

# August 13, 2012 Constitutional Amendments

## Reasons to vote yes

1. ONCR 11-14 removes the Chief's power to overrule the 8 person Minerals Council on decisions made concerning Minerals business.
2. ONCR 11-12 removes Executive Branch authority over all Minerals Council bank accounts and puts them entirely in the control of the MC.
3. ONCR 11-13 puts the Minerals Council election process totally in the hands of Shareholders only.
4. ONCR 10-19 totally eliminates any possibility of the Osage Nation Congress imposing taxes on production or royalty revenues, or on the sale or transportation of minerals produced within the minerals estate. Also provides that Congress can never appropriate Shareholder funds.

## Why is this necessary?

1. People in the oil business know this has been possible since 2006. They absolutely don't like it, and many of the majors have stayed away from the Osage for this reason. They know the oil is here, and they don't mind dealing with an eight person Council, but as it is now, any deal negotiated can be vetoed by one man's decision, The Chief.
2. This doesn't necessarily mean that the Chief couldn't have the ability to monitor or even audit the Council's accounts, but it does mean he could never access the funds or deny Council's use of these funds as they may deem necessary. This happened once already in 2010.
3. Very little is said in the current Constitution about Minerals Council elections, except that only Shareholders can run for office or vote. The new amendment clearly designates the authority to oversee elections to be totally within the Minerals Council's jurisdiction.
4. Some say that this has never been done. It hasn't, but it has been discussed many times. Sooner or later, someone will get up the nerve to try it. Any tax of this type would penalize both the Shareholders and the producers. We already pay outrageous gross production taxes. Our producers pay additional taxes that most of us have never even heard of. That's enough!

Everyone thought explaining why these amendments are necessary would be easy. They are written in plain, simple English, and do the very things that literally everyone has been saying they wanted. Yet a few still don't think they will do the job. They can't seem to explain why, but they still don't like them. Worst of all, they offer no alternatives. Voting no is not an alternative. It is an exercise in failure. It's beginning to look like maybe that's what some want. Failure of the entire system. How sad.

Hopefully the above, laid out in this manner, might cut down on some of the confusion about what these Constitutional Amendments are all about, and why we need them so badly. There are just so many ways that something this basic can be explained.