be exempt.

H. All expenditures recorded in the campaign reporting statement shall include the following:

1. The name of the individual or vendor receiving the campaign funds;
2. The goods or services received in return for the expenditure;
3. The date of the expenditure; and
4. The amount of the expenditure.

I. Campaign reporting statements shall be filed with the Office, which shall verify that the campaign reporting statements comply with the provisions of this Rule and submit a report of findings to the Board.

1. The Board shall:
  - a. certify campaign reporting statements, or
  - b. notify the candidate or campaign by email if any errors are found in the statement.
2. For campaign reporting statements submitted by the deadline, candidates or committees shall have three (3) business days, upon the date email notification is sent by the Office, to correct the errors and report such corrections to the Office. If, after the three (3) day period, the Board rules the errors are not corrected, the candidate or committees shall be subject to adjudication as provided by Rule Two, Sections 5(A), 5(D), and 5(E).
3. Candidates or committees failing to submit campaign reporting statements by the deadline shall result in a fine and penalties pursuant to Rule Two, Section 5(E). Failure to comply within three months shall prohibit the individual from being certified as a

candidate or committee for future elections. The individual may appeal the denial of candidacy pursuant to Rule Two, Section 5(I).

4. Certification shall not preclude a finding that the provisions of this Rule have been violated if errors in the reporting statements are subsequently revealed.
5. The Board shall take no action against candidates after candidates have taken Oath of Office.

## Section 2. Campaign Reporting Statement Deadlines

- A. All reports shall be filed by the close of business on the filing deadline.
- B. Deadlines and reporting periods in subsections C and E are listed using the number that represents the number of calendar days before General Election Day. If a number is preceded by a plus (+) sign, that number represents the number of calendar days after General Election Day.
- C. Executive candidates shall follow the schedule below:

Report Number	Filing Deadline	Reporting Period	
		Start	End
E1	189	Campaign start	192
E2	161	191	164
E3	133	163	136
E4	103	135	104
E5	91	103	94
E6	63	93	66
E7	35	65	38
E8	5	37	6
E9	+7	5	+ 4

- D. If a primary election is required, executive candidates that will not be moving forward to the general election shall file report E5 as their last report.
- E. Legislative candidates and committees shall follow the schedule below:

Report Number	Filing Deadline	Reporting Period	
		Start	End
C1	112	Campaign start	115

C2	91	114	94
C3	63	93	66
C4	35	65	38
C5	5	37	6
C6	+7	5	+ 4

378

### 379 Section 3. Campaign Funding Restrictions and Prohibitions

380

381

382

383

384

385

386

387

388

389

390

391

392

393

394

395

396

- A. Campaign funds shall not be used for personal use of a candidate, employee, or volunteer of the candidate's campaign, or any third party.
- B. Donations and other funds collected by a candidate or committee for shall be used for campaign purposes or other purposes expressly allowed in this section.
- C. Minors are prohibited from making donations to candidates or committees. No person shall be allowed, nor shall any candidate or committee accept, a donation in the name of a minor person. Minors are allowed to serve as campaign volunteers.
- D. A candidate or committee shall not accept any donation of any kind from a business entity, if such business entity is owned in whole or in part by the Osage Nation or operated by or for the benefit of the Osage Nation.

### 397 Section 4. Use of Osage Government Resources Prohibited

398

399

400

401

402

403

404

405

406

407

408

409

410

411

412

- A. The use of Osage Nation funds, time, equipment, supplies, or Osage Nation premises (as defined in Rule 1, Section 3 (H)) for campaign activities or campaign purposes is strictly prohibited, with the following exception:
  - 1. Beginning at noon on the Friday before Election Day through 4:00 p.m. the day after Election Day, campaign materials shall be allowed on Osage Nation premises in the areas of the campaign campsites and within the boundaries of each candidate's campsite only.
- B. The performance of campaign tasks or activities by Osage Nation personnel on Osage Nation time is prohibited.

- 413 C. Candidates or committees shall contact the Office for issues with Osage  
414 Nation equipment, supplies, or premises that directly affect their  
415 campaign activities.  
416
- 417 D. Candidates or committees shall not use funds from the Osage Nation  
418 government or any of its subsidiaries for travel expenses to attend any  
419 meeting that is publicly presented as a candidate forum or contains a  
420 candidate forum for the next election as an agenda item.  
421
- 422 E. The use of Osage Nation mail service for campaign purposes is  
423 prohibited, with the exception of paid campaign advertising in the Osage  
424 News or its successor.  
425
- 426 F. The use of Osage Nation telephones, computers, servers, or electronic  
427 mail accounts for campaign purposes is prohibited. This prohibition shall  
428 not be interpreted to mean that candidates or committee individuals are  
429 prohibited from using Osage Nation electronic mail or telephones to  
430 fulfill their official duties.  
431
- 432 G. Individual Osage Nation elected officials and employees are prohibited  
433 from engaging in campaign fundraising activities through the solicitation  
434 of contributions from:  
435
- 436 1. Their subordinates, or
  - 437
  - 438 2. Businesses such individuals may supervise, or
  - 439
  - 440 3. Businesses such individuals may inspect, regulate, or monitor in
  - 441 the fulfillment of their job responsibilities.
  - 442

## 443 Section 5. Procedures and Penalties for Violations of These Rules

444

- 445 A. Any candidate who commits a campaign violation may be disqualified,  
446 removed from the race, and his or her votes shall be considered void.  
447
- 448 B. Any funds found to have been improperly donated or not reported shall  
449 be subject to forfeiture and paid into the Osage Nation Election Fund.  
450
- 451 C. Campaign signs shall not be posted on any Osage Nation premises or  
452 property. If a campaign sign is posted on any Osage Nation premises or  
453 property:  
454

- 455 1. The candidate shall be notified to remove the sign; or  
456  
457 2. The sign can be removed by any party and returned to the Office  
458 where the candidate may pick up the campaign signs after signing  
459 a receipt for the campaign signs.  
460  
461 a. After the candidate or committee is notified that the sign  
462 is at the Office, he or she shall have ten (10) days to  
463 reclaim it.  
464  
465 D. Any candidate or committee deemed to have violated any of the Osage  
466 Nation Election Board Rules and Regulations herein shall be subject to a  
467 fine of up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000), unless otherwise specified.  
468  
469 E. Candidates or committees who fail to submit their campaign reporting  
470 statements by the required deadlines pursuant to Rule Two, Section 2,  
471 shall be assessed a fine of five hundred dollars (\$500). Failure to comply  
472 shall prohibit the candidate from filing for office for future elections until  
473 the fine is paid.  
474  
475 F. Candidates or committees who fail to submit their corrected errors by  
476 the deadline shall be assessed a fine of one hundred twenty-five dollars  
477 (\$125).  
478  
479 G. Candidates or committees who fail to use their campaign bank account  
480 shall be assessed a fine of one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125) for the  
481 first offense and an increase of twenty-five dollar (\$25) increments for  
482 each offense throughout their campaign.  
483  
484 H. All fines that were assessed eight (8) calendar days or more prior to  
485 Election Day shall be paid by 4:30 p.m. the Wednesday preceding Election  
486 Day. If the candidate fails to comply, all votes for that candidate shall be  
487 considered void, and the Election Supervisor shall post a notice of this  
488 fact at the polling places and on the Office website.  
489  
490 I. All fines assessed seven (7) calendar days prior to Election Day or after  
491 shall be paid by 4:30 p.m. on the deadline date set by the Board.  
492  
493 J. Unpaid fines shall be referred to the Attorney General's Office  
494 immediately following the unmet deadline.  
495  
496 K. Any candidate penalized for a violation of these regulations may seek  
497 reconsideration of the decision by filing a written appeal with the Board

498 within two (2) business days after receiving notice of such penalty from  
499 the Board.

- 500
- 501 1. The appeal shall set forth in detail the basis for the appeal,  
502 including all facts and legal authority supporting the appealing  
503 party's contention that the penalty is unwarranted.
  - 504
  - 505 2. The appealing party shall attach all supporting documentation to  
506 the appeal, including all affidavits, photographs, and other  
507 documentary evidence.
  - 508
  - 509 3. The appealing party bears the burden of proof.
  - 510
  - 511 4. The Election Board shall issue a written decision within five (5)  
512 business days following the filing of the appeal. The Election  
513 Board shall notify the appealing party of the decision in writing.
  - 514

- 515 L. Any person violating the 12 ONC § 8-103, in any manner by initiating an  
516 unauthorized recall petition shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon  
517 conviction, shall be subject to the maximum penalties allowed by federal  
518 law.
- 519
- 520 M. Any person violating the 12 ONC § 8-102 and 12 ONC § 8-104 in any  
521 manner by initiating an unauthorized initiative or referendum petition  
522 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be subject to  
523 the maximum penalties allowed by federal law.

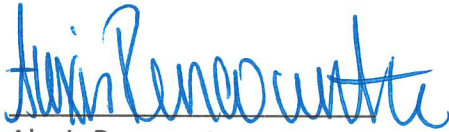
## CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing Osage Nation Election Board Rules and Regulations were considered by the Osage Nation Election Board, at a duly called meeting in Pawhuska, Oklahoma, at which a quorum was present and the same was adopted by a vote of 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 absent, on this 2nd day of October, 2025.



Shannon Pease Lockett, Chair  
Osage Nation Election Board

Attest:



Alexis Rencountre  
Elections Director