

PEORIA TRIBE  
OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA

# *Election Candidates*

## **ELECTION**

March 7, 2026

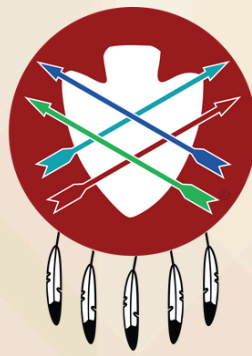
7 AM - 12 PM

**Peoria Annual Meeting (General Council)**

Peoria Showplace

Doors Open at 10 AM | Meeting Begins 1 PM





PEORIA TRIBE  
OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA

# 2026 Election Candidates

**Notice of Annual Election** **p. 4**

**Chief Candidates** **p. 5**

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## RUN-OFF LIKELY

In accordance with the Peoria Election Ordinance Article XIII - Section 4  
-In the race for Grievance Committee there are five (5) candidates and for Chief there are three (3) candidates. One candidate for Grievance Committee and one candidate for Chief must receive no less than 50.1% of the total vote in order to be declared the winner. Failure to do so will result in a run-off election between the two (2) who have received the most votes for Grievance Committee, and the two (2) who have received the most votes for Chief.

**In the event of a Run-Off Election, more information will be  
announced at General Council.**



# PEORIA TRIBE

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## OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA

### PEORIA TRIBE TO HOLD ANNUAL ELECTIONS

The Election Committee of the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma announces the Tribal Election for the positions of Chief, and two seats on the Grievance Committee. The term of office for both positions is four (4) years.

Candidates who have filed for the office of **Chief** are:

**Sammy Beets**  
**Rosanna E. Dobbs**  
**Charla K. EchoHawk**

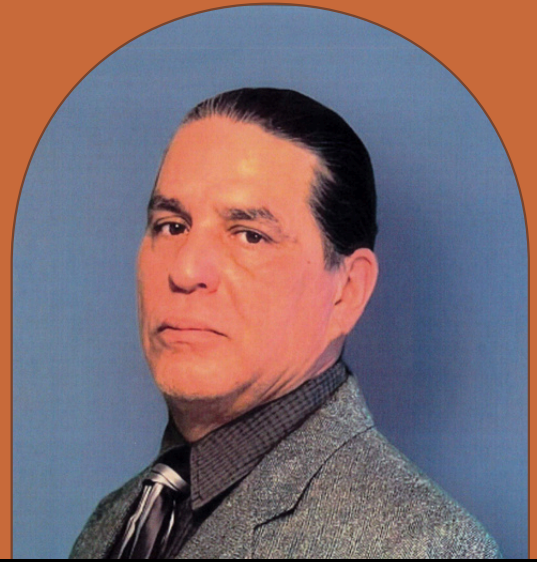
Candidates who have filed for the **Grievance Committee** are:

**James Beets**  
**Mary Lembcke Davey**  
**Patrick W. Morris**  
**Sarah Randolph**  
**Dakota Sixkiller**

The annual election will be held on **Saturday, March 7, 2026**, at the Peoria Tribal Administration Building Conference Room, 118 South Eight Tribes Trail, Miami, Oklahoma, from 7:00 a.m. to Noon. Any member of the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma shall be eligible to vote, provided the member is eighteen (18) years of age or over on the date of the election. **Each member will be required to show proof of identification at each election in the form of a government-issued photo identification showing their name to match the Official Voters' List provided by the Tribal Enrollment Office.** The ballots will be counted and tabulated, and the results will be announced at the Annual General Council Meeting on Saturday, March 7, 2026, convening at 1:00 p.m.

# CHIEF CANDIDATE

## Sammy Beets



Aya, Wah-peh-yah,

My name is Sammy Beets, and I am honored to announce that I have filed to be listed among the candidates for Chief of the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma.

I was raised in Sand Springs, OK and the Native community of Northeast Oklahoma. I Have been married for 38 years to the same wonderful woman. I raised 3 children and have 8 grandchildren.

My qualifications begin with serving as a Shift Supervisor for Central States Food Processors, 3 years, Joplin MO. Health and Safety at Able Body Corp., Pittsburg, KS, for 2 years. Along with being the wastewater treatment plant operator, hazardous waste coordinator and Emergency Spill Cleanup team. During that time, I reported to Management, the Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment (KDHE), and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

For the past 25 years, I have dedicated my career to serving 10 Tribes and their Tribal Members through my work with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Miami Agency (BIA). My work with the BIA has allowed me to advocate for Tribal and individual landowners in the negotiations of agricultural, residential, and business leases, conduct inspections, and ensure compliance with federal and Tribal regulations. I have negotiated, drafted and coordinated Rights-of-Ways, worked closely with federal agencies, and assisted Native people in navigating complex land and property issues. I have collaborated with the EPA, USGS, BLM, Remediation and Environmental Contractors, and Tribal members to protect Native trust lands and support the cleanup of the Tar Creek area. In that effort, I have negotiated and coordinated chat sales, drafted contracts, and calculated payments going to the trust/restricted ownership. My

purpose has always been the same: to protect Native lands, support Native families, and ensure that our trust assets are managed with integrity and fairness.

I am running for Chief because I believe our Tribe deserves leadership that is present, approachable, accountable, and experienced in the issues that matter most to us:

- Protecting our land and sovereignty
- Making sure every Tribal member has a voice
- Strengthening of our programs and services
- Supporting our elders and families
- Expanding opportunities for our youth
- Ensuring transparency and communication

I believe in leadership that listens and understands the details. Leadership that is forward thinking and understands how to advocate for our people at every level. We must start planning for the future.

I believe, that when we begin planning, we start by asking ourselves, "How would the Tribal Membership want to proceed" and "How does this better the lives of EACH Individual Tribal Member?" All issues must be posed to the Tribal Members for their consideration of how it affects them.

The bottom line is that The Assets of the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma are not solely the Assets of the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, but the Assets of the Tribal Members of the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma. We have grown as people. We Understand Economies and Markets and if there is some among us who don't, it's our job as a Tribe to educate them. Not treat them as a Ward to be protected.

My goal is to run the Peoria Tribe as a strong Chief along with a strong BC, as the Heads of Leadership and the Tribal Members treated more as shareholders in their assets. The Heads of our Enterprises are accountable to the BC and therefore accountable to the People. Shareholder reports should go out to all Tribal Members, to better understand where our businesses are going and to gather suggestions for improvements from the members. By allowing the Membership to have this information, it will allow us more understanding of day-to-day operations and to better understand who among the elected officials and heads of these enterprises have the tribal membership's best interests at heart. Not solely the best interest of the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma.

After all, if there are no Tribal Members the Tribe ceases to exist. Therefore, it's safe to say, that our identity, culture, and sovereignty live through our people and that protecting and empowering our citizens protects the Tribe itself."

I am asking for your support. Not just for me, but for a vision of a Tribe that is stronger, more united and more prepared for the future. A Tribe where transparency is the norm, where communication is open, and where every member feels connected to the decisions that shape our future. I believe deeply in where we can go together.

Thank you for your time, your trust, and your consideration. I look forward to visiting with each of you, hearing your concerns, discussing plans for economic development and working together to build the future our people deserve.

# CHIEF CANDIDATE

# Rosanna Dobbs



To the Honorable Members of our Tribal Council and the Beloved People of our Nation, With deep respect and a renewed sense of purpose, I humbly announce my candidacy for reelection as Chief of our tribe. Serving our people has been the greatest honor of my life, and I remain committed to the responsibilities, culture, and future of our community. Over my brief term of nine months, we have worked together to strengthen our unity, protect our sovereignty, and uplift the well-being of every family. We have made meaningful progress in preserving our heritage, connecting with our history and homelands, expanding opportunities for our youth, and improving support for our citizens who are elder and disabled. These achievements belong to all of us, guided by the wisdom of our ancestors and the resilience of our people.

Despite many obstacles we have made significant progress through several major projects. The Food Distribution Center has advanced to its next phase, with new coolers installed and operational, storing our buffalo meat and providing for our Peoria Fresh program. The greenhouse is preparing for its first planting season this spring, expanding our capacity for sustainable food production with an added economic impact. Our second childcare facility, Rockdale Academy, is on track to open on February 23, 2026, strengthening support for working families. The RV Park and clubhouse are scheduled for completion this summer, adding both recreational and economic value to our lands. In addition, the Quick Trip contract has expanded our lease holdings, with development projected to be completed by this time in 2027. Over the past nine months, we have also dedicated substantial effort to identifying and planning future economic development opportunities that will benefit our tribe for generations. The Peoria Tribe has an exciting and thriving future ahead.

Yet I must also acknowledge the challenges we have faced. In this last year, internal disagreements and the spread of misinformation have too often distracted us from the work that truly matters. Political reasoning rooted in division has slowed important initiatives and created uncertainty where clarity is needed. These struggles have not weakened my commitment; instead, they have strengthened my resolve to lead with transparency, fairness, and a steady hand.

Nine months can spark momentum, but it can't unwind years of accumulated issues, habits, or harm. Real change, especially in a community or tribe, takes time, consistency, and a willingness from everyone involved to shift patterns that didn't form overnight.

Visible progress can happen quickly. New leadership, new policies, new energy. Deep repair, trust, culture, accountability, healing, all move at a slower, more human pace. If anything, nine months is the foundation, not the finish line.

If entrusted with 4 more years, I will continue to confront external and internal challenges directly. I will work to restore trust, encourage open dialogue, and ensure that decisions are made based on truth, respect, and the long-term well-being of our tribe. Our progress cannot be held back by rumors or political division. We deserve leadership that keeps us focused on our shared goals and the future we are building for our children.

My commitment remains simple: to serve our people with honesty, humility, and unwavering dedication. I believe deeply in the strength of our community and in the power of unity to overcome any obstacle placed before us.

I ask for your support, your voice, and your trust as we continue this journey together. May we walk forward with unity and peace guided by the prayers of our ancestors and the hope we carry for generations yet to come.

Please reach out with any questions you may have. I am always glad to have a conversation.

With respect and gratitude,

Rosanna Dobbs  
Candidate for Re-Election as Chief

# CHIEF CANDIDATE

# Charla EchoHawk



**Aya, Peoria Citizens and Relatives,**

My name is Charla Kay EchoHawk (Osah-wah Wa-bae-goon) and I am honored to announce my candidacy for Chief of the Peoria Tribe. This decision comes after much prayer and thoughtful support from our community and tribal leaders. I share it because I firmly believe our Tribe deserves leadership that is open, accountable, responsive and respectful to Peoria citizens within our reservation and across the country.

Originally from Quapaw, Oklahoma, I grew up on and around our Peoria reservation within the inter-tribal community of eight tribes. My Peoria descendency comes from the Skye family. I am the great-granddaughter of Amos Skye, granddaughter of Helen Skye Kinder, and daughter of LeAnne Kinder Reeves. My late uncles—Terry, Steve, and Kenneth Kinder—also left lasting traditional legacies and lifeways within our tribal communities. I am deeply proud of my family and their contributions to the Peoria Tribe and broader American Indian community over the decades.

I was born in 1971, during our Tribe's termination era and had just finished kindergarten in 1976 when the advocacy, legislation and hearings began, by Chief Rodney Arnette and Chief Louis Meyers. Their tireless efforts on behalf of all Peorias, led to our Tribe to be officially reinstated in 1978 – our sovereignty once again recognized by the United States Congress. During my youth, I watched our Tribe recover from the devastating effects of termination—shaped by steadfast leadership, respected tribal elders and with little resources. Even back then, Peorias understood that our new tribal constitution would fairly and democratically provide for every Peoria citizen, including protection of our tribal sovereignty and reservation boundaries.

While growing up in Northeast Oklahoma (NE OK), I was raised going to cultural events such as stomp dances, powwows and was a championship dancer in Southern Buckskin. I was also the Peoria Tribe's first (and only) Peoria Tribal Princess where I represented our Tribe by dancing at inter-tribal events across multiple states. I am a lifelong participant in cultural activities with the 9 tribes in NE OK and have relationships built on support and mutual respect.

In 1989, and with a \$500 scholarship from the Peoria Tribe, I attended and graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a degree in Native American Studies-emphasis Tribal Government and Policy Development. Upon graduation, I returned home and worked for the Tribe as the first Repatriation Coordinator and Enrollment/Title VI Director. Later, I taught courses in Native American History and Tribal Government at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College. From there,

I returned to the University of Oklahoma to work in federally funded administrative research, overseeing protected tribal organizations and Native populations among sovereign governments. After eight years in state government, I served for eleven years as a Legal Administrator for the largest law firm in Oklahoma. In 2021, my remaining family brought me back to our reservation, where I also served as the Director of Cultural Preservation for our Nation until July of last year. While the Cultural Preservation Director, I provided direct oversight for the following initiatives:

- Funding oversight and launch of first-ever peewaalia language revitalization program
- Implementation and completion of Peoria Indian Cemetery restoration project-Phase I
- Management and oversight of Peoria Tribe's federal designated status as a Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO)
- Managed for 3½ years the Painted Hides-Reclaiming Stories project with the University of Illinois and Musee du Quai Branly in Paris, France
- Coordinated and built relationships with Five Moons Ballet Festival showcasing prima ballerina and tribal citizen, Moscelyne Larkin – collaborated with Ballet Russe archives for the single largest collection from a Peoria citizen
- Initiated the first-ever tribal archives where tribal citizens may donate family collections to the Peoria Tribe
- Located and negotiated the transfer of ownership of the largest Peoria non-funerary artifacts collection ever owned by the Tribe
- Negotiated a reduced annual membership fee with First Americans Museum (FAM) for the Peoria Tribe and all Oklahoma Tribes with populations smaller than 5,000

In addition to Cultural Resource Management, my education and experience have prepared me for the financial and time-sensitive challenges currently facing our Tribe. Since returning home in 2021, it has become clear that the values and foundations carefully laid by previous Peoria leaders are at risk. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, a surge of federal funding coincided with a dramatic increase in almost entirely non-Peoria tribal government staff. The Tribe faced nearly 100 new grants in all directions and 100 new employees, without sufficient budget oversight or clear objectives from tribal administration. It is my hope to bring Peoria people back to our Tribe to work and serve in critical, organizational positions.

Many of our citizens have expressed concerns about limited transparency, closed decision-making, and unclear communication from tribal leadership. Important decisions affecting our land, resources, finances, and future should never be made without the knowledge and involvement of the Peoria people. Our citizens deserve honesty, access to information, and leadership that does not operate behind closed doors.

We cannot continue placing unqualified individuals in positions of leadership or management. Every person serving our Tribe should understand sovereignty and recognize that we are all in service to every Peoria citizen, not just a few.

Before the most recent Chief election last Spring, I was asked by both candidates, “What do you want from your Chief?” I answered:

1. Leadership that manages the Tribe as a transparent democracy.
2. Stop our Tribe from being chronically in debt and divisive.
3. Clear government infrastructure. Who manages what?

In the last five years, multiple projects and tribal initiatives have been added without Business Committee approval, many of which remain unfinished or stalled due to unmet deadlines, poor management, funding issues or high staff turnover. Rarely are these initiatives brought before tribal citizens for open discussion, even in the (now) multiple Business Committee meetings reality held each month. Peoria citizens are left saying, “The more we know, the less we understand.”

The over-produced versions of our Tribe, repetitively shown to Peoria citizens (websites, newsletters, etc.), is not an accurate reflection of what is truly occurring in daily tribal operations. The same is true for how our current Chief is operating within our government under our Tribal Constitution. If elected Chief, I will work to restore trust and transparency in tribal government by committing to:

- **Transparent leadership**, including clear communication about tribal finances, budgets, expenditures, contracts, tribal enterprises and major decisions.
- **Regular reporting to the Peoria people**, so citizens are informed before decisions are made, not after.
- **Open dialogue and citizen engagement**, ensuring voices are heard and respected, even when opinions differ.
- **Strong protection of tribal sovereignty**, exercised responsibly and always in the best interest of the Peoria people.
- **Ethical governance and accountability**, with leadership held to the same standards as the Peoria citizens they serve.
- **Government operational stability**, including program management and personnel oversight aligned with cost-benefit analysis.
- **Focused recruitment and retention of qualified tribal staff**, ensuring all employees understand their role in serving Peoria citizens and what sovereignty truly means.
- **Assessment of departments, programs, and services** for performance, efficiency, and opportunities for economic development infrastructure.
- **Identification of core services and efficiency opportunities** to ensure continuity for Peoria citizens.
- **Constitutionally consistent governance**, respecting our traditional values and the voices of tribal elders, honored Veterans and spiritual leaders.
- **Greater openness in council actions**, with timely communication about agendas, decisions, and the reasoning behind major policies.
- **Fair and transparent election processes**, reinforcing confidence in our Tribe’s future.
- **Enforcement of tribal enrollment processes**, reinforcing the Federal Privacy Act (1974) and strengthening the confidentiality of all citizen enrollment records.
- **Constitutional amendments**, to ensure leaders meet higher standards for qualifications and experience before taking office.
- **Reinstallation of guardrails** established by previous leaders, rooted in our Tribal Constitution, to ensure sustainability and accountability.

I am running for Chief to help guide us forward by remembering who we have always been. Grounded in the teachings of our living tribal elders and relatives who have gone on before us – clarity, honesty, respect and fairness – I believe leadership is a responsibility to listen and serve. When every citizen’s voice is honored, our Nation grows stronger. Together, we can continue building a government that honors our cultural values and meets the expectations of modern tribal governance.

I respectfully ask for your support and your vote in the upcoming election on March 7, 2026. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 405-921-4480 should you have questions about my qualifications, my work with the Tribe or to discuss any tribal issue in more detail.

**Mihši neewe! (thank you very much!)**

Charla K. EchoHawk  
Candidate for Chief  
Peoria Tribe

# *Grievance Committee Candidate*

## **James Beets**



### Candidate Statement – Grievance Committee

I am seeking a seat on the Grievance Committee to dedicate my professional experience to the service of our Tribal members. My goal is to help ensure that our governance remains a source of support, transparency, and accountability for every individual in our community.

My career is built on a foundation of service and responsibility. I dedicated ten years to the Bureau of Indian Affairs as a Wildland Firefighter, a role that required disciplined decision-making, teamwork, and integrity under pressure. Since first beginning work at our casino in 2016, I have held leadership roles across gaming and hospitality, including serving as a host for premier clientele at Downstream Casino and managing high-end establishments in Kansas City and Overland Park. I returned to our casino in 2024 and currently serve as a Table Games Supervisor, where fairness, consistency, and clear communication are essential.

Beyond my professional career, I founded and operated Rock’N Rolled Ice Cream, which earned nearly 800 five-star Google reviews in its first year of operation. This success reflects my commitment to ethical leadership, consistency, and treating people with respect.

I am running for the Grievance Committee to listen carefully, act responsibly, and help ensure that every Tribal member is treated fairly and with dignity.

# *Grievance Committee Candidate*

## **Mary Lembcke Davey**



### CANDIDATE STATEMENT

My name is Mary Davey. I am a candidate for the Grievance Committee. I have served as a member of the committee for several years. Service to our tribe is important to me as a way of supporting our tribe and giving back to those who have given so much to us.

The Grievance Committee is charged with deciding constitutional interpretations, determining grievances submitted by members of the tribe and insuring that individual rights of members of the tribe are not violated. To me this is a solemn responsibility that requires an open mind, willingness to research and document all petitions appropriately submitted. I have been a part of such determinations and feel that I bring experience and ability to be objective to the process.

I am a parent of four children and grandparent of five. My family history includes my mother, Mary McNaughton Lembcke, who served on the history committee, my grandfather, Willis McNaughton, who served as Chief. We are part of the Peery/McNaughton family.

I would appreciate your vote so that I may continue to serve the tribe.

Thank you.

# *Grievance Committee Candidate*

## **Patrick Morris**



My name is Patrick Morris, and after much thought and reflection, I am honored to declare my candidacy for the Grievance Committee of the Peoria Tribe in the upcoming election on Saturday, March 7, 2026.

I am a lifelong resident of Fairland, Oklahoma, in Ottawa County. I have been married to my wonderful wife for 28 years, and together we have been blessed with five children. I was raised, and continue to live, in a community that is home to nine federally recognized tribes--communities rich in Native American pride, culture, and tradition. The impact of these tribes on our area--through programs, services, employment, and economic opportunity-- is significant and visible every single day.

I began my higher education at the University of Ottawa, studying Elementary Education for three years before answering the call to serve our country. I proudly served in the United States Military for 6 years and 5 months. After my military service, I went to work for the United States Postal Service, where I was employed for 24 years and am now enjoying retirement. In addition, I have served as a firefighter for 28 years and as an EMT for 11 years, dedicating much of my life to public service and the safety and well-being of others.

One of the things that weighs heaviest on my heart is the leadership, strength, and potential within our Native youth. I am deeply committed to helping our Tribal children explore their options, connect with our culture, and grow into confident carriers of our way of life. I am actively involved in youth and community activities, including our annual Ottawa County Fair each August, where I am proud to support our children and our Tribal presence.

As a parent and a Tribal member, I want to see us move forward together as a team--strong, united, and growing. I want our elders, relatives, and youth to always know that they belong, that their voices matter, and that they will never be left out or forgotten.

Serving on the Grievance Committee would give me the opportunity to finally serve my own Tribe in a formal capacity and to use my experience, work ethic, and dedication to help move the Peoria Tribe forward. The Grievance Committee plays a vital role in ensuring fairness, accountability, and respect within our Tribal government. I believe in listening carefully, acting with integrity, and treating all Tribal members with dignity.

It is our shared responsibility not only to preserve our past, but also to protect and care for our present in a way that strengthens our future. I am committed to honesty, transparency, and fairness in all matters brought before the Grievance Committee.

It is a privilege to have this opportunity, and I respectfully ask for your support and your vote for Grievance Committee on Saturday, March 7, 2026. Your voice and your vote matter.

Grievance Committee Candidate

Patrick Morris

#PeoriaProud

# *Grievance Committee Candidate*

# **Sarah Randolph**



Hello, Peoria Family!

My name is Sarah Randolph and I am running for grievance committee. I have lived and grown up in the Miami area for most of my life and have a deep commitment to serving our community. I currently am employed by our tribe as a preschool teacher at Woodland Academy and have committed myself to our next generation youth for a little over 2 years in the classroom. I come from the Hedges line and have strong bonds with my family. I believe I could do good in this position due to my dedication to help work towards upholding our Peoria constitution to better our tribe and assist in holding people accountable. Thank you for reading and please consider casting your vote for me!

# *Grievance Committee Candidate*

## **Dakota S. Sixkiller**



To my relatives and fellow tribal members,

My name is Dakota Sixkiller, and I am writing to announce my candidacy for the open position on the Grievance Committee. I am seeking this opportunity because I care about our community, the needs of our members, and the future of our tribe. My two children and I live in Glenpool, OK, and we cherish being a part of the Peoria tribe. I have grown up in the tribe, and I try to stay involved in our culture and community. I attend pow wows and tribal functions, and I am a gourd dancer. I believe the Grievance Committee plays an important role in ensuring that voices are heard and that matters are handled thoughtfully and responsibly. I am eager to learn and to serve in a tribal capacity.

If given this opportunity, I will do my best to practice good stewardship in my role and be as helpful as I can be to the members of our tribe.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to serve our tribe.

Nee'we and Wado.

Sincerely,

Dakota S. Sixkiller, M. ED., NCC, LPC



**Peoria Tribe 2026**