Kanza News

July 2026



Letter From the Chair



As we prepare to celebrate our 50th Powwow this year, I hope to see many of you there as we come together to honor our traditions, our community, and this important milestone. As my term as Chair comes to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect and express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to serve our tribe. It has been an incredible honor to serve first as Tribal Secretary for four years and then as Chair. Looking back, I am truly grateful for the trust and confidence our citizens placed in me. Throughout my time in leadership, we faced many challenges and opportunities together. From navigating the COVID-19 pandemic and responsibly helping manage CARES Act and ARPA funding, while working alongside Tribal Council to ensure those resources benefited our tribal citizens. Every decision was made with the future of Kaw Nation in mind. Together, we accomplished many meaningful projects, including much needed improvements to tribal buildings, replacing HVAC systems where needed, improving and maintaining our powwow grounds, assisting our citizens through programs such as meat bundle distributions, purchasing additional property to support our growing departments, and, perhaps most meaningful to me, restoring the Old Council House. These accomplishments, along with many others, reflect what can be achieved when we work together with a shared vision. Serving on Tribal Council has taught me the importance of collaboration, listening to different perspectives, and finding common ground. While the journey was not always easy, I am proud of the respect and teamwork that allowed us to make thoughtful decisions for the benefit of Kaw Nation. I also want to express my heartfelt appreciation for the kindness, prayers, and support shown to me after the loss of my husband last September. He was one of my greatest supporters throughout my years in office, and your compassion during that difficult time meant more to me than words can express. I have every confidence that our tribe will continue to grow and thrive under the leadership of our incoming Chair and Tribal Council members. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated team of employees who work tirelessly on behalf of Kaw Nation, and I know they will continue to serve our people with excellence. Although my term is ending, my commitment to our tribe is not. I look forward to continuing to serve by taking part on several boards, and when I become eligible in two years, I intend to seek the opportunity to serve once again on Tribal Council. Thank you to everyone who has supported, encouraged, and believed in me throughout this journey. It has been one of the greatest honors of my life to serve our tribe, and I will always be grateful for the opportunity. I am proud of the progress we have made and confident in the continued strength and success of our Nation.

Wíblahaⁿ,
-Kimberly Jenkins



2026 School Clothing Program

Kaw Nation Social Services is excited to announce details for our 2026 School Clothing Program! This year's SCP will run from July 15th through September 1st. This program is for enrolled, Kaw students only. An application is required for each tribal youth as well as a copy of their Tribal Id. All applications must be mailed to Social Services and postmarked on or before September 1st with all required documentation to be approved. Please mail all applications to Kaw Nation Social Services, PO Box 50, Kaw City, OK, 74641.

KAW NATION SOCIAL SERVICES: (580) 269-1186

OR SCAN QR CODE FOR ONLINE FORM

50TH ANNUAL KAW NATION POWWOW

AUGUST 7TH | 8TH | 9TH, 2026

12613 E Furguson Rd, Kaw City, OK 74641

HEAD STAFF

MASTER OF GEREMONTES **BRUCE JOHNSON** | ARENA DIRECTOR **KIRK SHAW**
HEAD SINGER **SCOTT GEORGE** | HOST COULD OLAN **BLACKBEARD DESCENDANTS**
HEAD MAN **FRED JONES** | HEAD LADY **KATTY BUFFALOHEAD**
WATER BOYS **DECLAN CLARK, SAGE GODDARD, THOMAS SPOTTEDREAR AND KOLTER WEATHERLY**
INCOMING PRINCESS **JESSA MEHOJAH**

SPECIAL 50TH CONTEST WINNER TAKES ALL MEN'S STRAIGHT DANCE AND WOMEN'S CLOTH DANCE

$1000

CONTEST CATEGORIES

MEN AND WOMEN GOLDEN | AGES 55 AND OVER
SR MEN AND SR WOMEN | AGES 19-54

- STRAIGHT
- TRADITIONAL
- GRASS
- FANCY
- CLOTH
- BUCKSKIN
- FANCY SHAWL
- JINGLE

JUNIORS | AGES 7-12 AND **TEENS** | AGES 13-18

- STRAIGHT
- TRADITIONAL
- GRASS
- FANCY
- CLOTH
- BUCKSKIN
- FANCY SHAWL
- JINGLE

TTNY TOTS AGES 6 AND UNDER: FRIDAY NIGHT ONLY

ALL CONTESTANTS MUST REGISTER IN ONLY **ONE CATEGORY**, BE IN **TWO GRAND ENTRIES** AND BE **WEARING NUMBER** TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR PRIZES | **TTNY TOTS NEED NOT REGISTER** | PRIZE MONEY WILL BE AWARDED ON **SUNDAY** | CONTESTANTS **MUST BE DRESSED IN FULL REGALIA** TO RECEIVE PRIZE MONEY

FRIDAY

FLAG RAISING | 7:00 AM
LUTHER PEPPER
REGISTRATION | 6-7:30 PM
PRINCESS CORONATION
FLAG PRESENTATION | 7:00 PM
GRAND ENTRY | 7:30 PM
TINY TOTS
JUNIOR AND TEEN DIVISION CONTESTS

SATURDAY

FLAG RAISING | 7:00 AM
MOSE BELLMARD WWI VETERAN
KAW LANGUAGE PROGRAM ES | 8:00 AM
YOUTH ACTIVITIES | 9:00 AM
GOURD DANCE | 2:00 PM
SPECIALS
SUPPER | 5:00 PM
REGISTRATION | 6-7:30 PM
FLAG PRESENTATION | 7:00 PM
GRAND ENTRY | 7:30 PM
WOMEN'S DIVISION CONTESTS
WINNER TAKES ALL HEN'S STRAIGHT DANCE

SUNDAY

FLAG RAISING | 7:00 AM
CLAUDE CLARK
GOURD DANCE | 2:00 PM
SPECIALS
FLAG PRESENTATION | 7:00 PM
GRAND ENTRY | 7:30 PM
MEN'S DEVISION CONTESTS
WINNER TAKES ALL WOMEN'S CLOTH DANCE

FOOD CONCESSIONS, ARTS AND CRAFTS SPACE AVAILABLE! CONTACT **IDA WILLIAMS 580-269-2552** TO REGISTER.
ALL SPECIALS ARE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AFTERNOON ONLY.
VETERAN'S MEAL | AUGUST 7TH - 12:00 PM AT POWWOW GROUNDS.
MOURNER'S MEAL | AUGUST 2ND - 10:00 AM AT TTTLE VI BLOG | 698 GRANDVIEW, KAW CITY, OK 74641

No drugs or alcohol allowed on grounds. Kaw Nation is not responsible for thefts, accidents or injuries. All persons on site are subject to the laws of the Kaw Nation

Fox Run Meadows Groundbreaking Signals New Housing Growth



The Kaw Housing Authority (KHA), alongside Kaw Nation Tribal Council and project partners, held a groundbreaking ceremony on April 9 for Phase I of the Fox Run Meadows housing development, marking a significant step forward in addressing housing needs within the Kaw Nation. The event took place on-site east of Newkirk along River Road leading to Kaw Lake in Kay County, Oklahoma. Representatives from all partnering organizations attended to commemorate the beginning of infrastructure construction for the new tribal subdivision.

This milestone follows KHA's award of a $2 million U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG), awarded on March 3, 2024. The funding supports critical subdivision infrastructure, a major barrier that often limits new housing development across Indian Country due to its high cost and coordination requirements among tribal, federal, and local entities. Fox Run Meadows encompasses two tribal trust parcels totaling nearly 78 acres. The initial 9.6-acre parcel, assigned in 2022, is home to existing elder duplexes, while an additional 68.39 acres were assigned in 2024 to support future expansion. The land has been held in tribal trust since 2012.

According to HUD's FY2026 report, Kaw Nation faces a housing shortage of 319 homes within its service area. Currently, 64 Native families live in overcrowded conditions, often lacking reliable utilities, while 79 families spend more than half their income on rent and basic services. These figures underscore the urgency behind developments like Fox Run Meadows.



Featured speakers included Lisa Kraft of Copper Bear Consulting, project grant writer; Debbie Lewman, Executive Director of the Kaw Housing Authority; and Kaw Nation Tribal Chair Kimberly Jenkins.



The Phase I infrastructure project includes installation of water and sewer systems, coordinated in partnership with the City of Newkirk. Once completed, these utilities will be maintained by the city, ensuring safe and reliable service. Collaboration with Kay Electric Cooperative will also bring power and street lighting to the first nine homes.

The Kaw Nation Transportation Department has committed $1 million toward roadway construction, further strengthening infrastructure while contributing to future federal road funding formulas. Construction is being led by Redhawk Construction, a 100 percent American Indian woman-owned company, with completion expected by October.

KHA continues to work closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Tulsa District for oversight and with Copper Bear Consulting for grant writing and project management.

In addition to infrastructure funding, KHA secured a $5 million FY2024 HUD Indian Housing Block Grant to construct nine rental homes in Phase I. Designed by Create for All and built by MASKA Builders, both Native-owned firms, construction is scheduled to begin in September 2026, with homes expected to be move-in ready by September 2027.

Future phases are already in planning, with additional grant applications underway to expand housing opportunities. Kaw Nation citizens seeking affordable housing are encouraged to apply through the Kaw Housing Services Center and keep applications current to remain eligible.



Rock & Brews Casino Expansion Underway

Braman, Oklahoma – May 11, 2026 – Rock & Brews Casino has officially broken ground on a major expansion that will significantly enhance its role as a premier entertainment destination in northern Oklahoma. The project includes a new 25,000-square-foot entertainment center and a 21-space full-service RV park, both designed to elevate guest experience and attract new visitors to the property.

The centerpiece of the expansion is "R&B Live," a 1,000-seat venue built to host a wide range of events, including concerts, comedy shows, boxing and MMA matches, trade shows, and community or tribal gatherings. The facility will also feature a bistro-style bar, an open gathering space, and a VIP private dining room, allowing for upscale experiences and large group accommodations. A new retail store offering Rock & Brews branded merchandise will further enhance the guest experience.

Located just southeast of the casino, the new RV park will cater to travelers along the busy I-35 corridor. The park will offer 21 full-service spaces with water, sewer, and electric hookups, along with a 1,200-square-foot clubhouse equipped with restrooms, showers, and laundry facilities. The development builds on the success of the casino's existing boondocking program, which demonstrated strong demand for expanded RV accommodations.

The Rock & Brews brand, co-founded by Paul Stanley and Gene Simmons of KISS, has become known for its high-energy atmosphere, classic American food, and music-driven environment. Through its partnership with Kaw Nation, the casino has earned recognition as Kay County's "Best Casino" for three consecutive years from 2023 to 2025.

Kaw Nation Chair Kim Jenkins emphasized the broader impact of the project, noting it represents a long-term investment in economic growth, cultural connection, and community engagement. Construction began in May 2026, with the RV park expected to open by August 2026 and the entertainment center slated for completion in May 2027.













10th Annual Youth Language Powwow

The 10th Annual Youth Language Tajé Sage Powwow was held May 16 at the Kaw Nation Powwow Grounds in Kaw City, bringing together community members to celebrate culture, language, and youth leadership.

Sponsored by Kaw Nation Education Services, the event continues to grow each year and remains a key part of the Nation's Language Department efforts to preserve and promote Kaw heritage. This year's powwow featured a full slate of leadership, including Head Man Clay Donelson, Head Lady Shaylynn Littlecook, Head Singer Isaac Williams, and Head Gourd Dancers Antwine and William Hamilton. Masters of Ceremonies Colt Donelson and Nick Williams guided the day's events, while Arena Directors Damien Littledeer Sr. and Dylan Bellmard kept the powwow running smoothly.

Additional roles included Head Cook Maudie Jones, with Declan Clark and Christopher Moorhead serving as Water Boys. A special highlight of the event was the crowning of this year's Princess, Irene Spotted Bear, who was welcomed by outgoing princess Tiger Jones.

The powwow also marked a meaningful milestone with the debut of the newly formed Tajé Sage Drum Group. In recognition of their role in carrying forward tradition, Councilman Wes Pappan presented the group with its own dedicated drum.

With strong attendance and continued community support, the Youth Language Tajé Sage Powwow remains an important cultural gathering that strengthens language revitalization and connects future generations to Kaw traditions.





Contest Winners



GIRLS AGES 7-12

1ST -SHAYLYN LITTLECOOK
2ND - DAISY EAGLESPEAKER
3RD - GRACE ELLA KIMBLE



BOYS AGES 7-12

1ST - SAMUEL ALLEN
2ND - MAHIHSKA ROY
3RD - TAYLEN



GIRLS AGES 13-18

1ST - WASTA TSE HAMMER
2ND - MIYAH LITTLE COOK
3RD - MAY WILLIAMS



BOYS AGES 13-18

1ST - ALEC HUNT
2ND - DARIEN WEST
3RD -ANTWINE HAMILTON






2026 Washunga Days Powwow

The 2026 Washunga Days Powwow was held June 19–20 in Council Grove, bringing together dancers, singers, and visitors for a weekend centered on tradition, community, and celebration.

Sponsored by Friends of Kaw Heritage, the City of Council Grove, area foundations, and Kaw Nation, the event featured a wide variety of food vendors along with craft, jewelry, and apparel booths that added to the vibrant atmosphere. Dancers competed across 12 categories, showcasing skill, style, and cultural pride throughout the weekend.

Despite storm threats on Friday evening, organizers and attendees worked together to adjust seating under the arbor, allowing festivities to continue without interruption. The quick response ensured a safe and enjoyable experience for all.

Leadership for this year's powwow included Head Singer Jordan Jones, Head Man Dylan Bellmard, Head Lady Little Carol Clark, Master of Ceremonies Ken Bellmard, and Arena Director Damien Littledeer. Water carriers Bear Donelson and Maxwell Brave McConnel supported dancers and participants throughout the event. Newly constructed restroom facilities and an open-air welcome center were well received by attendees, enhancing comfort and accessibility. With strong participation and community support, the Washunga Days Powwow continues to honor Kaw traditions while providing a welcoming space for all to gather and celebrate.

Contest Winners



GOLDEN AGE WOMEN
1ST - LAVINA CLARK
2ND -LITTLE CAROL CLARK



JR. GIRLS FANCY SHAWL & JINGLE
1ST - HAVEN LITTLE HEAD
2ND - DELIAH PARKER



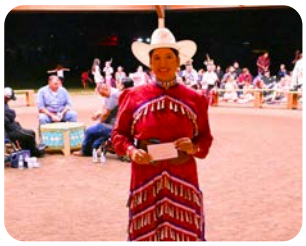
JR. GIRLS CLOTH
1ST - JESSA MEHOJAH
2ND - WYNTER JOHNSON
3RD - MAHALA MEHOJAH



JR. BOYS TRADITIONAL GRASS
1ST - JASPER LITTLE HEAD



JR. BOYS STRAIGHT
1ST - BEAR DONELSON
2ND - JESUS LITTLEDEER
3RD - DASAN LITTLEDEER



SR.WOMEN FANCY SHAWL
1ST - KATZY BUFFALOHEAD



SR. WOMEN BUCKSKIN
1ST - LANEY LEFTHAND
2ND - VICTORIA LAFEAN



SR. WOMEN CLOTH
1ST - CYLEYSS STUMBLING BEAR
2ND - KATLYN BEGSHISOWN
3RD - KIRA PARKER



GOLDEN AGE MEN
1ST - ROBERT KEKAHBAH



SR. MEN GRASS & TRADITIONAL
1ST - CHASKE JACOBS



SR. MEN STRAIGHT
1ST - JASON MURRAY
2ND - SKYLER MATHEWS
3RD - KYLE PEPPER



MEN'S FANCY DANCE
1ST - KNOWEE POTTS

Kanza Museum to Reopen for 50th Powwow

As the Kanza Museum prepares to reopen during Kaw Nation's 50th Anniversary Powwow, Museum Director Nicholas Coble said the new exhibit reflects both recent efforts and decades of work by those who came before him. He acknowledged the lasting contributions of Crystal Douglas and Kaw elders, noting the strong foundation they established. Over the past year, the museum has undergone extensive organizing, cleaning, repairs, and preparation. Coble described the process as a challenging but rewarding experience made possible through a broad team effort involving multiple departments and community members.

The new exhibit traces the Kaw story from first contact in Missouri to the present day, highlighting how leadership decisions across generations have shaped the Nation's path. Coble emphasized that each generation faces unique challenges, and those responses become part of a larger shared history. The Kanza Museum is scheduled to reopen during Powwow week beginning **Monday, August 3rd**, offering visitors an opportunity to engage with the evolving story of the Kaw people.





Left: Kanza Museum Director Nicholas Coble stands with Kaw Nation citizen Christopher Moon at the Oklahoma History Society alongside Chief Washunga's pipe. **Right:** Coble leads members of Leadership Blackwell on a tour of the Kaw Nation Powwow Grounds in Kaw City.

Kaw Nation Incorporated: Continued Exapansion

Kaw Nation Industries (KNI) continues to expand its portfolio of tribally owned enterprises, advancing economic development, workforce training, and innovation across multiple sectors.

Kanza Insurance, which opened January 2, 2026, represents a key step in that mission. Led by Bogahdah "Bo" Ball and licensed across Oklahoma, Kansas, and Missouri, the agency has grown to a team of four and provides services to individuals, families, and businesses. Beyond its core offerings, Kanza Insurance contributes to long-term economic strength by creating jobs and building professional capacity for Kaw Nation citizens.

KNI's focus on innovation is also evident through Skyland 3D and Stone Spear Robotics. Skyland 3D has partnered with the Ponca City Development Authority to construct Oklahoma's first 3D-printed home and completed a custom concrete installation in Arkansas City, Kansas. The company is also exploring workforce training partnerships and expanding into residential construction projects, including work in California. Stone Spear Robotics recently completed the sale of its first 3D concrete printing robotic system to Somerset Community College, marking the beginning of its commercial rollout in advanced construction technology.

Additional progress includes KNI Environmental's redevelopment of a former casino site in Newkirk into a manufacturing facility expected to create more than 45 jobs, and KNI Management Solutions completing its first federal contract with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Together, these efforts reflect KNI's commitment to sustainable growth, job creation, and long-term opportunity for the Kaw Nation.





NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL SELECTED

Transition efforts begin as leadership prepares to support legal matters, strengthen governance, and serve the community with dedication and transparency.

Kaw Nation proudly welcomes its newly elected Attorney General, Mr. John Hammons, chosen by Tribal Citizens on July 12 during the Quarterly General Council Meeting. We appreciate the community's participation and trust in this process and look forward to his leadership, integrity, and service as we continue strengthening our Nation together.



580-269-2552 **kawnation.gov** 698 Grandview Dr. Kaw City, OK 74641

In Loving Memory

Of Our Kaw Tribal Citizens

Terry Sue Pepper
DOD: 05/07/2026

Steven Wayne Boone
DOD: 05/11/2026

Danny F. Angel
DOD: 05/24/2026

Barbara Ann Crook
DOD: 05/25/2026

Jason Jude Leith
DOD: 06/08/2026

Jeremy Scott Bearden
DOD: 06/09/2026

Kaw Nation Election Board
Notice of General Election - September 13, 2026

Notice of General Election

Election Date: September 13, 2026

Citizens of the Kaw Nation are hereby notified that a General Election will be held September 13, 2026, for the purpose of filling the following positions: Chair, Secretary, Tribal Council Member #1, and Tribal Council Member #3. The Election is conducted in accordance with Article DI, pursuant to Section 4 of the Constitution of the Kaw Nation, ratified on August 20th, 2011, and as amended on April 29th, 2016.

PollingPlace

Kaw Nation Administration Building, 698 Grandview Drive, Kaw City, OK 74641
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Purpose: To vote on condidates for filling the positions of Chair, Secretary, Tribal Council Member #1, and Tribal Council Member #3.

Candidate Filing Date

March 16th – March 20th, 2026
Kaw Nation Administration Building, 698 Grandview Drive, Kaw City, OK 74641
8:00AM – 4:00 PM

Voter Qualifications

A qualified voter must: (1) be an enrolled citizen of the Kaw Nation; (2) be 18 years of age or older on the date of the election; (3) not have been adjudged mentally incompetent by a court of competent jurisdiction.

A Qualified Voter List will be posted on **September 8th, 2026,** at the Kaw Nation Administration Building at Kaw City, OK, the Kanza Health Clinic at Newkirk, OK, and the Housing Authority at Newkirk, OK.

Candidate Filing Fees

At the time of filing the Declarations of Candidecy, candidates must also pay a non-refundable filing fee of three hundred dollars ($300.00). Filing fees must be paid in money order or certified check. **Personal checks will not be accepted.**

Voting Methods

IN PERSON: Kaw Nation Administration Building, Kaw City, OK, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

ASSENTEE: Voters may request an Absentee Ballot from the Election Board by written request containing the voter's signature or completion of an Absentce Ballot Request Form, available on the Kaw Nation Website. Upon receipt of each request, the Election Board shall mail an Absentee Ballot to the requester. **Requests** for an Absentee Ballot must be received by the Election Board by **August 16th, 2026**. Please send the written request containing the voter's signature or the Absentee Ballot Request Form to:

Kaw Nation Election Board
P.O. Box 48
Kaw City, OK 74641

By email: electionboard@kawnation.gov

Or by fax: Kaw Nation Election Board - 580-269-1195

Ballots must be returned by postal mail to the above address, no later than September 11th, 2026. Absentee ballots will not be accepted in person or at any other location.

Election Results

Immediately following the tabulation of the ballots, the Election Board shall issue an unofficial canvas of the Election results at the Kaw Nation Administration Building. The Election Board shall issue the Certified Election Results after the expiration of the protest period at 12:00 PM on September 16th, 2026, or after the resolution of any challenges received by the Election Board, whichever is later. Certified Election Results will be posted at the Kaw Nation Administration Building and on the Kaw Nation website.

2026 Kaw Nation General Election Candidates

Little Carol Clark - Candidate for Tribal Council Secretary

Hawé, I am Little Carol Clark, my Kaw name is Tajé Mi (Tah Jah Me). I am a quarter Kaw and Potawatomi. My Parents are Elmer and Naomi Clark. My grandmothers were Maudie McCauley Clark Rowe, and Arkie DeLonis Murray I mention them because I contribute my cultural and traditional teaching to them.

My father Elmer and Grandmother Maudie started what is now called the Kaw Nation Powwow in the '70's and the first powwow was held in our backyard in Shidler OK. I humbly say this is all I have to offer traditions, culture, and history of the Kaw Nation the past 4 years as your Kaw Nation Tribal Secretary I have fought hard to hold on to these things and tried to do my best for the Kaw People.

Lynn Williams - Candidate for Tribal Council Secretary

My name is Lynn Williams and I am running for Secretary in the upcoming election. I am the great granddaughter of full blood allotees Williams Jones and Barkley DeLano. Granddaughter of Theodore DeLano and Clara Jones. My mother was Henrietta DeLano Williams. I am also a descendant of the Otoe-Missouria tribe. I returned to my home area in 2005 and continued my career as a Family Nurse Practitioner in the US Public Health Service. After retiring in 2014 I devoted my time and expertise to serving on various tribal boards and committees. I was elected Vice Chair in 2016 and Chairwoman in 2018.

The Secretary has the important job of keeping all records of the Kaw Nation accurate and up to date while also working with the tribal council.

Phylicia Arnswald - Candidate for Tribal Council Secretary

My name is Phylicia Arnswald and I am running for Tribal Council Secretary. I am the daughter of Donna Kraft (Lavers) and Jerry Parker, the granddaughter of Dawes C and Naomi Lavers, and the great granddaughter of Dawes H Lavers and Ethel H Hardy. I have been with Kaw Nation for 3 ½ years, 2 years and 9 months of that time I was the Tribal Secretary Assistant then I took the position for the Transit Coordinator. I have 3 wonderful children. My hope is to deepen my own involvement with the Tribe while encouraging and creating opportunities for my generation and future generations to become more engaged. I look forward to the opportunity to proudly serve our Tribe. I would greatly appreciate your vote on September 13th.

Skyler Mathews - Candidate for Tribal Council Member Seat #1

Skyler Mathews has spent more than 20 years earning the trust of Kaw Nation through hard work, service, and proven leadership. From Environmental Summer Intern to Water Technician, Environmental Officer, General Manager of Kaw Nation Recycling, Transportation Director, and Chief of Staff, Skyler understands the needs of our Nation from the ground up. His experience with the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and as owner of ONESHOT Properties, LLC and DEFCON-1 Ranch, LLC reflects responsibility, planning, and results. A proud Oklahoma Army National Guard veteran, he served in Afghanistan and Ukraine, earning the Purple Heart Medal and Combat Infantry Badge. Skyler is ready to be a strong, accountable voice on the Kaw Nation Council—protecting our future, strengthening services, and putting Kaw Nation members first.

Bogahdah Ball - Candidate for Tribal Council Member Seat #1

My name is Bogahdah "Bo" Ball, and I am a proud citizen of the Kaw Nation with a background in business, leadership, and operations. I hold a Bachelor of Science in Business Management and a minor in Human Resources from Oklahoma State University. I began my career with an internship at Walt Disney World, where I developed a strong foundation in customer service and large-scale operations.

Throughout my career, I have served in leadership roles at SouthWind Casino, worked as an accounting supervisor, and spent eight years in financial services with Ernst & Young and Arvest Wealth Management. Today, I work with Kaw Nation Industries and own and operate a Farmers Insurance agency.

I am passionate about responsible development, protecting tribal resources, increasing member engagement, and creating opportunities for future generations.

2026 Kaw Nation General Election Candidates

Lonnie Doyle - Candidate for Tribal Council Member Seat #1

I hold a Bachelor's degree in Marketing from the College of Business Administration at the University of Nevada, Reno. Since March 2022, I have served as Communications Officer for the Kaw Nation, working closely with all departments and gaining a comprehensive understanding of Tribal operations and services. I also serve as a director for Kaw Gaming Inc., contributing to oversight of one of our largest enterprises. I strongly believe in Tribal sovereignty and that economic self-reliance is essential to achieving it. As a candidate for Tribal Council, I am committed to strengthening economic independence, expanding services for Tribal citizens, and supporting cultural initiatives that preserve and promote Kaw Nation heritage. Please feel free to reach out to me on my campaign website: *www.kanzaunity.com*

KayDee Vap - Candidate for Tribal Council Member Seat #3

KayDee Vap is a legal and business operations leader with expertise in contract management, compliance, strategic partnerships, and organizational growth. Throughout her career, she has helped scale high-growth organizations by developing efficient contracting processes, strengthening governance frameworks, and supporting cross-functional business initiatives. She contributed to the growth of a global private-sector cybersecurity startup, helping navigate complex commercial relationships and operational challenges during a period of expansion. As Executive Director of the College Athletics Players Association (CAPA), KayDee advocates for student-athlete rights, NIL opportunities, and sustainable athlete development. Combining legal know how with entrepreneurial leadership, she is passionate about building organizations, driving strategic growth, and creating innovative solutions that deliver lasting impact across the technology, sports, and nonprofit sectors. She looks forward to bringing her expertise to the Kaw Nation as Tribal Council Member Seat #3!

Nicholas Coble - Candidate for Tribal Council Member Seat #3

Nicholas Coble is a member of the Black Eagle Clan and the grandson of Bill and Cecilia Pepper. He serves as the Kaw Nation's Museum Director and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer and holds a B.A. in Psychology and a Master of Legal Studies in Indigenous Peoples Law from the University of Oklahoma. Throughout his career, Nicholas has worked to strengthen tribal programs, advocate for Native families and children, protect tribal interests, and build productive relationships that advance the Kaw Nation. His experience spans tribal government, community services, cultural preservation, and federal Indian law. He believes effective leadership requires transparency, accountability, and collaboration. Nicholas is committed to strengthening sovereignty, creating opportunities, and building a stronger future for generations to come.

James Warren - Candidate for Tribal Council Member Seat #3

Ho! Zha zhe wíta che So Jum Way. Hello! My name is James (Jim) Warren. I'd like to introduce myself. My wife Merika and I have been married for 20 years and have 3 children – Kyleigh, Seth and Jim – and a granddaughter, Wahoda. My parents are Joe and the late Tahagena Bowker Warren. I worked for the Kaw Nation in various capacities for 10 years; Fire/EMS for 13 years (3 years as Assistant Chief) and currently employed by the Newkirk Fire Department. I enjoy serving the community and if elected, I look forward to serving my fellow tribal members. My mother was very adamant that what is best for our people should always be the priority and I intend to do my best to continue that legacy. Wíblaha^{n}. Thank you.

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT

Kaw Nation citizens, our upcoming September 13th election is more than a date on the calendar, it is a chance to shape the future of our community. Every vote carries a voice, and together those voices guide decisions that impact our programs, services, and generations to come. Whether you vote early, absentee, or in person, your participation strengthens our sovereignty and honors those who came before us. Taking a few minutes to vote ensures your perspective is counted and respected. Let us show up, stay informed, and support a strong, engaged Kaw Nation. Encourage family members, elders, and young voters to take part and make a plan to vote. If you have questions, reach out for guidance so no one is left out. Our future depends on participation, and your vote truly matters. Be present, be counted, and be heard.

698 Grandview Drive
P.O. Box 50
Kaw City, OK 74641
Phone: 580-269-2552
Fax: 580-269-1157

Visit Our Website:
www.KawNation.gov

Editor & Design:
Lonnie Doyle
communications@kawnation.gov

