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BC Resolution # 018-021726

“Approval Of The 2026 Election Ordinance”

WHEREAS: The Seneca-Cayuga Nation (“the Nation”) is a Federally recognized Indian Tribe organized under the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act of 1936, with a Constitution and By-Laws approved by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior on April 26, 1937, and ratified by a vote of the General Council of the Nation on May 15, 1937, **AND**

WHEREAS: The Business Committee is empowered in Article VI of the Constitution and By-Laws to transact business and otherwise speak or act on behalf of the Seneca Cayuga Nation in all matters in which the Nation is empowered to act, **AND**

WHEREAS: The Business Committee previously adopted an Election Ordinance governing the conduct of tribal elections on February 10, 2026, **AND**

WHEREAS: At a Special Business Committee Meeting held on February 17, 2026, the Business Committee rescinded Resolution 017-021026 Approval of the 2026 Election Ordinance, **AND**

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The Business Committee of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation hereby approves and adopts the newly revised Election Ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: All prior Election Ordinances and any provisions of ordinances in conflict with this Resolution are hereby rescinded and repealed.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing Resolution was passed during a meeting of the Business Committee of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation conducted on February 17, 2026 with a vote of 5 for, 1 against, 0 Abstain.

ATTEST: Signed by:
Melissa Morrison
0FE5091G35C54E1
Melissa Morrison, Secretary-Treasurer

DocuSigned by:
Charles Diebold
C3CFA653E5404EC
Charles Diebold, Chief

ELECTION ORDINANCE GOVERNING THE CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS

SENECA-CAYUGA NATION

ELECTION ORDINANCE GOVERNING THE CONDUCT OF THE ELECTION OF THE ELECTED OFFICIALS OF THE NATION

Regular Election of the Nation's elected officials shall be held pursuant to this Election Ordinance and shall be held at the annual meeting of the General Council conducted during the year of the scheduled election of the Nation officials. Vacancies in any elective office shall be filled pursuant to this Election Ordinance at any regular or special meeting of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation General Council.

AUTHORITY: Article VIII-Annual meetings, Constitution and By-Laws of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation.

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ELECTION ORDINANCE GOVERNING THE CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS

ARTICLE I - AUTHORITY

This Election Ordinance of the Nation is adopted by the Business Committee of the Nation pursuant to ARTICLE VI BUSINESS COMMITTEE AND ARTICLE VIII ANNUAL MEETINGS of the Constitution of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation, as amended April 14, 2023.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of this Ordinance is to establish rules, policies and voting procedures for the orderly election of the elected officials of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws, as amended April 14, 2023.

ARTICLE III - REPEALER

Any previous Election and Voting Ordinance or Election Ordinance is hereby repealed.

ARTICLE IV - EFFECTIVE DATE

This Election Ordinance shall be effective immediately and for the conduct of the regular election and special elections of elected officials of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation and shall continue in effect until rescinded by Resolution of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation Business Committee. No amendments to or replacement of this Ordinance shall occur within ninety (90) days of any scheduled election of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation.

ARTICLE V - SEVERABILITY

Should any part of this Ordinance be determined to be unconstitutional, then and in that event, the remainder of this Ordinance shall continue to be given full effect and shall survive such determination.

ARTICLE VI - APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

(a) ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP OF THE NATION of the Constitution, “The supreme governing body of the Nation shall be the Seneca-Cayuga General Council. The membership of the General Council shall be all members of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation eighteen (18) years of age and older.”

(b) ARTICLE V OFFICERS of the Constitution, “The Officers of the Nation shall be the Chief, Second Chief, Secretary-Treasurer, and four (4) Councilmen who shall be elected by secret ballot.”

(c) ARTICLE VI BUSINESS COMMITTEE of the Constitution, “There shall be a Business Committee which shall consist of the officers and councilmen as provided in Article V. The Business Committee shall have power to transact business and otherwise speak or act on behalf of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation in all matters on which the Nation is empowered to act.”

(d) ARTICLE VII STANDING COMMITTEES, of the Constitution, “Section 1. Grievance Committee. This Committee shall be elected by the Council and shall not include any members of the Business Committee.”

(e) ARTICLE VIII ANNUAL MEETINGS of the Constitution, “Annual meetings shall be held on the first Saturday of June of each year for the purpose of receiving reports and any other business which may come before the Council. Election of officers will also be held at such annual meetings. In order to provide for staggered terms of office, the Second-Chief, Secretary-Treasurer, Second Councilperson, and Fourth Councilperson shall be elected; and two years later, the Chief, First Councilperson and Third Councilperson shall be elected. All officers are elected for a four (4) year term of office and shall serve until the earlier of the installation of his/her duly elected successor or sixty (60) days after the expiration of the officer’s current

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four-year term. Regular elections of the Business Committee shall be held pursuant to a Nation election ordinance prescribed by the Business Committee.”

(f) ARTICLE IX VACANCIES of the Constitution, “Vacancies in any elective office shall be filled at any regular or special meeting of the Seneca-Cayuga Council.”

(g) ARTICLE X REMOVAL OF OFFICERS of the Constitution, “The Grievance Committee shall investigate complaints of misconduct or other acts of the members of the Business Committee and upon a proper showing shall call a special meeting of the Seneca-Cayuga Council to act upon such complaints. Such council shall have power, by majority vote, after giving the accused a hearing, to remove him from office and proceed to elect a successor.”

(h) ARTICLE I DUTIES OF OFFICERS of the By-Laws to the Constitution, “Section 1. Chief. It shall be the duty of the chief to preside at all meetings and perform all duties appertaining to the office, also to act as chairman of the Business Committee.”

(i) ARTICLE II QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFICERS, of the By-Laws to the Constitution, “Any person elected to membership in the business council shall be not less than 25 years of age, a member of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation and reside within a radius of 150 miles in any direction from Bassett Grove Stomp Grounds.”

(j) ARTICLE III Regular and Special Meetings of the By-Laws to the Constitution.

Section 1. Regular meetings of the Council shall be held on the first Saturday of June of each year at the Bassett Grove Ceremonial Grounds unless some other point under the Seneca-Cayuga Nation jurisdiction is specifically designated in the call.

Section 2. Special meetings of the Council may be called by the Chief and shall be called by him upon the written request of the majority of the Business Committee or the written request of One-hundred fifty (150) members of the Nation.

Section 3. The principal object of the special meeting must be stated in the call for same and may include the words “and for the transaction of other business that may be presented.” Unless these words are added, no other business can be transacted except for the object stated in the call.

ARTICLE VII- ELECTION COMMITTEE

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY

Pursuant to the authority contained within Article VI Business Committee of the Nation Constitution, the Seneca-Cayuga Nation Election Committee is hereby established, to uphold and enforce the provisions of the Election Ordinance.

(a) The Business Committee hereby delegates certain ministerial duties to perform on its behalf within this Ordinance to the Election Committee. The Election Committee shall be responsible:

(1) To provide the Election Notice developed in accordance with Article IX, Section 3 of this Ordinance.

(a) To cause the Election Notice developed in accordance with Article IX, Section 3 of this Ordinance to be published and posted as directed therein.

(2) To receive Declarations of Candidacy pursuant to Article IX, Section 4 of this Ordinance.

(3) To receive the Filing fees required pursuant to Article IX, Section 5 of this Ordinance.

(4) To Verify the Qualifications of Candidates with the Enrollment Officer pursuant to Article IX, Section 8 of this Ordinance.

(5) To post a List of Qualified Candidates on the Nation Website and at the Nation’s Headquarters Building pursuant to Article IX, Section 9 or 10 if necessary, of this Ordinance.

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(6) To post the unofficial certified election voting results in accordance with Article XI, Section 4 of this Ordinance.

Members of the Election Committee shall be available at the Polling Place at all times during the in person polling period.

SECTION 2. ELECTION COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

The Election Committee shall be appointed by the Business Committee.

- A. The Election Committee shall consist of five (5) individuals to serve in the following capacities:
 - a. Chairperson
 - b. Vice Chairperson
 - c. Secretary
 - d. First Committee Member
 - e. Second Committee Member

Furthermore, the Business Committee may add quorum member(s) any time the Election Committee fails to meet for lack of quorum or by request of the Election Committee. Such quorum member(s) shall serve in case a regular member is unable to perform due to illness, absence from the area, a conflict of interest, or upon the resignation or death of any member and shall only serve as a member until a quorum is established by a regular member.

The Election Committee shall at no time consist of any elected official of any duly elected committee or an immediate family member of the Business Committee. No Election Committee member shall be immediate family to any other Election Committee member. For the purposes of this Section immediate family member shall mean husband-wife, parent, offspring, or sibling and all persons who live in the same household related by blood or not.

An Election Committee member must resign his/her committee position upon officially filing for candidacy.

A. Oaths of Office: All persons appointed as Members of the Election Committee shall, before entering upon the duties of their offices, take an oath of office as prescribed by the Business Committee. Said oath shall be retained by the Secretary-Treasurer of the Business Committee.

B. Terms: The Election Committee members shall serve at the discretion of the Business Committee. An Election Committee member may be removed from office by a majority vote of the Business Committee and a replacement may be appointed. An Election Committee member may resign their position at any time upon giving notice to the Business Committee.

C. Costs: The cost of conducting a meeting of the Election Committee, including a stipend cost to cover travel costs of Committee members to attend the meeting, shall be paid from the Tribe's General Operations Account. The amount of any such stipend or necessary supplies shall be determined by and approved by the Business Committee.

SECTION 3. MEETINGS

A. Calling of Meeting: A meeting of the Election Committee shall be called by the Election Committee Chairperson providing notice to the other Committee members to address matters put before the Election Committee. All meetings shall be held at Nation headquarters or other places as directed by the Business Committee.

B. Quorum: A quorum shall consist of three (3) members of the Election Committee. No vote of the Election Committee shall be valid in the absence of a quorum.

SECTION 4. RECORDS

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The Election Committee shall maintain complete and accurate minutes of its meetings. A copy of these records shall be kept and maintained in a secure location and be filed with the Secretary-Treasurer's office within two days of the completion of an election or referendum vote.

SECTION 5. DUTIES OF ELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

A. Chairperson: Shall be the presiding member responsible for the overall activities of the Election Committee, including safekeeping of Committee records. Shall perform the duties and responsibilities assigned to uphold and enforce the Election Ordinance.

B. Vice Chairperson: In the absence of the Chairperson shall assume and perform the duties of the Chairperson. Shall perform the duties and responsibilities assigned to uphold and enforce the Election Ordinance including providing mail services.

C. Secretary: Shall record and maintain accurate minutes of meetings and a sign-in sheet for each meeting. Maintain all the records pertaining to the Election Committee and perform other duties including but not limited to receive/record, and prepare receipts of all fees received and keep an accurate account of receipts and all disbursements. Prepare purchase requests/payment requests for supplies and materials needed by the Committee and submit to the procurement specialist for approvals. Shall submit each meeting's sign-in sheet to the finance department payroll accountant for the payment of a stipend to each attendee. Shall perform the duties and responsibilities assigned to uphold and enforce the Election Ordinance.

D. First and Second Committee Members: Shall perform the duties and responsibilities assigned to uphold and enforce the Election Ordinance.

E. Quorum Member: Shall serve as member until a quorum is established by a regular or alternate member or shall serve as a member if required due to one or more of the Election Committee members being disqualified due to conflict of interest.

SECTION 6. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Members of the Election Committee and the Enrollment Officer are required to meet Conflict of Interest requirements immediately after the Certification of Candidates. Committee Members and/or Enrollment Officer are required to recuse themselves from the business of the Committee and Election in the event a conflict is determined. For the purposes of this Section, immediate family members shall mean, husband-wife, parent-offspring, or sibling and all persons who live in the same household related by blood or not. Each member of the Election Committee and the Enrollment Officer shall provide the Chairperson of the Election Committee with a list of their immediate family members and shall keep said list current at all times. In the event the Nation's Enrollment Officer is disqualified from participating in an Election, the Business Committee shall appoint an Official Designee to perform such duties as assigned to the Enrollment Officer as outlined in this Ordinance. The Nation's Secretary-Treasurer shall inform the Election Committee, in writing, if an Official Designee has been appointed.

ARTICLE VIII - CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS

SECTION 1. ENGAGEMENT OF ELECTRONIC BALLOTING COMPANY

By no later than the first Tuesday of January each year of a scheduled regular election of the Nation's officials or as soon as practicable prior to an election, the Business Committee, with the help of the Election Committee, shall engage the services of an Electronic Balloting Company as an independent contractor to conduct regular or special election(s) of Nation officials. The Election Committee shall perform the duties and powers cited herein and shall conduct the Nation's election(s) in compliance with this Ordinance, and the Constitution and By-Laws of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation.

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a. Election Committee agrees that no Business Committee or Election Committee members hold a financial interest in the software company used to run the election. Contractor agrees that no person who has a financial interest in Contractor is or shall be a candidate for an elected position of the Nation's Government, nor is or shall be related to an elected member of the Nation's Government, nor is or shall be related to a candidate for an elected position of the Nation's Government.

b. By no later than 90 days of a scheduled regular election of the Nation's Officials or as soon as practicable prior to an election, the Election Committee with the assistance of the Enrollment Department/Committee shall mail an Election Notice along with the Electronic Ballot Request Form.

The Eligible Voter List prepared by the Enrollment Officer shall be

The total number of all the members over the age of 18 on the date of election and a verified member of the nation. **The Enrollment Officer shall provide a copy of the Eligible Voter List to the Election Committee upon its completion which shall be used only for the purposes of carrying out each of the delegated responsibilities pursuant to this Election Ordinance. Said Eligible Voter List shall be held as confidential and not be shared with any other party, with the exception of the election contractor for purposes of sending communications to voters.**

1) The Election Committee shall see that every Qualified Candidate for office shall receive a copy of the Voter Mailing List at the time of filing for elective office. The Voter Mailing List thus provided, shall not contain the name of the member listed on the Voter List, but shall read "Tribal Member" and the mailing address of each member listed on the Voter List.

SECTION 2. REGULAR ELECTION.

In accordance with ARTICLE VIII of the Constitution of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation as amended April 14, 2023, annual meetings shall be held on the first Saturday of June of each year for the purpose of receiving reports and any other business which may come before the Council. Election of officers will also be held at such annual meetings. In order to provide for staggered terms of office, the Second - Chief, Secretary-Treasurer, Second Councilperson and Fourth Councilperson shall be elected; and two years later, the Chief, First Councilperson and Third Councilperson shall be elected. All officers are elected for a four (4) year term of office and shall serve until the earlier of the installation of his/her duly elected successor or sixty (60) days after the expiration of the officer's current four-year term. Regular elections of the Business Committee shall be held pursuant to a Nation election ordinance prescribed by the Business Committee and ratified by General Council.

1) Regular elections of the Business Committee, consisting of seven (7) members. In accordance with ARTICLE VIII of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation Constitution as amended April 14, 2023, the officers shall be elected for a four (4) year term of office and shall serve until the earlier of the installation of his/her duly elected successor or sixty (60) days after the expiration of the officer's current four-year term.

The current terms of the membership of the Business Committee are hereby established as follows:

CHIEF	TERM TO END JUNE 2028 AND EVERY 4 YEARS AFTER
2ND CHIEF	TERM TO END JUNE 6, 2026 AND EVERY 4 YEARS AFTER
SECRETARY/TREASURER	TERM TO END JUNE 6, 2026 AND EVERY 4 YEARS AFTER
FIRST COUNCILPERSON	TERM TO END JUNE 2028 AND EVERY 4 YEARS AFTER
SECOND COUNCIL PERSON	TERM TO END JUNE 2026 AND EVERY 4 YEARS AFTER
THIRD COUNCILPERSON	TERM TO END JUNE 2028 AND EVERY 4 YEARS AFTER
FOURTH COUNCIL PERSON	TERM TO END JUNE 2026 AND EVERY 4 YEARS AFTER

2) Regular elections of the Grievance Committee, consisting of five (5) members. In keeping with ARTICLE VII of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation Constitution, the officials of the Grievance Committee shall be elected by the council for a four (4) year term of office and shall serve until the earlier of the installation of his/her duly elected successor or sixty (60) days after the expiration of the officer's current four-year term.

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The current terms of the membership of the Grievance Committee are as follows:

FIRST COMMITTEE MEMBER	TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 1, 2028 AND EVERY 4 YEARS AFTER
SECOND COMMITTEE MEMBER	TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 6, 2026 AND EVERY 4 YEARS AFTER
THIRD COMMITTEE MEMBER	TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 1, 2028 AND EVERY 4 YEARS AFTER
FOURTH COMMITTEE MEMBER	TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 6, 2026 AND EVERY 4 YEARS AFTER
FIFTH COMMITTEE MEMBER	TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 1, 2028 AND EVERY 4 YEARS AFTER

The candidates for each position receiving the highest number of votes at each such election shall be elected to that position.

SECTION 3. SPECIAL ELECTION.

1) Filling of Vacancies. In accordance with ARTICLE IX Vacancies of the Constitution, Vacancies in any elective office shall be filled at any regular or special meeting of the Seneca-Cayuga Council. In the event that a vacancy in any elective office is to be filled at an annual meeting or special meeting of the General Council the election date of such candidate so elected to fill the remainder of an unexpired term, shall have no effect on the beginning or ending date of the term of any office. Vacancies may occur in the event of death, resignation, and removal from office pursuant to Grievance Ordinance.

2) In keeping with ARTICLE IX Vacancies of the Constitution, within Ten (10) business days from the date a vacancy occurs, either by death, resignation or removal from office, the remaining members shall issue a Declaration by resolution of the Business Committee that an elected position in the Business Committee or Grievance Committee is vacant due to death, resignation, or removal of an elected official, a Special Meeting of the General Council shall be called by the Chief for the purpose of the conduct of an election to fill the position(s) that have been declared as vacant by said Business Committee resolution no other business shall be conducted at such Special General Council meeting. The Special Election called by the Business Committee shall be conducted by the Election Committee no later than sixty (60) calendar days after the date of the resolution of the Business Committee and in accordance with this Election Ordinance. The Special Election Notice issued by the Election Committee shall specify the address and deadline for the filing of candidacy. The Special Election Notice shall also announce that the Special Election will be conducted at the Special Meeting of the General Council called for the conduct of the Special Election and shall be mailed to all members of the Nation eighteen years of age or older whose name is listed on the EligibleVoter List prepared by the Enrollment Officer on the date set for the Special Election and published no later than 45 days before the date set for the Special Election.

3) The special meeting of the General Council so called shall be held at the Nation’s Community Center Building located at the Bassett Grove Stomp Grounds 24805 South 660 Road, Grove, Oklahoma unless, some other point under the Seneca-Cayuga Nation jurisdiction is specifically designated in the call

ARTICLE IX - ELECTION PROCEDURES SECTION

SECTION 1. POLLING PLACE

The polling place shall be held at the Nation Community Building located at the Bassett Grove Stomp Grounds 24805 South 660 Road, Grove, Oklahoma for each Election, unless otherwise specified in the call for the Election. The Election Committee shall ensure that the Polling Place is staffed by at least two (2) polling officials at all times during the polling period.

SECTION 2. ELIGIBLE VOTERS AND VOTING

No later than 90 Days before the election, the election notice and electronic ballot packet request must be mailed to all eligible voters. In accordance with the constitution Article IV-Membership of the Nation, an eligible voter is any member of the nation that turns 18 years of age by the date of the Election. Electronic ballot packet request forms must be completed and returned to the Enrollment Officer Attention: Enrollment Officer, Post Office Box 453220, Grove, OK 74345 no later than 45 days before the election date.

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- A. Electronic Ballot Packets will be sent via email and shall include:
1. QR Code for voting with instructions for submitting ballot

The representative from the electronic balloting company shall update the voter list prepared by the enrollment committee to record the date the Electronic ballot requests were made, the date the Electronic ballot Packets were emailed, and the address the packets were emailed to. Any individual requesting an electronic ballot prior to the deadline and that for any reason was not emailed an Electronic ballot Packet shall be notified by return email of the reason(s) why and informed as to their eligibility to vote in person at the polling place on the Election Date. The Election Committee shall cause to have stamped the words "ELECTRONIC BALLOT PACKET ISSUED" in the signature space beside each voter's name contained on the Eligible Voter List that requested and was emailed an Electronic ballot Packet.

SECTION 3. ELECTION NOTICE

The Election Committee shall publish the Regular Election Notice no later than ninety (90) calendar days prior to the first Saturday of June, regular election.

The Election Notice shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- A. The date of the Election.
- B. Position(s), by Committee, to be elected, if any.
- C. The term of office of each position.
- D. The qualification for candidacy for each office being elected in the election.
- ~~E.~~ The location, calendar dates and times for the filing of Declarations of Candidacy period,
- F. The documentary evidence to prove the qualification of officials for candidacy and filing fee requirements for each office elected in the election.
- G. The Polling Place for the Election Day in accordance with Section 2 of this Article.
- H. The Election Notice shall also include the pertinent information regarding the Ballot Process.
- I. Shall notify the members of the Nation that in order to receive an electronic ballot voting packet, request must be received/postmarked 45 days before the election.

The Election Committee shall cause the Election Notice to be published in the Miami News Record, the Grove Sun newspaper, the Seneca-Cayuga Nation Special Edition Newsletter, the Seneca-Cayuga Nation Website, and the Seneca-Cayuga Nations official social media accounts. The Election Committee shall cause the Election Notice to be posted in such places as the Nation's Headquarters Building, the Nation's Community Center Building, the Nation's Human Resources Building, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Miami Agency Building.

SECTION 4. DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY - FILING PERIOD

The date for the filing of Declarations of Candidacy for the regular election of all elected positions to be elected on the first Saturday of June, shall be on a Friday and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. closest to (80) days before the Election Date. For Special Elections Candidacy Filing shall be on a Friday and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. closest to 45 days before the election date. Each qualified candidate for office shall be allowed to submit for publication in the newsletter a one-page biography and/or political platform letter. Qualified candidates may also submit a picture for publication. Candidates may submit a 200 character description to be included in the newsletter. During the filing period the Election Committee shall keep the candidate filings confidential.

SECTION 5. FILING FEE

There shall be a non-refundable filing fee of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) for all elected positions. Filing fees will be paid by cashier's check or money order only. The filing fee shall be paid on the same date the prospective candidate submits his/her declaration of candidacy. The filing fee shall be deposited into the Nation's Tribal Operations Account to defray the expenses incurred during the election. Upon submission

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of the Declaration of Candidacy and payment of the required filing fee, candidates shall not be allowed to file for a different elected position in the same election.

SECTION 6. QUALIFICATIONS OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

A. In keeping with Article II Qualifications of Officers, of the By-Laws to the Constitution of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation, a prospective candidate for elective office of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation must meet all of the requirements as follows:

- a. Shall be not less than 25 years of age,
- b. A member of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation and
- c. Reside within a radius of 150 miles in any direction from Bassett Grove Stomp grounds.

Any qualified member of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation who desires his/her name to be placed on the ballot as a candidate for office shall file a Declaration of Candidacy with the Election Committee at the Career Center Building #23721 interview room located at the Seneca-Cayuga Nation Headquarters Complex 23701 S. 655 Road Grove, Oklahoma in the form prescribed by the Election Committee. The Burden of Proof shall be on the candidate to present evidence that the candidate meets the qualifications of elected officials. Such required documentary evidence will consist of:

B. The Candidate's Seneca-Cayuga Nation Membership Card, a valid second government issued ID, and a copy of a current bill with the candidate's name on it, a notarized letter of residency signed by a neighbor or other resident, or another form of verification determined by the Election Committee. Addresses must match to verify address.

A. The Declaration of Candidacy must be filed in writing and in person with the Election Committee at the time and manner specified above. In the event that a Special Election is called by the Business Committee pursuant to ARTICLE VIII, Section 3 of this Ordinance, the election notice shall specify the address and deadline for filing. No person shall be a candidate for more than one (1) office at any time.

SECTION 7. VERIFICATION OF THE QUALIFICATIONS OF CANDIDATES

By no later than the end of the first business day following the close of the filing period set forth within Section 4 of this Article, the Election Committee shall meet with the Enrollment Officer to review all filings for the elected offices to verify that the prospective candidates meet the qualifications set forth in Section 6 of this Article. The Enrollment Officer shall attest to as if each prospective candidate for elective office of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation meets all of the requirements contained within Section 6 of this Article.

If the Enrollment Officer does attest that each prospective candidate for elective office of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation meets all of the requirements contained within Section 6 of this Article the Election Committee shall immediately cause to have posted a list of the qualified candidates on the Nation website and at the Nations Headquarters Building #23731. The Election Committee shall promptly notify the candidates by telephone, and or email.

If the Enrollment Officer cannot attest to the Election Committee that a prospective candidate meets all of the requirements contained within Section 6 of this Article, the Election Committee shall immediately notify that person via telephone and or email that they do not meet the requirements of candidacy.

SECTION 8. APPEAL OF ELECTION COMMITTEE DECISION

The Election Committee and/or Enrollment Officer's decision must be appealed to the Business Committee.

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Such must be done in writing by the disqualified candidate within one business day following the findings of the Election Committee. Within two (2) days upon receipt of a written appeal, the Business Committee shall hold an open hearing to consider the appeal. The hearing shall be conducted by a quorum of Business Committee members being present with prior notice to all parties and shall render a decision on the appeal by majority vote. The Business Committee may only consider the evidence provided by the prospective candidate at the time of the filing of the candidacy and any additional evidence requested by the Election Committee and which was returned to the Election Committee within the required time frame

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ARTICLE X – VOTING PROCEDURES

SECTION 1. ELECTRONIC TABULATORS AND/OR LAPTOP COMPUTERS

The Seneca-Cayuga Nation shall provide no less than 4 (4) tablets (IPads) at the polling place with sufficient access to internet to conduct the casting of electronic ballot votes at the polling place on the date of the election pursuant to ARTICLE IX SECTION 1. POLLING PLACE of this Ordinance.

SECTION 2. BALLOTS

A. Appearance of Candidate's Name: The name of any candidate for office shall be displayed on the official ballot as it appears on the Declaration for Candidacy form as filled out by the qualified candidate. Each qualified candidate shall not have any prefix, suffix or title placed before or after his/her name.

B. Unopposed Candidates: Any candidate who is unopposed in any election shall be deemed to have been elected, and his/her name will not appear on the ballot in any election in which he/she is so unopposed.

C. Order of Name on Ballots for Elections: On all election ballots, the names of the candidates for each office shall be listed in alphabetical order according to the candidate's last name.

SECTION 3. BALLOT PACKET VOTING PROCEDURES

There are two options for casting a vote during the election.

A. Electronic voting “local or in-person” at the polling place

- a. Membership card or copy (no other form of identification will be permitted for voting)
- b. Check-in at the polls per hours stipulated
- c. Follow instructions provided at polls or by the election committee

B. Electronic voting non-local

- a. Request an electronic ballot packet request via enrollment department
- b. Provide email address (for receiving electronic ballot packet)
 - i. The email address provided will receive the ballot. Voter is responsible for providing email address they wish to receive the ballot to vote
- c. Instructions for voting procedure will be detailed within email response provided voter
 - i. Membership information from membership card required
 - ii. Information entered during on-line voting process should be entered “exactly” as presented on membership card
 - iii. Only emailed address supplied to enrollment department is valid

A. Ballot Packet Instructions: All electronic ballot voters shall be notified that in order to Vote all ballots must be submitted during polling hours 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. on the “The Election Day”.

B. Records/Receipt of Ballot Packets: The Election Committee shall keep a record of the name of the voter, date, and address and when the ballot packets were emailed, in addition to the completed ballot counts and store such materials in accordance with the requirements for storage and preservation of ballots and information contained herein. Election Committee shall also record if an individual requested a ballot packet and record if individual was a voter or not. Beside each voter's name, Election Committee shall cause to have the words "BALLOT RECEIVED" beside each voter's name in which they voted.

E. Election Records: After each election, all election records shall be sealed and stored at Tribal Headquarters by the Election Committee in a secure location. No later than the following day after the election results are certified and posted, all materials used in the election shall be delivered to the Secretary-Treasurer and shall be maintained as a permanent record of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation.

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SECTION 4. POLLING PLACE INSTRUCTION TO VOTERS

Instructions to voters describing the manner for castings one's vote and a sample ballot shall be posted inside the polling place. Said instructions shall be prescribed by the Election Committee.

NO ELECTIONEERING OR LOITERING SHALL BE ALLOWED WITHIN FIVE-HUNDRED FEET OF POLLING PLACE PREMISES. This includes inside or outside the Polling Place premises, during such time as ballots are being counted. The Election Committee shall request security personnel for assistance as may be required to maintain order about the building during the hours of election. The Business Committee shall cause a misdemeanor complaint to be filed with the Court of Indian Offenses against any such violators (offenders) of this section.

SECTION 5. POLLING PLACE VOTING BOOTHS

The Election Committee shall cause at least four (4) voting booths to be provided at the polling place. Said booths shall contain a counter or shelf and shall be constructed in such a manner that personnel of the Election Committee can determine whether more than one person is in the booth, but in such a manner as to ensure secrecy by the voter in marking his/her ballot.

The following are exceptions to the rule that only one person is allowed in a voting booth:

Physically disabled persons may have assistance in completing the ballot.

Visually disabled persons may have assistance in completing the ballot.

Hearing impaired persons may have assistance in completing the ballot.

Intellectual Disability may have assistance in completing the ballot

Help will be provided by the election committee upon request.

SECTION 6. METHOD OF VOTING AT THE POLLING PLACE.

Voting procedures will consist of the following:

Secret Balloting. All voting shall be by secret ballot.

Casting Ballots. By the Voter:

The voter will state his/her name to the poll official.

The voter must show tribal identification to the poll official.

The voter's name shall be verified with the Elegible Voter List.

The voter shall be required to sign the space on the Elegible Voter List next to his/her printed name.

The voter shall then be given the necessary ballot by an election committee official, and instructed to go directly to a booth where a voting tablet has been provided, following the instructions on the ballot complete step 1 by scanning the QR code to register the ballot, proceed to step 2, scan the 2nd QR code to pull up list of candidates. Select candidate/s of choice. Complete process per the instructions on the ballot. In the event of questions or technical issues an election committee member or representative from the electronic balloting company will be available to assist. Once complete place the used ballot in the shredder.

Voters must cast their ballot at the time of receipt and shall not be allowed to complete the ballot at any other time.

Spoiled Ballots. If a voter spoils the ballot given to him/her by a polling official, the Election

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Committee shall provide procedures for spoiled ballots. The poll official will therefore issue a new ballot to the voter.

Closing of Polls. At the closing of the polls, all persons in line at the closing hour shall be given an opportunity to cast a ballot. No other voters will be allowed to join the line past the closing hour.

ARTICLE XI - COUNTING BALLOTS

SECTION 1. COUNTING VOTES

Once the election polling hours have expired, the representative from the electronic balloting company, along with the election committee, shall close the election process. Results will be shown, and the unofficial results will be presented to the election committee.

SECTION 2. TIE VOTES

In the event two (2) or more candidates tie for the same position, the Election Committee shall conduct a verification recount of the ballots cast in that election as provided in Section 1 of this Article.

Should there be a tie vote after the recount, a Special Election will be held for the run-off election for only candidates affected by the tie as soon as possible. Date shall be set by Business Committee (not more than 60 days from original Election Day).

SECTION 4. ELECTION CHALLENGE

- A. In the event that any candidate for Nation Office wishes to request a challenge of the voting results of an elected office position must file a written Request for Challenge with the Election Committee no later than 4:30 p.m., the Monday following the Regular Election or no later than 4:30P.M. on the first business day following a Special Election, legal holidays excluded.
- B. A non-refundable fee of Five Hundred dollars (\$500.00) shall be paid to a member of the Election Committee by certified check or money order made payable to the Seneca-Cayuga Nation for Challenge. The fee shall be paid on the same date the Request for Challenge is submitted and said filing fee shall be deposited into the Nation's Tribal Operations Account to defray the expenses incurred during the election. Challenge documentation shall be delivered to Election Committee dropbox in the lobby of the Admin Building of the Nation Headquarters
- C. The Petition for Challenge must set forth:
 - a. The Petitioner's name and address
 - b. The specific Election and/or position being challenged
 - c. The specific Article(s) and Section(s) of this Election and Voting Ordinance violated and the particular grounds for the Challenge
 - d. All evidence in support of the Challenge
- D. The election committee shall determine that the challenger was an eligible candidate during the Election.
 - a. The Election Committee shall determine the validity of the challenge within two days of receiving the challenge.
 - b. The Election Committee will vote to determine if the Challenge is valid by majority vote.
 - c. The Election Committee will determine corrective action.
 - d. The Election Committee's decision may be appealed to the Business Committee.
 - e. Business Committee must make a decision on the appeal no later than 5 days from the appeal.

SECTION 5. CERTIFICATION AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTION RESULTS

- A. If there are no tie votes or Challenge received, the Election Committee shall immediately post the unofficial election voting results at the Polling Place and on the front door of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation's Headquarters Office Building.

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- B. All unchallenged positions will be certified and sworn in the first Tuesday following the election.
- C. The Election Committee shall immediately post the unofficial election voting results at the Polling Place and on the front door of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation’s Headquarters Office Building and Seneca-Cayuga Nation Community Building
- D. The Election Committee shall certify and issue an Official Notice of election voting results. The certified results will be posted at the Seneca-Cayuga Nation’s Headquarters Office Building and Seneca-Cayuga Community Building.

ARTICLE XII – INSTALLATION OF ELECTED OFFICERS

SECTION 1. PROCEDURE

All duly elected officials of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation shall be sworn into office the Tuesday following the official certification of the election position results. The Election Committee Chairman or Vice Chairman will notify the candidates.

SECTION 2. OATH OF OFFICE

The oath of office shall be administered by the Chief and/or a Pot Hanger of the Nation.

ARTICLE XIII – CERTIFICATION OF ENACTMENT

This Election and Voting Ordinance was approved and enacted by the Business Committee of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation at a meeting of the Business Committee conducted on the 17th day of February 2026, with a vote of 5 For, 1 Against, and 0 Abstain.

DocuSigned by:

 Charles Diebold, Chief

ATTEST:
 Signed by:

 Melissa Morrison, Secretary-Treasurer