

Walter Hopper, Jr, Chairman  
Osage Nation Election Board  
Pawhuska  
Via: Email  
RE: More election rules

June 30, 2012

Sir:

I have become aware of an effort by someone, apparently the Election Board, to assume control of the campaign efforts of individuals wishing to express their opinions on any issue which may appear on an Osage Nation ballot.

Rules governing candidates and their election campaigns are fine, and it looked to me like the Election Board did a great job of running the last election, and you seemed to enforce the new rules very fairly. Some were caught off guard, but that's to be expected when something new is started.

Now, I'm afraid you may be going a little too far. Control of organized campaign efforts, where public funds are being raised to finance these activities, maybe should be discussed. But, control of personal web sites, letters to the editor, and conversations around the water cooler cannot be controlled by government in a democracy. Hitler, Stalin, Tojo, Kadafy, and many more have tried that. I wish you could have asked one of them how it worked out. This is a gag order, under no disguise what so ever.

I hope I have misunderstood what it is you are trying to do. Please get an official statement out, explaining your intent. It would also be interesting to know exactly where this notion originated. Does this idea come from Congress? Did it come from the Executive Department? Or is this just a fund raising project dreamed up by the Election Board? I just can't imagine this coming by request from the Osage people.

I truly hope that I have simply misunderstood what it is you want. But if the result will be to allow anyone to go tromping around on my right to free speech, or my right to vote on issues concerning me or my family, or to charge me a fee to do either, that is absolutely wrong. Just ask any veteran who had to carry their dead buddies down off a hill or up out of a swamp in some foreign country what he would think about this. They have already paid dearly for these rights.

Very Sincerely,  
Ray McClain, Member of the Osage Nation