

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the difference between this meeting and the other constitutional change meetings that have been happening with the “Clean Elections” group?
 - a. ANSWER: This meeting is sponsored by the Tribal Council. Those meetings are organized by a group of tribal members working on their own.
2. What changes is Tribal Council proposing?
 - a. ANSWER: Three changes: (1) allow for sentences of up to 3 years for serious crimes. Right now the limit is 1 year—even for murder. (2) Allow the Tribe to have its own enrollment criteria, without having to submit all enrollment decisions to the BIA for approval. (3) Change the way the Constitution gets changed in the future so that it doesn’t require the BIA to hold a Secretarial Election.
3. Do I get to vote on the new constitution?
 - a. ANSWER: Yes. There will be a “Secretarial Election” which you will have to register to vote. Once registered, you’ll get to vote on the changes.
4. What if I like some of the ideas, but not others?
 - a. ANSWER: You’ll be able to vote on each change individually. You can say “yes” for some changes and “no” for others.
5. Why is Council only talking about these three changes? What if I want other changes?
 - a. ANSWER: We will have break-out groups at the end to hear your ideas and find out what people want in terms of other changes. These three are important because of the changes to federal law that will allow the Tribe to have more sovereignty if we change the constitution.
6. Does this matter if I don’t live on the reservation?
 - a. ANSWER: Yes, it does! Just looking at these three changes, it will help all tribal members because it protects the public safety of the community, and tribal resources can be used for more productive purposes. Also, the tribe can change enrollment standards without being restricted by federal law or the BIA. It’s generally going to promote greater autonomy and self-governance for the Tribe.
7. How can I help Tribal Council get this constitutional amendment done?
 - a. ANSWER: You can attend the meetings, tell your friends and family about the meetings and the proposals. When you get the notice to register for the Secretarial Election, send in your registration right away, and tell all your family to do so as well! And finally, be sure to vote on Election Day!

Thank you, and if you have more questions, be sure and voice them today or call the Office of the Attorney General at 520-883-5106.