

Message from the Attorney General: Information on the March 1 Constitutional Amendment Vote

On March 1, 2026, Kaw Nation citizens will be asked to vote in a special election on two proposed amendments to the Kaw Nation Constitution. These proposed amendments were referred to the voters by the Tribal Council and will only take effect if they are approved by a majority of those who vote. This election is an important opportunity for citizens to voice their views on whether certain eligibility requirements for serving on the Tribal Council should be changed.

Question 1 concerns blood quantum requirements for serving on the Tribal Council. Under the current Constitution, candidates for Tribal Council must have at least 1/32 degree of Kaw Indian blood to be eligible for office. The proposed amendment would remove this blood degree requirement, allowing any citizen who meets the other eligibility requirements to run for office regardless of blood quantum. This amendment applies only to eligibility for Tribal Council and does not affect eligibility for Kaw Nation citizenship, which does not have a blood quantum requirement.

Question 2 asks whether a new constitutional provision should be adopted to limit how many immediate family members may serve on the Tribal Council at the same time. Under the proposed amendment, no more than two Immediate Family Members would be permitted to serve concurrently. “Immediate Family Members” is defined to include a spouse, parent, stepparent, child, stepchild, sibling, half-sibling, grandparent, or grandchild, including those adopted pursuant to a final court order.

Because this is a special constitutional amendment election, voter registration is required in order to vote. Even if you have voted in prior Kaw Nation elections, you must submit a voter registration form for this election to be placed on the registered voter list. Registration packets are being mailed to eligible citizens and include a voter registration form, instructions, and an application to vote by absentee ballot. Completed registration forms must be received by the Election Board on or before January 30, 2026. Registration will not be available at the polling site.

Citizens who are registered to vote may vote in person or by absentee ballot. Absentee ballot requests must be submitted by January 30, 2026, and completed absentee ballots must be received by the Election Board no later than February 27, 2026. In-person voting will take place at the Kaw Nation Administration Building, 698 Grandview Drive, Kaw City, Oklahoma, on Sunday, March 1, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Citizens who request an absentee ballot will not be permitted to vote in person.

Your voice matters. These proposed amendments affect the structure and future leadership of the Kaw Nation, and participation in this election helps ensure that the Constitution continues to reflect the will of the Kanza people. Please take the time to register and vote.

-R. Daniel Carter, Kaw Nation Attorney General