

2023 Candidate Fair

Presented by: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Board & Staff

Election Board: Mission

It is the purpose of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Board to maintain the highest level of integrity in conducting the Muscogee (Creek) Nation elections according to the Election Codes Title 19, of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation code and enforce the election codes in a responsible, impartial, and unbiased manner.

Also, to inform all enrolled registered voters of elections and promote voter registration throughout the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's eight districts, as well as to the absentee voters outside the Muscogee (Creek) Nation boundaries.



2023-2024 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Election Board

Board

Sara Barnett, Chair

Selina Jayne Dornan, Vice Chair

Lucinda Myers, Secretary

Andrea James

Nolen Robinson

Staff

Nelson Harjo, Jr, Manager

Amber Brinkley, Administrative Assistant

Rachel Layman, Media Specialist

Traysa Bear, Registration Specialist

Claudia McHenry, Registration Specialist

Alesha Goodman, Registration Specialist



AGENDA

1

TIMELINE

OVERVIEW OF KEY DATES

2

CHANGES IN 2023

MAJOR CHANGES:
CHAPTER 10 & 15

3

CANDIDATE CRITERIA

REQUIREMENTS FOR CANDIDACY
AND FILING FOR OFFICE

4

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORT

REVIEW

5

CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS

CONTEST REQUIREMENTS, OTHER
CAMPAIGN RULES

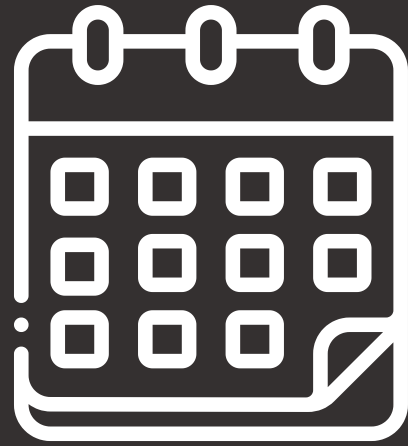
6

WATCHERS

RULES AND REGULATIONS
FOR WATCHERS

1

ELECTION TIMELINE



TIMELINE - 2023 Election

July

July 17-19:
Candidate Filing Dates
*first Campaign
Finance Report due

July 21: Deadline to
file Candidacy
Contestation

Aug.

August 5:
2nd Campaign
Finance Report Due

August 17:
Absentee Ballot first
release

August 23:
Last day to register &
request absentee
ballot

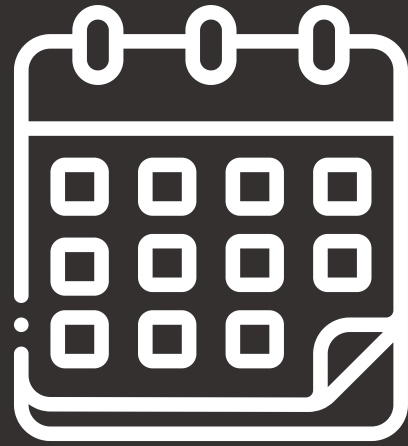
Sept.

September 5:
3rd Campaign
Finance Report Due

September 8:
Deadline to submit
watcher names

September 13-14
Early Voting

September 16
Primary Election Day



TIMELINE - 2023 Election

Oct

Nov

October 5:
4th Campaign
Finance Report due
& Absentee Ballots
available

October 11:
Deadline to request
absentee ballot

October 27:
Deadline to submit
watcher names

November 1-2:
Early In-Person voting

November 4:
General Election Day

November 5:
5th Campaign
Finance Report Due

2

CHANGES IN 2023



NCA 23-022 Highlights

**Includes edits to
Chapters 10 and 15**

Chapter 10: Absentee Voting

- Expanded window for mailing absentee ballots (30 days)
- Extends signature verification up to five days in advance of the election day
- Clarifies absentee ballot processing and chain of custody



NCA 23-022 Highlights

Includes edits to
Chapters 10 and 15

Chapter 15: Campaign Finance

- Candidacy declared only through official filing
- Campaign donations accepted after Jan 1 of election year. Majority (51%) of donations must come from citizens or citizen owned business/entities. Donations received prior to March 30 are exempt for this election only.
- Monthly reports must include receipts of all campaign expenses paid from campaign funds
- Simplified Campaign Finance Report procedures

3

CANDIDATE REQUIREMENTS



Requirements for Office

Chief & Second Chief

1. Must be at least 30 years of age
2. Must be at least one fourth (1/4) or more of Creek by blood
3. Must be a registered voter for MCN Tribal elections for at least 6 months prior to filing for office
4. Principal residency must be within MCN's jurisdictional boundaries for at least one (1) full calendar year upon filing for office
5. No felony convictions ever

Filing Fees:

Chief: \$1,500; 2nd Chief: \$1,000

National Council

1. Must be at least 18 years of age
2. Must be at least one fourth (1/4) or more of Creek by blood
3. Must be a registered voter for MCN Tribal elections for at least 6 months prior to filing for office
4. Principal residency must be in the MCN district for at least one (1) full calendar year upon filing for office
5. No felony convictions within the past 10 years upon the time of filing for office

Filing Fee: \$500



PROOF OF RESIDENCY

Three (3) of the following documents will be required and accepted to establish residency. All three (3) documents must display the same address. At least one document must show residency meets the 1 year requirement.

Examples include:

1. Previous year's income tax return
2. Homestead exemption or copy of property tax
3. For renters- a notarized copy of the rental agreement from the owner or landlord with contact information
4. Utility bill statement
5. Driver's license or state ID



USE OF TRIBAL RESOURCES

Upon the time they file their candidacy for office, Muscogee (Creek) Nation employees must file for a leave of absence from their place of employment. Employees must report back to work the first working day after the conclusion of their participation in the election.

* Title 19 Chapter 5

Candidates may not use Tribal equipment, supplies, or property for your campaign or you could be found guilty of a misdemeanor.

* Title 37 Chapter 6

Employees of Muscogee (Creek) Nation cannot help candidates with their campaign while the employee is being compensated for their time by Muscogee (Creek) Nation or the employee could be found guilty of a misdemeanor.*Title 37 Chapter 6



CANDIDATE FILING DATES

In person filing at the Housing Authority
Conference Room (2nd floor)

July 17-19

Open 9 am to 4 pm
(closed 12-1 pm for lunch)

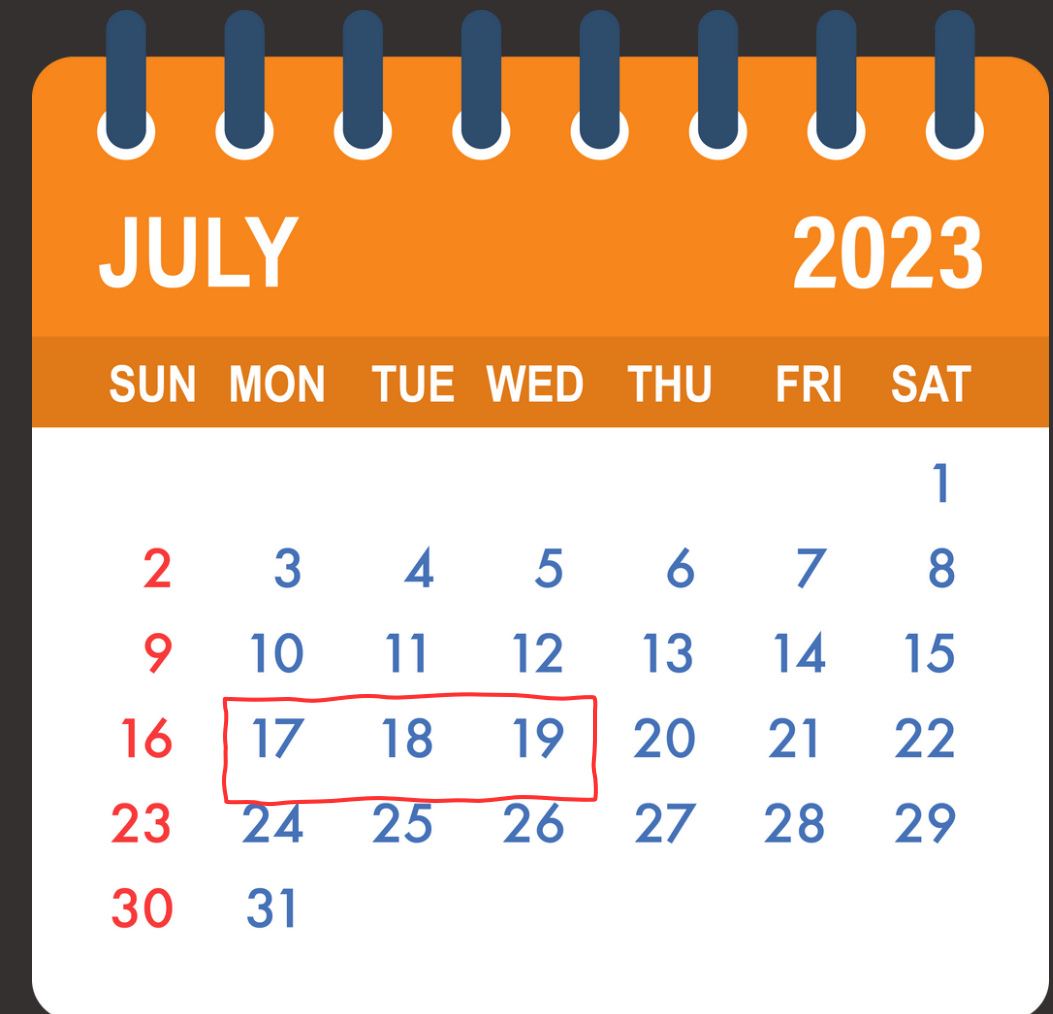
Deadline to Contest Candidate:
July 21 at 5:00 pm

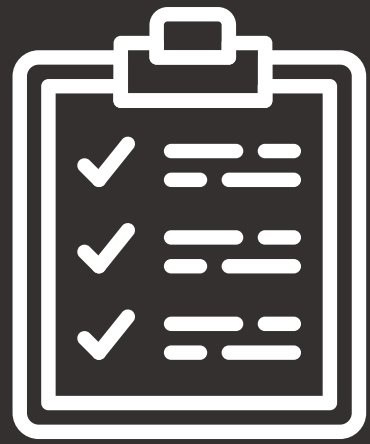
JULY							2023
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
						1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31						



CANDIDATE FILING: PAPERWORK

1. Completed Declaration of Candidacy Packet
2. MCN Citizenship Card and MCN Voter's Card
3. Cashier's Check, Money Order, Or Certified Check payable to: MCN Election Board
4. Proof Of Residency (3 approved documents required)
5. First Campaign Finance Report covering Jan 1 - filing date.





Contesting Candidacy

1. Only candidates may contest the legitimacy of another candidate's eligibility to run for the same office.
2. See § 5-203. Grounds of Contest
3. Contest must be filed with the Election Board by 5 pm on Friday, July 21st.

Filing Fees: \$500 (made payable to MCN Election Board)

4

CAMPAIGN FINANCE & REPORTS



General Rules & Regulations

At time of filing Declaration of Candidacy, must submit first Campaign Finance Report (CFR).

Future CFR's are due by the 5th of each month for the duration of the election period in which the candidate is active

Candidates must have a separate and clearly designated bank account to accept campaign donations.

Donations equal to or exceeding \$100 must be reported. Donations from an individual or business limited to \$5,000 total.

Campaign contributions can be used only to cover campaign related expenses.

Excess funds at the end of the election period must be returned to the Election Board.

Both monetary AND in-kind donations must be reported. The value of in-kind donations must be reported.

Failure to comply with Title 19 Chapter 15 may result in fines, conviction of a misdemeanor and/or period of ineligibility to run for future office



CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORT

Individual Donations

cumulative total, \$100 or more
\$5,000 cap per individual

Business/Org Donations

cumulative total, \$100 or more
\$5,000 cap per business/org

Fundraising Activities

list individual activities, amount
raised

Campaign Expenses

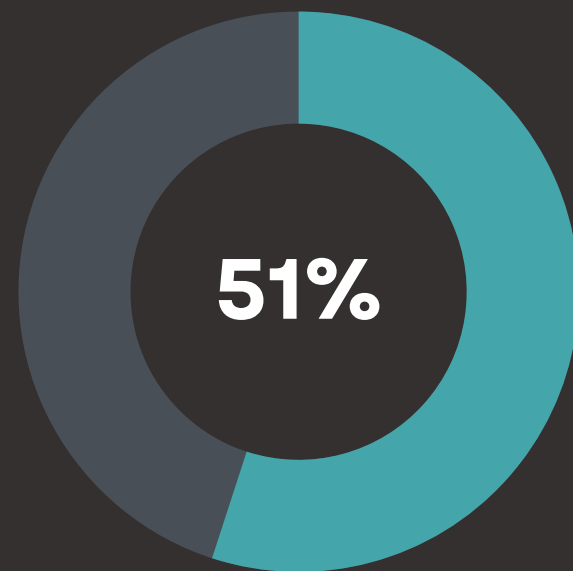
all campaign related expenses not
paid with personal funds.
Receipts required



New Requirement

§ 15-103

At least 51% of the total contributions, including the value of in-kind contributions, must come from Muscogee (Creek) citizens, businesses, corporations, or organizations which are majority owned by a Muscogee (Creek) citizen(s).



Donations from Tribal Citizens &/or Citizen owned Business

Candidates are required to include MCN citizenship status of each reported donor in the CFR. This includes business/organizations that candidate wants to be noted as majority MCN citizen owned.

Donations received prior to March 30 are exempt for this election only.



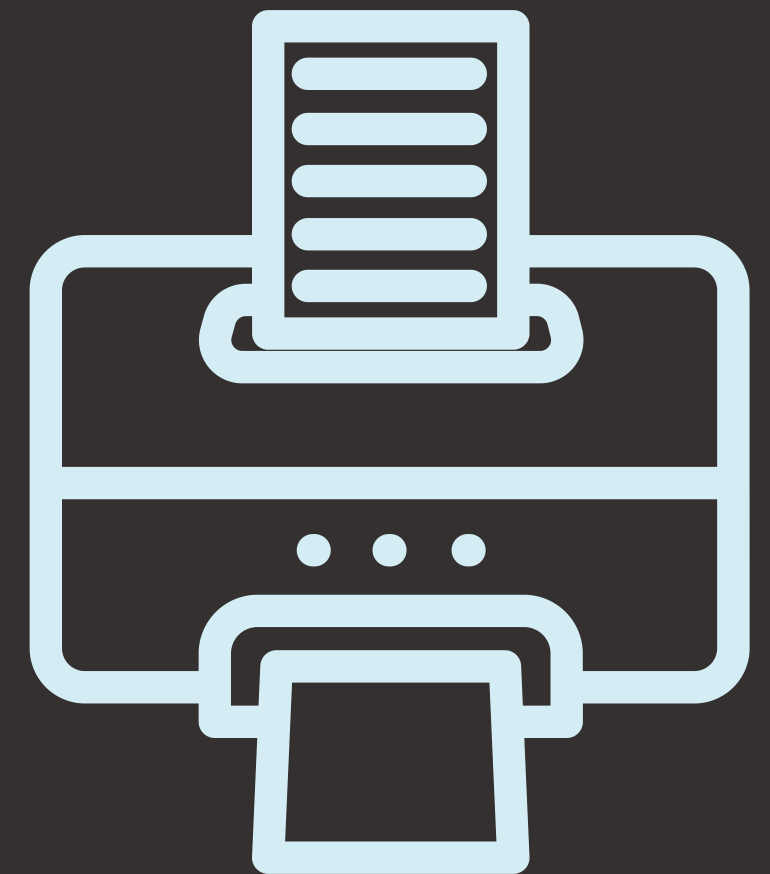
CAMPAIGN FINANCE VIOLATIONS

- **Failure to file Campaign Finance Report**
 - After the deadline (5th day of the month), Election Board will file show cause noticed via email to candidate
 - Candidates have five days to respond and request hearing
 - Board may impose \$250 fine first offense; \$500 fine second offense
- **Inaccurate or false reporting**
 - with conviction, up to \$1,000 fine; banned from future candidacy for 10 years
- **No candidate shall be sworn into office and no candidate shall hold any elective office unless all Campaign Finance Reports have been filed and any assessed fines have been paid by the candidate.**



CAMPAIGN FINANCE RECORDS

- All Campaign Finance Reports are kept on file for four years following the election period.
- Individuals may request copies of these reports for a small fee (\$1 for the first page, \$0.50 each additional page).
- Requests must be made in writing. A response from the Election Board will be received within 5 business days of the request (as required).



5

CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS



OTHER CAMPAIGN RULES

- During election days do not place campaign signs or campaign literature within 300 feet of the precinct/polling site during the election.
- You cannot bribe someone to vote or discourage or prevent a citizen from voting (possible felony charge)
- You cannot bribe a campaign opponent or accept a bribe from another candidate to withdraw candidacy (possible felony charge)



CAMPAIGN LITERATURE

- All campaign literature, for or against a candidate, must include the name and address of the producer of such materials. Organizations must include name/address for at least two officers of the organization.
- Candidate's social media pages used for campaigns must be clearly designated with the name/office which he/she is seeking.





CERTIFIED VOTER LISTS

- The Election Board will provide all candidates with a certified listing of citizens who are registered to vote in Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal elections.
- Per Title 19 Chapter 2-107, a voter has the right to withhold his or her name and address from appearing on any official voter listing provided by the Election Board.
- The Election Board will ask candidates to provide a name(s) of an individual(s) that will be authorized by the candidate to retrieve voter listings or other items on behalf of the candidate.



Contesting Election Results

1. Only candidates may contest the results of a primary or general election.
2. See § 8 Subchapter 2
3. Contest must be filed with the Election Board Office by 5 pm on the following dates:
 - Primary election: September 22nd
 - General election: November 10th

Filing Fee: \$500 per district in question
(made payable to MCN Election Board)

6

WATCHERS



WATCHER REQUIREMENTS

- Candidates are entitled to have a watcher present at polling sites and/or absentee ballot processing area.
- Watchers must serve in volunteer capacity, they cannot be compensated in any way.
- Watchers must be both a MCN citizen and registered voter
- It is the responsibility of candidate to ensure watchers meet all requirements

**DEADLINES TO FILE
WATCHER NAMES TO
ELECTION BOARD
OFFICE:**

**PRIMARY ELECTION
SEPTEMBER 8**

**GENERAL ELECTION
OCTOBER 27**



WATCHER REQUIREMENTS

- Watchers will be required to take an oath, administered by the Election Board or election worker
- Watchers **are limited to observation** and note taking only. They must remain in their designated area within the polling location as long as voting/counting is taking place (no re-entry).
- Watchers are only authorized to submit objections to the count in writing to the candidate

Contact Information

TOLL FREE LINE: 1-800-482-1979 EXT. 7631

LOCAL: 918-732-7631

FAX: 918-938-0799

EMAIL: election@mcn-election.com

WEBSITE: www.mcn-nsn.gov/services/election-board/

FACEBOOK: Muscogee Creek Nation Election Office



QUESTIONS?

**Link to revised
Title 19 code**

