

October 26, 2016

MESSAGE TO THE KICKAPOO TRIBE

The Kickapoo Tribal members are being notified to register for voting on amending the tribe's constitution. The Tribe has amended the constitution one time since its adoption in 1937. The BIA is administering this activity as required by Federal Regulation. If you don't return the notice you will not be able to vote on the amendments.

These amendments are the product of the constitution committee which convened over 15 years ago. The present constitution is outdated and these changes will aid the tribe in carrying out governmental business in a more timely way.

The amendments will strengthen our sovereignty. The Bureau of Indian Affairs will not be required to approve the tribe's ordinances and laws. Most tribal governments eliminated this provision from their constitutions decades ago. This was a paternalistic provision of the BIA. Once these amendments are in place, the tribe will have its own power to change the constitution without the BIA approval.

These amendments do not change the provisions of enrollment. It eliminates the wording of being "of a marriage" as required for enrollment.

The amendments address tribal elections and eligibility standards. The Committee concluded a person should not be a convicted Felon to represent

our tribal government. Members will have to declare and run for officers of the tribe. Voter registration will be required by members who live away from the tribe and chose to vote by absentee ballot.

When you receive your proposed amendments in the mail and you don't understand the changes being voted on, feel free to contact the Tribe or other parties who can explain the issues of this election.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ramon B. C.", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.