



SENECA-CAYUGA NATION

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE	Wednesd ay August 19, 2026	TIME PLACE	6 pm CT Zoom	FACILITATOR	Carrie Kneeland
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MEMBERS			
Roberta Smith	Present	Yvonne Perryman	Present
Carrie Kneeland	Present	Jo Lynn Gentry	Present
Kristi Blansett	Present		Curt Lawrence – Present via Zoom 3 members of the General Council

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
–	I. Call to Order II. Roll Call III Unfinished Business: Discuss proposed agenda items for a special meeting IV Announcements • Next Constitution meeting 08/31/2026 @ 6 pm (CT) • Adjournment	
Minutes Begin		

6:14 p.m. (CT)	Roberta called the meeting to Order Roll Call. All Committee members present The Committee began discussing possible agenda items for a Special Meeting. The Committee earlier agreed that Resolution 01-060708 should be rescinded. If and when it is rescinded, the Election Ordinance that would take effect is the one from 2004. The ordinance does not allow Absentee Voting. Two items for the Special Meeting should therefore include a resolution to rescind Resolution 01-060708 and a separate resolution to authorize absentee voting. A prior objection to absentee voting was the cost of printing and mailing ballots with very little return. This year, the Elections Committee initiated electronic voting. This method can be done at a greatly reduced cost as the link to the electronic ballot is sent via email to those who request to receive the link. A third agenda item would be to begin discussions of creating a process of vetting resolutions that will be proposed at the General Council meeting. Currently, any person can propose a resolution at the General Council meeting and the resolution can be voted on without any research or information as to how the resolution will be funded or what effect it may have on existing programs. The committees discussed the need for a revised election ordinance. A revised election ordinance may not be ready for a vote by the date of a Special Meeting but the issue can be on the agenda and if a revised election ordinance is not ready, it can be tabled and set off to the Annual meeting. There are no elections planned between now and June 2027 so there is no rush to enact a revised election ordinance. While discussing the clauses in R-01-060708, the Committee recognized that some of the concepts contained in the clauses are important. R-01-060708 includes this language: "The General Council is the Supreme Governing Body, has the power and ability to exercise its authority over the Business Committee. The Business Committee is subordinate to the General Council and the Business Committee cannot override or disregard General Council directives or Resolutions."	Jo Lynn Carrie
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	This language can be proposed as a stand-alone resolution and should be on the agenda for the Special Meeting. The committee decided to draft a summary and send it to the Chief for consideration as agenda items for the Special Meeting. Confirmation of next meeting on August 31, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m. (CT)	
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TIME	ITEM	OWNER
7:30 pm (CT)	Motion (Jo Lynn/Roberta) – to adjourn meeting - unanimous committee vote to adjourn	