

**Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska Constitution Committee**  
**Process for Constitutional Amendment**

(See other side for secretarial elections procedure.)

Special Meeting of the General Council, January 25, 2025

The only way to amend the IITKN Constitution is through an election carried out by the U.S. Department of the Interior, i.e., a “secretarial election.” Today’s meeting is only to determine which proposed amendments (if any) will be submitted to the Secretary of the Interior for secretarial election. (In other words, a vote of “yes” on any proposed amendments today is a vote for those proposed amendments to be part of the secretarial election—it is not a final vote on those proposed amendments. A vote of “not” today would mean the proposed amendment would not be part of the secretarial election.)

The Constitution Committee received feedback at the October 19, 2024, General Council meeting that IITKN members did not want to vote on the whole proposal as a single package, so the Committee has divided the proposed amendments into twelve (12) separate motions, each addressing a single topic (Motions 01-03) or part of the Constitution (Motions 04-12). Those motions will be made, discussed, and voted on in order, as set forth below.

1. **Constitution Committee Motion #01:** Proposed Amendments to Correct Typographical Errors and OCR Errors, and for Style
2. **Constitution Committee Motion #02:** Proposed Amendments to Achieve Gender-Neutral Language
3. **Constitution Committee Motion #03:** Proposed Amendments Deleting Most References to the Secretary of the Interior
4. **Constitution Committee Motion #04:** Proposed Amendments to the Preamble
5. **Constitution Committee Motion #05:** Proposed Amendments to Article II
6. **Constitution Committee Motion #06:** Proposed Amendments to Article IV
7. **Constitution Committee Motion #07:** Proposed Amendments to Article V
8. **Constitution Committee Motion #08:** Proposed Amendments to Article VI
9. **Constitution Committee Motion #09:** Proposed Amendments to Article IX
10. **Constitution Committee Motion #10:** Proposed Amendments to Article XI
11. **Constitution Committee Motion #11:** Proposed Amendments to Article XV
12. **Constitution Committee Motion #12:** Proposed New Article XVII

After each of these motions has been discussed and voted on in turn, the Constitution Committee will propose on final motion that would consolidate all approved motions (but not and of the defeated motions) into a single proposal for the secretarial election.

13. **Constitution Committee Motion #13:** Consolidation of Approved Motions

After the consolidation motion is either approved or defeated, the Constitution Committee will have concluded its business and will move to adjourn the Special Meeting of the General Council.

*See other side for secretarial elections procedure.*

**Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska Constitution Committee**  
**Process for Secretarial Election**

(See other side for Special Meeting of General Council, January 25, 2025.)

Secretarial elections to Approve or Defeat Proposed Amendments to Tribal Constitutions

The Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska is one of many Tribes that uses the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to conduct elections that would amend the Tribe's Constitution. Such elections are referred to as "secretarial elections," and generally proceed as follows:

1. The Executive Committee, on behalf of the General Council, will submit to the Secretary of the Interior:
  - a. A formal request ("resolution, ordinance, or other appropriate tribal document") requesting the secretarial election;
  - b. The document or amended language to be voted on; and
  - c. A list of eligible voters (ITKN members age 18 and above) in the secretarial election
2. The Secretary of the Interior delegates to local and/or national Department of the Interior employees to run the election, which is supposed to take place with 180 days of receiving the request.
3. A Secretarial Election Board will be created, with a local BIA employee (selected by the BIA) as its Chair, and two additional members (selected by the Tribe).
4. The Secretarial Election Board will set an election date
5. The Secretarial Election Board will, between 30 and 60 days before the election date, mail to all eligible voters listed in 1.c (above) a Secretarial Election Notice Packet, which includes (1) the election notice, (2) a registration form with instructions for registration, (3) an addressed envelope in which to return the completed registration form, (4) a copy of the proposed amendments, and (5) a side-by-side comparison showing the current language to be changed.
6. Eligible voters who wish to vote in the secretarial election return their voter registration forms to the Secretarial Election Board by U.S. Mail.
7. The Secretarial Election Board will mail to all registered voters a Ballot Packet, which includes (1) a cover letter listing the contents of the packet, (2) a ballot, (3) instructions for voting the ballot, (4) an inner envelope in which to safely submit the ballot, (5) a copy of the proposed amendment(s), and (6) a pre-addressed envelope into which the registered voter should deposit the inner envelope (containing their ballot) and which the registered voter must sign.
8. Ballots are counted under the supervision of the Secretarial Election Board after the deadline for receiving ballots has closed. For a proposed amendment to pass, (1) at least 30% of registered voters must vote, and (2) a majority of votes must favor the amendment.
9. The Secretarial Election Board certifies the election.
10. The Secretarial Election Board publicizes the results of the secretarial election by posting the results at the local BIA office, at the ITKN's headquarters, and (optional) on the Tribe's website.

Amendments take effect only upon certification and publication of a successful election.