

SPECIAL ELECTION: Important Dates

JUNE 29

- Beginning of Absentee Ballot Mail Outs

JULY 24

- Deadline to submit absentee ballot Request forms to the Election

AUGUST 10

- Early Absentee Ballot Processing (NOT COUNTING)

AUGUST 13

- Election Day

****If you requested an absentee ballot for the June vote you will automatically be sent one for the Special Election. ****

Election Board contact information:

Election Office

Toll Free:

(877) 560-5286

email:

electionoffice@osage-tribe.org

Phone:

(918) 287-5286

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This ad paid for by the Osage Minerals Council.

SPECIAL ELECTION – AUGUST 13, 2012

REMINDER !!

- You must be a member of the Osage Nation to vote in the Special Election, the same as when voting for the Chief or Osage Congress.
- Your Absentee ballot will not be counted if you do not sign the outside of the envelope. This signature must match exactly the name in which the ballot was requested. (ie. Same first name, same middle name or initial if used, and same last name.

Osage Minerals Council
P.O. BOX 779
Pawhuska, OK 74056



Vote Yes

Special Election August 13TH

The four amendments to the Osage Constitution being voted on in the August special election are of critical importance to Osage headright holders and non-headright holders alike. When the new Osage Constitution was being formulated, the promise was made that it would continue to vest the Osage Minerals Council with the same powers it had always enjoyed over Mineral Estate business.

Because of ambiguous, misleading and confusing wording in our Constitution this promise was not met. An effective Constitution should clearly delineate the authority and duties of each governmental entity with bright lines that can be easily understood and followed. Unfortunately when it comes to Mineral Estate management our Osage Constitution often fails to provide us a pathway with even the faintest dotted lines, much less bright clear ones. When passed, these amendments will be a huge step in correcting that situation.

The problems caused by the current wording of our Constitution are not just political, but very practical as well. Because of the unique partnership between the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Osage people in conducting our minerals business it is critical for efficient minerals management that the U.S. government and our oil & gas producers know which Osage elected body speaks for our people on Mineral Estate related matters.

Recently one of our largest oil producers shared with the Minerals Council that the confusing nature of wording in our Constitution creates a "business risk" that is sometimes unacceptable to financial backers. We cannot allow this situation to continue if the mineral estate is to be properly managed.

Here are some facts about how these proposed amendments came to be and what each is designed to do:

- They were developed by a majority of the Minerals Council working in conjunction with members of Congress with the goal of achieving maximum Minerals Council autonomy while maintaining tribal sovereignty protections for the Mineral Estate.
- Our Minerals Council attorney was involved in developing the wording and concepts of the proposed amendments, and gave his approval to the final passed versions of each as being effective in solving the problems while insuring Osage Mineral Estate sovereignty protections.
- They will clarify to the BIA/DOI and all others that the Osage Minerals Council is the elected body of the Osage people with the sole authority to develop and administer the Osage Mineral Estate. They will also vest the Council with the autonomy necessary to properly and efficiently conduct these duties.
- They will also ban the Osage Congress from taxing any portion of the Mineral Estate production and transportation process or royalty income.
- They were passed with no dissenting votes by the Osage Congress.

ONCR -11-12, passed October 6, 2011

- Removes the Osage Minerals Council from being under the authority and direction of the Executive Branch.

ONCR -11-13, passed October 6, 2011

- Constitutionally establishes the right of the Minerals Council to conduct their own elections, thus removing the current constitutional necessity for the Osage Congress to pass election codes pertaining to the Minerals Council elections.

ONCR -11-14, passed October 6, 2011

- Establishes the make-up of the Minerals Council and vests them with the sole authority to lease and develop the Mineral Estate and to administer the duties previously granted to all the Officers of the Tribe by the 1906 act as amended.

ONCR -10-19, April 6, 2011

- Constitutionally bans the Osage Congress from passing any laws that would tax royalty income from the Osage Mineral Estate, or that would appropriate Minerals Estate funds. This proposed amendment also bans any taxes of production and transportation on minerals.

The proposed amendments can be read in their entirety on the Osage Nation website or copies can be obtained from our office. We encourage every Osage to make themselves familiar with these amendments and vote **YES** in the August 13th Special Election.