

To the Editors of the Cherokee Observer:

I received a copy of your newspaper on the windshield of my vehicle at the Heritage Center in Tahlequah.

I would like to congratulate Mr. Cornsilk for the work he is doing for the Cherokee Freedmen. If the most minute amount of blood quantum is to be upheld, then why not include the Freedmen.

Although I believe that the Cherokee Observer has always been a newspaper for the people. Assuring that the most significant points where made visible to the public, I have to disagree with your article regarding the Cherokee Nation Councilors. The "other side of the story" is that two of the Councilors that you hold in reverence in that article are not what they seem to be. You noted in your article "that they work for the people", maybe they do now, but is it not election time and possible damage control for the times they did not. Why wait for the last term of your office to rush out and start trying to say the right things and do the right things. Giving money right and left for the things you should have been doing all along. What about all the people who needed help earlier and all the Tribes money that the council has access to? Why were people being denied Educational Money, Why are there still people, Cherokee citizens who are being denied health care money for Cancer treatment and other life threatening illnesses. Why today do we still have Cherokee people that live in run down, floorless homes, while the money is being handed over to the City government Police Departments. That money was for the "CHEROKEE PEOPLE" NOT FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICES WHO CAN GET MONEY FROM THE STATE AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS. Why are children being denied crucial programs for seeing specialists and receiving needed treatments to sustain their growth and future well being? Why is Cherokee Nation repairing roads and bridges in other counties? If they were going to use the money for that purpose, would it not be better used here to fix our roads, such as Kenwood road or some of the other roads around here that are dangerous and mostly Cherokee citizens drive. These are the things that the District Council Women could be doing and should be doing. Not donating for various Government offices that could be taken care of by grants and funds from federal programs.

In the newspaper, reference is made to Chad Smith and his two wives. It appears that Morality plays a huge part of what we think people should be as elected officials. I agree, As a matter of fact, on January 11, 2004 as I watched my beautiful, handsome son, James A. Hansen lay dying in a Joplin, Missouri hospital, heinous shot in the head by Cherokee Nation Council Linda Hughes O'Learys' son, I thought the same thing. My family and I went through a facade of a trial, listened to lie upon lie, created to prevent the predator from going to prison. I also learned later, at the scene of the crime was another Tribal Council Representative Melvina Shotpouch, not one word or offer of assistance to me even though I worked for the Cherokee Nation for over 15 years. In the trial, sitting on the same side with the Predator and his family, was another former Council member, Barbara Starr. The one who lived by the law is gone; the one who broke the law is alive and free. Morality tells me and many others that this is not right. Delaware county and these Council representatives condoned murder in Indian Country. You tel I me that they are working for the Cherokee people - if that were so, then the silence of this wrongful heinous act would not have passed in silence.

Would you be praising a wife-beater, someone that takes out their frustrations on another? I don't think that would be allowed. Yes, we do have freedom of speech today and many things are said. But do the meanings have depth or are they as shallow as what I just described? A true Tribal Council would have stood up for what was morally right, regardless of the consequences, if someone would cover up something as serious as Murder, what else are they capable of "Covering up?" And if someone stands with a murderer and helps them to get off - in legal terms, isn't that abetting in some form or other? I am terribly sorry for the Cherokee Nation, to have people such as these to REPRESENT the Cherokee People. They are a disgrace to the Political world.

Thank you for allowing me my time to express my feelings and may the Great Creator be with you in your endeavors, as one day we will all meet him one way or another as my son did. It is then the true judgment will be met.

Janet Hansen

Council votes down raises for tribal officials

Cherokee Phoenix And Indian Advocate (918) 456-0671, Ext. 2269 FAX (918) 458-6136 phoenix@cherokee.org © Cherokee Nation - All Rights Reserved www.cherokeephox.org - October 2006

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. - The Cherokee Nation Tribal Council voted 15-1 on Sept. 7 against a salary increase for the council, the chief and deputy chief.

District 8 Councilor Bill Johnson made the motion to institute the raises and was the sole councilor to vote for the raise.

The Citizens Compensation Committee had proposed a 3.5 percent per year increase to commence with the elected term beginning Aug. 14, 2007, and continuing each year through 2010. The committee said the base salary for council members is nearly 15 percent less than their counterparts in other tribes, the deputy chief's salary is 13.8 percent less than his counterparts, and the chief's salary is 3.05 percent less than other chiefs, governors or presidents of tribes.

Currently, the chief's salary is \$112,445, deputy chief \$57,241 and tribal councilors \$36,450.

Though the CCC report showed the CN Tribal Council is underpaid compared to other tribes, and any increase in the chief and deputy chief's salaries were "tied" to the council's vote on the issue, the council chose to vote against raises, said At-Large Councilor Taylor Keen.

"The general vibe of the council was to reinforce the statement 'we are not doing this for the money.' We want to stay focused on the issues," he said.

The backlash the council received after they voted themselves a raise in 2003 following the tribal election also was considered by Keen and the other councilors who voted against the raises.

Keen said he does believe better compensation for the Tribal Council may attract more candidates to run for council.


The Compensation Committee included Clem McSpadden, former U.S. Congressman and former President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma Senate; and Larry Adair, former Speaker of the Oklahoma House, who were appointed by the chief. The council's appointees including Cherokee attorney Jennifer Barger-Johnson, Joe Hutchison, former State Representative for Delaware County, and former Deputy Chief John Ketcher.

Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma

Cherokee People

1975 Constitution


Executive Branch



Chad Smith
Principal Chief


Joe Grayson
Deputy Chief

Justice




Darell R. Matlock,
C.J.

Chief Justice
Matlock



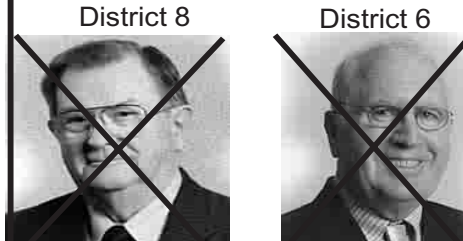
Jackie Martin
District 2

Cara Cowan
District 7




Buel Anglen
District 8

Meredith Frailey
District 6



William Johnson
District 8


Don Garvin
District 4



Audra Connor
District 1


Phyllis Yargee
District 3

Legislative Branch




Melvina Shotpouch
District 5

Bill Baker
District 1




Joe Crittenden
District 2

Johnny Keener
District 6



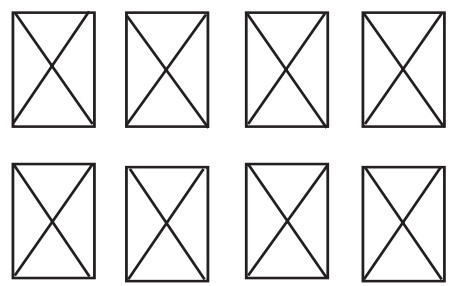
Linda O'Leary
District 5

Charles Hoskins
District 9




David Thornton
District 3

Tribal Council Representatives
working for the Cherokee people
today.




Register to Vote in 2007

Judicial Branch



Justice Stacy Leeds



The Cherokee People needs to know, this is way our nation is functioning as of today. This structure is not constitutional. The elected officials acting under Chief Smith's control is illegal! The only person that should be working under the Executive branch is Deputy Chief Grayson. Chief Smith should not have control over the majority of the Tribal Councilors or majority of our Judicial branch. But this is how it is working or not working for the Cherokee people. Under this structure we have a dictatorship. One person controlling our Nation, The creation of the 1975 Cherokee Constitution took the control of one man, to a three branch of government. But we have no checks & balances under our Constitution. When the Chief controls the Judicial branch and the majority of the Tribal Council. . . We have a dictatorship and that is illegal under our Constitution. When the Cherokee people can rely on our three branches to work as their oath to follow our Constitution, then "OUR STATE OF THE NATION" is not what our Chief keeps telling us. The Chief keeps telling us everything is great and nothing it wrong. We Cherokees have trouble. We have more money and the people have less services. They are wasting our money. The money belong to the Cherokee People, but this administration spend money as if it was theirs. The Cherokee people need to wake up and get involved. Help stop these kinds of illegal actions. It is time again in our Cherokee History to rise up and protect the Cherokee Nation from corrupt elected officials or appointed officials & employees.

Chief Rejects Proposed Council Districts as Unconstitutional

Seal of the Cherokee Nation
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TAHLEQUAH- Principal Chief Chad Smith vetoed a plan that would have radically altered the boundaries of Cherokee Nation's Tribal Council districts, just a few months before the next Cherokee election. The plan would have expanded the number of districts from nine to 15

and been effective immediately, instead of after future elections.

Smith cited several Constitutional flaws in the redistricting plan, but emphasized the inequality of the districts as his main reason for the veto.

"Under the plan, one district would have had twice as many Cherokees in it as another district," Smith said. "The Constitution calls for the districts to be 'reasonably equal,' and I don't see how anyone would think that having 10,000 Cherokees in one district and less than 5,000

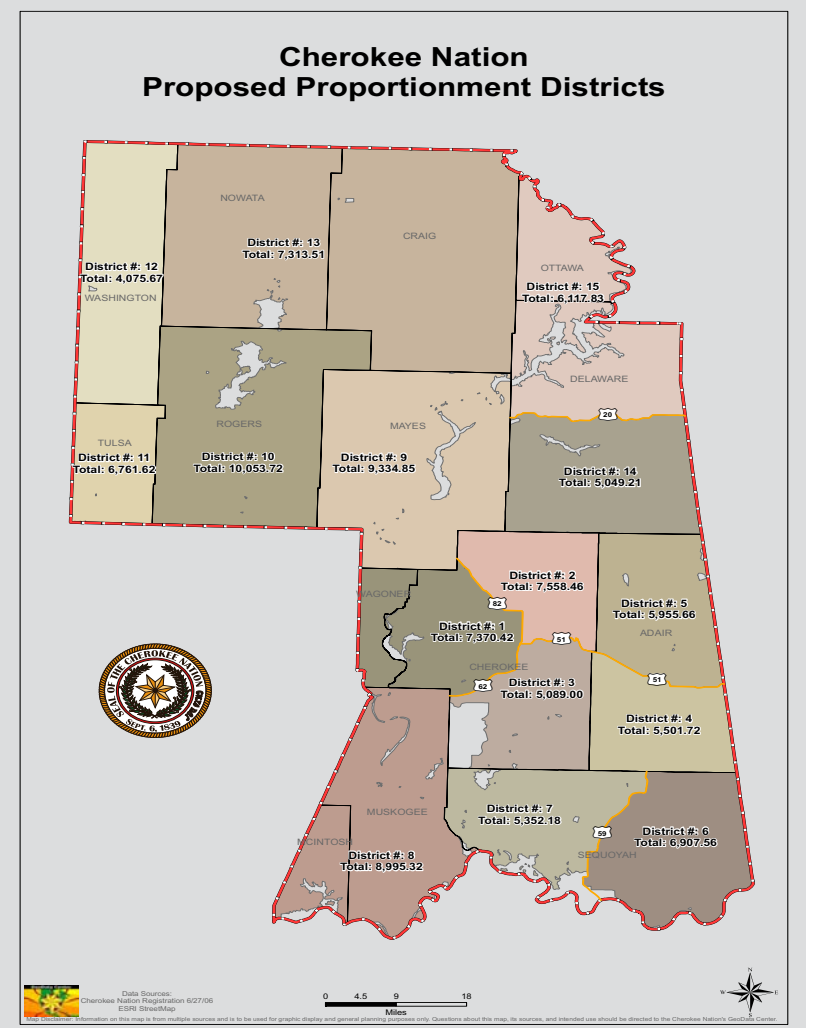
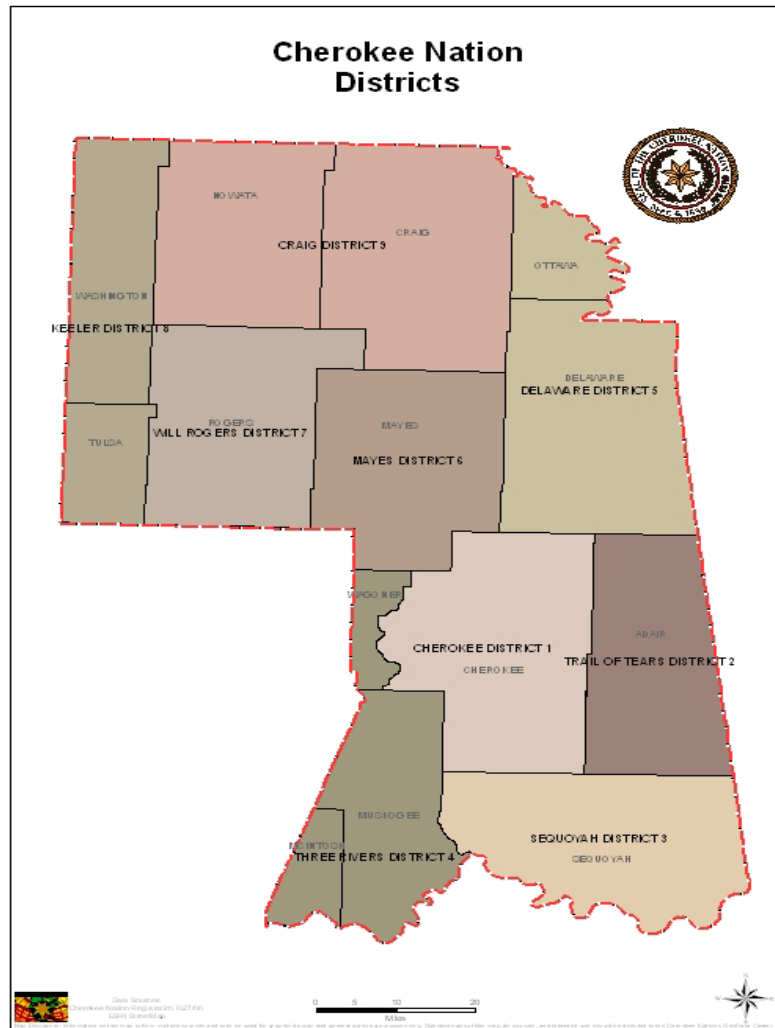
Cherokees in another could be considered even close to equal."

Smith stated that the plan could face other legal challenges, because it changes the council districts less than 240 days before the next election. Cherokee Nation law requires that candidates have residency in their districts 270 days prior to running for Council, and changing the districts at this late date could be subject to legal challenges.

Smith also pointed out that since the plan the Council passed was set to take place immedi-

ately, it could put existing Council members in violation of the law which requires them to live in their district, since the new lines may create districts in which no Council member currently lives, or in which more than one Council member currently lives.

"Any changes to Council districts should only effect future elections, not current seats," Smith said. "Those changes should also reflect the equality and fairness called for in our Constitution."



Register to VOTE in 2007 - NOW!