

Pascua Yaqui Tribe Constitutional Amendment Project

The Tribal Council has asked, on behalf of the Pascua Yaqui People, that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) hold an election to change the Constitution, but it's up to YOU- the voter to vote for important constitutional changes.

“Enchim mampo taawak.”

The Tribal Council realizes that you probably have questions about the proposals you will see on the ballot: We will try to answer some of them here:

Constitutional Amendment A: Article I Section 1(g)

Purpose:

To allow people convicted of **serious** crimes to be sentenced to up to 3 years in prison for each offense, with a maximum sentence of 9 years (*currently limited to 1-year*).

Comment on Proposed Language:

Changing it to this simplified version without any times imposed will allow the Tribe to impose sentences greater than one-year, but won't limit the Tribe to any specific time-frame in case the federal law changes again in the future. Will help the Tribe fully implement the Tribal Law &

Order Act and the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

- ✓ **A vote “YES” Means:** the proposed Amendment would replace the current Article I section 1(g) in the Pascua Yaqui Constitution and allow the Tribe to bring greater justice to crime victims.
- ✓ **A vote “NO” Means:** the current Article will remain in full force and effect.

Constitutional Amendment B: Article III Membership

Purpose:

To allow the Pascua Yaqui Tribe to determine its own qualifications for membership in the Tribe, without interference from the BIA (*currently need BIA approval and the qualifications are set by the former federal law, which is no longer in effect*).

Comment on Proposed Language:

This proposal is about fairness. It gives the Tribe the ability to determine our own membership and start the conversation about our future. A vote for changing this part of our Constitution will not change our membership. Any changes to our

membership will require another Constitutional election.

- ✓ **A vote “Yes” Means:** The Proposed Amendment would replace the current Article III in the Pascua Yaqui Constitution.
- ✓ **A vote “NO” Means:** The current Article III will remain in full force and effect.

Constitutional Amendment C: Article XX Amendments

Purpose:

To remove the BIA from our election process for future constitutional amendments (*currently constitutional amendments require BIA to hold a Secretarial Election*).

Comments:

Takes BIA out of the process. The Tribe holds the election, and there is no BIA approval required. Upholds sovereign status of tribe. Voting for this change will not impact our Tribal budget or change the relationship between the Tribe and the B.I.A., it simply means that we will hold our own elections and more people will be able to vote in the manner that we hold all of our elections. Currently, the BIA registration process limits participation and polling locations. This

does not give Tribal Council more authority. Any additional changes to the Constitution will still require an Election. Many tribes are moving forward in amending their constitutions to remove this provision from their constitutions as well.

- ✓ **A vote “Yes” Means:** The proposed amendment would replace the current Article in the Pascua Yaqui Constitution.
- ✓ **A vote “No” Means:** The current article will remain in full force and effect.

Important Information Regarding Election Day:

- If you did not register by the deadline, you will be prohibited from voting.
- Please bring a Tribe or State issued Identification Card.
- If you did not submit your absentee ballot to the BIA by the deadline you can still vote at your designated polling location. You will be given a new ballot and do not need to bring your absentee ballot.

Please come out and be part of the process.

Remember:

“Enchim mampo taawak.”

IMPORTANT DATES:

July 14, 2015:

Election Day. Polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 7:00pm.

Voting will occur at two (2) polling locations:

Pascua Yaqui Tribal Chambers, 7474 S. Camino de Oeste, Tucson, AZ 85757 and at the Itom Hiapsi Building, 9405 S. Avenida del Yaqui, Guadalupe, AZ, 85283.

Election results will be posted at the Pascua Yaqui Tribal Administration at 7474 S. Camino de Oeste, Tucson, AZ, Itom Hiapsi Building at 9405 S. Avenida del Yaqui, Guadalupe, AZ, and at the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Salt River Agency, Scottsdale, AZ after the polls have closed on July 14, 2015.

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Voter

Information

Pamphlet