



# Kanza News

July 2024



## Letter From the Chair

Summer is here! We have had some nice cool rainy days that have the grass growing and the flowers blooming! With the hot weather moving in, don't forget to check on your elders and family members!

The 48th annual Kaw Powwow is upon us, and everyone is busy doing their part to get things ready. We couldn't do it without the Powwow Committee, Maintenance team, Land Management team, and all the volunteers that have helped along the way to get things done. I hope to see many of you make it out to enjoy the food, songs, dance, fellowship and family. These are all a big part of our powwows.



We have been busy here at Kaw Nation with all the updates being made around our properties. Our Union Street building is in the beginning stages of the remodel. The bank building in Braman should be completed by the end of August. Once completed, the Kaw Nation Gaming Commission will have a new space to call home. The fuel tanks have been removed from the OneStop property. It will be used for office space for a few departments until the Union Street building is completed (which is scheduled to be finished in January 2025). Once completed, the Tribal Council has discussed turning the OneStop into a Laundry mat and distribution Center (food, plants, supplies). Tribal Council has also been looking into turning the RV park area that was purchased and developing it into our Greenhouse location. A newly remodeled overhead entry sign is the latest upgrade to the Washunga cemetery. The remodeled sign has widened the entry into the Cemetery, making it easier for vehicles to enter and exit, while also beautifying the Cemetery. There are lots of projects going on and hope to have some before and after pictures placed onto the website, and in the next newsletter.

Kaw Nation Election is right around the corner! Make a difference and get out and VOTE!!! Not only in our Kaw Nation Election but all the other elections happening! Remember that your vote DOES count! Wishing you & all our Kaw families a safe, healthy summer!

Wíblaha<sup>n</sup>

*Kim Jenkins, Kaw Nation Chair*

## NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2024 SCHOOL CLOTHING PROGRAM

The Kaw Nation Social Service Department is excited to announce the 2024 School Clothing Program. This Program is designed to provide financial support to Kaw Youth who are currently enrolled students and working to receive their education. Eligible Kaw Nation Citizens, from Pre-K through 12th grade will receive one-time cash assistance loaded onto a gift card. Expenses must be used to purchase school clothing for youth Tribal citizens. As of 2023, the Kaw Nation Social Services department has expanded the program to reach all Kaw Tribal Youth nationwide.

Qualified applicants aged eighteen (18) may apply on their own behalf but must provide all necessary documentation. Otherwise, an adult must submit the application on behalf of the Kaw Nation youth aged seventeen (17) or younger. One application must be submitted per Tribal youth. Payments will be processed approximately 30 days after verification of an approved application. Applications must be mailed and postmarked on or before September 15th, 2024.

Applications are available at [KawNation.gov](http://KawNation.gov)  
For additional questions, please call: (580) 269-1186



### ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE MAILED IN:

We cannot accept any applications that are e-mailed or handed in. All qualified applications must be processed through the United States Postal Service.



# KAW NATION INDUSTRIES

## EMPOWERING ECONOMIC GROWTH

### TRIBAL CORPORATIONS AT A GLANCE:

Tribal corporations have emerged as powerful economic engines for Native American tribes, providing a structured approach to business development and economic self-sufficiency. These entities trace their origins to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, which aimed to empower tribes with modern business tools. Tribal corporations offer several strategic benefits to federally recognized tribes:

- 1. Separation of business and government: They allow tribes to keep economic activities distinct from governmental functions.*
- 2. Limited liability: Tribal assets are protected from business liabilities.*
- 3. Tax advantages: Many tribal corporations enjoy tax-exempt status.*
- 4. Sovereign immunity: In some cases, tribal corporations may benefit from sovereign immunity protections.*
- 5. Access to federal contracting opportunities: Particularly through programs like the SBA's 8(a) Business Development Program.*

Oklahoma tribes have achieved significant success through tribal corporations. For instance, the Cherokee Nation Businesses (CNB) has an annual economic impact of \$2.16 billion in northeast Oklahoma. The Chickasaw Nation's diverse portfolio of businesses, including gaming, hospitality, and manufacturing, has contributed substantially to the tribe's economic growth and community development.

### KAW NATION INDUSTRIES IS FORMED:

Kaw Nation, acknowledging the potential of tribal corporations, has recently established Kaw Nation Industries (KNI). This tribally chartered corporation, based in Oklahoma, is funded entirely by the Kaw Nation, its sole stakeholder. The formation of KNI has been a lengthy process, involving the crucial step of gaining recognition as a tribal corporate charter by the federal government. Led by Chair Sarah Yanez, KNI is focused on business acquisition, government contracting, and investing in strategic business partnerships.

The KNI board members recognize the importance of foundational steps and have advanced with calculated and strategic progress accordingly. In a significant move, KNI has brought on investment manager Troy Clay, whose impressive resume includes his role as the founding CEO of Mno Bmadson, the non-gaming investment arm of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi out of Southern Michigan. During Troy's tenure, Mno Bmadson experienced remarkable growth, with its investment portfolio expanding to include more than \$140 million in combined annual revenues and a thriving federal contracting operation. Mr. Clay is excited to bring his wealth of knowledge and experience to the benefit of KNI and is incredibly happy to join the team during these pivotal early stages.

Although still in its relative infancy, Kaw Nation Industries has already made significant strides in establishing itself as a reputable extension of Kaw Nation. Their branding efforts have garnered attention from potential partners across various industries. KNI's initial focus on the power and safety industries has led to promising progress towards forming strategic partnerships in these sectors. KNI's ability to make quick decisions, its versatility, and the trust it carries as a tribal entity make it an attractive partner for both operations and acquisitions. These qualities position KNI as a desirable collaborator for businesses of all kinds, opening up numerous opportunities for growth and mutual benefit.

As KNI continues to develop and expand its operations, it stands poised to become a significant economic driver for Kaw Nation, following in the footsteps of successful tribal corporations across Oklahoma and the broader United States. The combination of experienced leadership, strategic focus, and the inherent advantages of tribal corporations sets KNI on a promising path for future success and economic impact.



## KAW NATION INDUSTRIES BOARD MEMBERS



Sarah Yanez  
Chair



Kenny Wheeler  
Vice Chair



Brian Wall  
Secretary



Eric Trevan, PhD  
Board Member



Radford Bredling  
Board Member



James Pepper-Henry  
Tribal Council Liaison



48TH ANNUAL

# KAW NATION POWWOW

HEAD STAFF

MASTER OF CEREMONIES LEROY ENLOE | HEAD SINGER KINSEL LIEB | HEAD MAN DANCER KAMDEN JONES  
HEAD LADY DANCER STORM BRAVE | HOST GOURD GROUP TBA | ARENA DIRECTOR PETE BUFFALOHEAD  
WATER BOYS AUSTIN WOOD & DAMIEN LITTLEDEER, JR.  
OUTGOING PRINCESS MIAH PARKER | INCOMING PRINCESS BRANDY WOOD

### FRIDAY

REGISTRATION 6-7:30PM  
PRINCESS CORONATION  
FLAG CEREMONY 7pm  
GRAND ENTRY 7:30 PM  
TINY TOTS  
JR. AND TEEN DIVISION  
CONTESTS

### SATURDAY

YOUTH ACTIVITES 9AM  
GOURD DANCE 2PM  
SPECIALS  
SUPPER 5PM  
REGISTRATION 6-7:30PM  
FLAG CEREMONY 7PM  
GRAND ENTRY 7:30 PM  
WOMEN'S DIVISION CONTESTS

### SUNDAY

GOURD DANCE 2PM  
SPECIALS  
BREAK 5PM  
FLAG CEREMONY 7PM  
GRAND ENTRY 7:30 PM  
MEN'S DIVISION CONTESTS

## CONTEST CATEGORIES

MEN AND WOMEN GOLDEN AGE 55 AND OLDER | SR MEN AGES 19-54: STRAIGHT, TRADITIONAL, GRASS AND FANCY  
SR WOMEN AGES 19-54: CLOTH, BUCKSKIN, FANCY AND JINGLE | TEEN BOY AGES 13-18: STRAIGHT, TRADITIONAL, GRASS AND FANCY  
TEEN GIRLS AGES 13-18: CLOTH, BUCKSKIN, FANCY AND JINGLE | JUNIOR BOY AGES 7-12: STRAIGHT, TRADITIONAL, GRASS AND FANCY  
JUNIOR GIRL AGES 7-12: CLOTH, BUCKSKIN, FANCY AND JINGLE | TINY TOTS 6 AND UNDER: FRIDAY NIGHT

ALL CONTESTANTS MUST REGISTER IN ONLY ONE CATEGORY, BE IN TWO GRAND ENTRIES AND WEARING  
NUMBER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR PRIZES. TINY TOTS NEED NOT REGISTER  
PRIZE MONEY WILL BE AWARDED ON SUNDAY  
CONTEST WINNERS MUST BE DRESSED IN FULL REGALIA TO RECEIVE PRIZE MONEY

### VETERANS MEAL

AUGUST 2ND - 12:00PM  
POWWOW GROUNDS

### MOURNERS MEAL

JULY 28TH - 10:00AM  
TITLE IV BUILDING

ALL SPECIALS ARE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AFTERNOON ONLY.  
CONTACT TAMARA BYERS 405-880-1505 TO SCHEDULE.

FOOD CONCESSIONS, ARTS, AND CRAFTS SPACE AVAILABLE.  
CONTACT TAMARA BYERS 405-880-1505 TO SCHEDULE.

NO DRUGS OR ALCOHOL ALLOWED ON GROUNDS.  
KAW NATION IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THEFTS, ACCIDENTS, OR  
INJURIES. ALL PERSONS ON SITE ARE SUBJECT TO  
THE LAWS OF THE KAW NATION.

# AUGUST 2ND-4TH, 2024

12613 EAST FURGUSON ROAD KAW CITY, OK

# Kaá'ze Íe 2024 Youth Language Powwow

The 8th Annual Kaw Nation Youth Language Powwow took place on May 18, 2024, at the Kaw Nation Powwow Grounds. The celebration continues to draw dancers and spectators from far and wide, further cementing its presence as a remarkable annual powwow within the greater Kay County community.

The event was sponsored by Kaw Nation's Rock & Brews Casino with all proceeds benefiting the Kaw Nation "Kaá'ze Íe" Language Department. This powwow plays a significant role in supporting the department's efforts to preserve and promote the Kaw language for future generations.

What sets this powwow apart is its focus on youth involvement. The Head Staff consisted primarily of young participants, including members of Team Tajé Sage, who compete annually at the Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair. This emphasis on youth leadership provides an invaluable opportunity for young people to learn about the workings and importance of powwows, ensuring the continuation of these cultural traditions.

Kaw Nation, Kaá'ze Íe Language Program, and Team Tajé Sage were deeply moved by the overwhelming and growing community support for the Youth Language Powwow. The event's success reflected the collective commitment to preserving Kaw culture and language. The enthusiastic participation of dancers, spectators, and supporters from across Kansas and Oklahoma demonstrated the powwow's significance in fostering cultural pride and intergenerational connections. This remarkable show of solidarity not only honored the Kaw Nation's rich heritage but also reinforced the

importance of nurturing indigenous languages and traditions for future generations.



## Contest Winners

### Girls 13-18

- 1st Place: **Madison Bighorse**
- 2nd Place: **Tatiana Barcindebar**
- 3rd Place: **Mash-ta Littlecook**

### Boys 13-18

- 1st Place: **Alec Kent**
- 2nd Place: **Aiden Jones**
- 3rd Place: **Isaac Williams**

### Girls 7-12

- 1st Place: **Audriana Barcindebar**
- 2nd Place: **Ki Murray**
- 3rd Place: **Irene Spotted Bear**

### Boys 7-12

- 1st Place: **Jim Warren**
- 2nd Place: **Ralf Keene**
- 3rd Place: **Damien Littledeer**



# KAW NATION DEPARTMENTS COME TOGETHER FOR EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAY



Kaw Nation celebrated Employee Appreciation Day on June 28, 2024, at the newly renovated J.R. McCauley Gymnasium. This special event was designed to recognize and honor the dedicated employees who are essential to the tribe's day-to-day operations and community services.

The day was filled with fun activities and games, bringing together employees from various tribal departments and enterprises. Participants enjoyed a variety of relay races, including the popular Red Solo Cup Relay (also known as Flip Cup), Sweatshirt Relay, and Three-Legged Race. For those seeking a more relaxed competition, cornhole was also available.

An amazing buffet-style bbq feast was also provided, featuring pulled pork sandwiches, hot dogs, and an assortment of sides, including the crowd-favorite homemade mac & cheese.

The highlight of the day was the recognition of four incredibly valued employees for their long-standing contributions to the Kaw Nation:

- Ladoma Bryan: Title VI Director - 35 years of service
- Dona Ball: Janitor Lead, - 30 years of service
- Cheryl Craig: Self Governance/Trust - 25 years of service
- Lisa Allton - 25 years of service (Not Pictured)

These recognitions underscored the importance of the Kaw Nation workforce, which is known for its strength and dedication, making it a desirable and sought-after place of employment. By celebrating Employee Appreciation Day, the Kaw Nation not only showed gratitude to its employees but also reinforced the sense of community and mutual respect that is vital for the tribe's continued success.



## NEW HIRES

### Welcome to the Kaw Nation Workforce!

- Allison Arechiga - Dental Receptionist; 5/6/2024
- Audrey Burruss - Multi-Purpose Aid; 5/13/2024
- Heath Cottle - Tribal Youth Program Coordinator; 5/20/2024
- Dixie Colquhoun - Dental Assistant; 5/20/2024
- Paula Wynn - Childcare Admin. Asst.; 6/10/2024
- Kiser Barnes - Land Management Specialist; 6/3/2024
- Logan Yardley - EPA Summer Intern; 6/3/2024
- Brandy Wood - Kaw Language Teacher Asst.; 6/10/2024
- Layne Johnstone - School Age Teacher; 6/24/2024
- Sarah Grayson - Admin. Receptionist; 6/17/2024
- Raye Brown - Childcare Office Manager; 7/1/2024
- Angelica Castro - School Age Teacher; 7/1/2024
- Keeya Collins - Shelter Advocate; 7/8/2024
- Macee Robinson - Floater; 7/8/2024
- Anthony Kasgnoc - KHDD Intake Specialist; 7/15/2024
- Baylee Broughton - JOM Specialist; 7/29/2024

# KAW HOUSING BEGINS CONSTRUCTION ON NEW SERVICE CENTER

On May 20th, Kaw Housing Authority celebrated a significant milestone with a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Kaw Housing Service Center. The event brought together the Housing Board and Tribal Council to officially mark the beginning of construction on this important facility.

The new Service Center represents a major upgrade for the Kaw Housing Authority, offering an improved and expanded location to serve Tribal Citizens. It will house the Authority's home offices and provide a more spacious environment compared to the current offices, enhancing the organization's ability to assist community members with housing opportunities and related resources.



The new location is yet another stride for the Kaw Housing Authority's ongoing efforts to enhance its services and support for the community. Established in 1977, the Authority has a long history of providing affordable and adequate housing to low-income Native Americans in its jurisdictional area, which includes Newkirk, Kaw City, Ponca City, Blackwell, and Braman.



This project is the result of an impressive collaboration between various public and private sector entities. Key partners involved include the Department of Housing & Urban Development, the Army Corps of Engineers, Copper Bear Consulting, HP Engineering, ADG Blatt, P.C., and Redhawk Construction. This collective effort marks a significant step forward in supporting the community's needs.

As the Kaw Nation looks forward to the completion of this new Service Center, it also anticipates additional projects on the horizon as part of a continued commitment to growth and improvement in serving the housing needs of Tribal members.

Tribal council and housing board members break ground at the site of the new Service Center. A mockup showing the finished project stands on-site with current office location in the background.

## FAMILY TRAUMA HEALING CENTER HOSTS AWARENESS WALK



On May 29th, the Kaw Nation Family Trauma Healing Center and Kaw Nation Emergency Shelter hosted a Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) Awareness Walk. This gathering brought together community members, activists, and allies to raise awareness and seek justice for the countless indigenous relatives who have gone missing or been murdered. The event served as a crucial platform to address the systemic issues contributing to these tragedies within indigenous communities. Participants walked in solidarity, honoring the lives of those lost or missing, supporting their families, and advocating for meaningful change to prevent further violence and ensure a safer future for Indigenous women and girls. An impressive turnout highlighted the urgency of the issue. The Family Trauma Healing Center and Emergency Shelter expressed their honor in being part of such an important statement. This awareness walk aligns with the broader mission of the Kaw Nation Family Trauma Healing Center, which aims to empower trauma survivors and families through support, cultural healing, and community awareness. By organizing events like the MMIR walk, the department continues its work in breaking cycles of trauma and violence within the community.



# KAW NATION WELCOMES SACRED ROCK TO ALLEGAWAHO PARK

On Saturday, June 22nd, Allegawaho Memorial Heritage Park in Council Grove, Kansas, became the site of a historic homecoming as hundreds gathered for the *Ín'zhúje'waxóbe* Rematriation Celebration. This event marked the return of *Ín'zhúje'waxóbe*, also known as the Sacred Red Rock, to its rightful home on Kaw Nation land.

The Sacred Red Rock holds deep spiritual and cultural significance for the Kanza People. Originally located at the junction of Shunganunga Creek and the Kansas River



near present-day Tecumseh, Kansas, the red Sioux quartzite boulder was moved to Lawrence in 1929 and placed in Robinson Park without the consultation of the Kanza people.

The journey to bring *Ín'zhúje'waxóbe* back home began in 2020 when Kaw Nation citizens voted to request that Lawrence return the rock. The City of Lawrence agreed, and the project to move the rock to Allegawaho Memorial Heritage Park, on land near Council Grove that the tribe regained in the early 2000s, was set in motion.

Funding for the return of the Sacred Red Rock was provided through a \$5 million grant from the Mellon Foundation, as part of the Monuments Initiative. This grant facilitated the collaboration among representatives from the Kaw Nation, the Kanza Heritage Society, Lawrence city government, the University of Kansas, and other organizations to carry out the process.

Allegawaho Memorial Heritage Park, the site of the last Kaw Indian Village in Kansas before the tribe's forced removal to Oklahoma in 1873, now serves as the final resting place for *Ín'zhúje'waxóbe*. This historic location is a testament to the resilience and enduring spirit of the Kaw people.

The Rematriation Celebration was a powerful recognition of the significance of bringing the Sacred Red Rock back to its rightful home. The event underscored the importance of mending historical wrongs and fostering better relationships with Indigenous communities. As the Kaw Nation continues to honor and preserve their cultural heritage, the return of *Ín'zhúje'waxóbe* stands as a symbol of hope and renewal for future generations.





# 2024 WASHUNGA DAYS POWWOW

The 2024 Washunga Days Powwow, held on June 21st and 22nd at Allegawaho Park in Council Grove, Kansas, was particularly special as it coincided with the Sacred

Red Rock Rematriation Celebration, marking a significant moment in the ongoing journey of cultural revival and remembrance.

The success of the 2024 Washunga Days Powwow would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of the Head Staff and the powwow committee. Their hard work and commitment ensured that the event ran smoothly and that all attendees felt welcomed and engaged. Special recognition is also due to the generous sponsors who supported the event, including Friends of Kaw Heritage, the City of Council Grove, and Area Foundations. Their contributions played a crucial role in making this cultural celebration a reality, demonstrating the importance of community support in preserving and promoting Indigenous traditions.

As the dust settled on this year's festivities, the memories and connections forged during the 2024 Washunga Days Powwow will linger in the hearts of many. This event not only celebrated the rich culture of the Kaw Nation but also served as a reminder of the ongoing journey toward cultural reclamation and re-established presence in Kansas.



## CONTEST WINNERS

### JUNIOR BOYS STRAIGHT



1st - Keifer Standsblack (Tonkawa)  
2nd - Damien Littledeer (Kaw/Otoe)

### JUNIOR BOYS TRADITIONAL & GRASS



1st - Jordan Faulk (Potawatomi/Kickapoo)  
2nd - Leonidas Faulk (Potawatomi/Kickapoo)

### JUNIOR GIRLS CLOTH + BUCKSKIN (combined)



1st - Laney Lefthand (Tonkawa)  
2nd - Miyah Littlecook (Ponca)  
3rd - Ana Eckstein (Kaw)

### JUNIOR GIRLS FANCY SHAWL & JINGLE



1st - Catalina Mejia-Esparza (Sac & Fox/Kickapoo/Sioux)  
2nd - Sophiah Parker (Kaw)  
3rd - Lillian McCartney (Kaw/Sioux)

### GOLDEN AGE WOMEN



1st - Caren Pepper (Kaw)

### SENIOR WOMEN FANCY SHAWL & JINGLE



1st - Victoria Lafean (Ojibwe)

### SENIOR WOMEN CLOTH + BUCKSKIN (combined)



1st Storm Brave (Kaw/Osage)  
2nd - Brittany Dias (Kaw)  
3rd - Amanda Proctor (Osage)

### SENIOR MEN STRAIGHT



1st - Jason Murray (Kaw)  
2nd - Jason Choate (Kaw/Choctaw/Caddo/Otoe)  
3rd - Jordan Jones (Cherokee)

### SENIOR MEN GRASS & FANCY



1st - Graycloud Lieb (Ponca)  
2nd - Knowee Potts (Prairie Band Potawatomi)  
3rd - Jordan Martin (Tonkawa)

### GOLDEN AGE MEN



1st - Galen Springer (Otoe/Iowa/Omaha)  
2nd - Tom Ziegler (Lakota Sioux)  
3rd - Shannon LeRoy (Ponca)



## Samantha Goodno - Tribal Council Seat #2

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Samantha Goodno, and I am excited to formally announce my candidacy for Seat 2 in the upcoming elections for the Kaw Nation Tribal Council.

As a dedicated member of our Kaw Nation, I have had the privilege of serving our community in various capacities over the years, including roles at the Kanza Wellness Center, Southwind Casino, and the Tribal Youth Program. Most recently, I have been involved with the Kanza Health Clinic and currently serve on the Kanza Health Advisory Board since February 2023.

A bit about myself: I am a proud mother of two young boys, Hunter (7) and Holton (4), and happily married to Ty Goodno. I completed my Associates degree at Northern Oklahoma College in 2012, followed by a Bachelor's degree in 2014 and a Master's degree in Counseling Psychology in 2016 from Northwestern Oklahoma State University.

I am running for Tribal Council Seat 2 with a commitment to fostering tribal member engagement, promoting economic growth, and ensuring unbiased decision-making. My platform focuses on strengthening communication between the Tribal Council and our members, supporting sustainable economic opportunities for all, and advocating for the needs of every tribal member.

I would be honored to discuss my candidacy further with you and address any questions or concerns you may have. Thank you for considering my candidacy, and I look forward to earning your support in the upcoming elections.

*Best Wishes,  
Samantha Goodno*

## Charles Pontious - Tribal Council Vice Chair

I am Charles Pontious. Age 61. Married for 38 years. I have a son and daughter. 4 grandchildren. Currently I reside in McPherson, Ks. I plan to relocate back to Kaw City area within the next couple of years. I attended Kansas State University where I studied accounting.

After college I worked for the Manville Sales Corporation, Conklin Automotive group and Copart Auto Auctions. I held positions as sales, finance and general manager. I served a short time on the KGI board and currently am a part-time gaming commissioner. I also am currently chairman of the housing board. I have tried to get involved with as many boards as possible in order to gain a better understanding of the system as a whole. I also have attended all but 1 of the current chairpersons Saturday morning tribal council meetings and 9 of the last 12 previous chairpersons tribal council meetings. I believe I can better serve on the council if I have a better understanding of how the meetings work as well as the people involved. Given the chance to serve, I would support our current council and work with everyone in order to increase our tribal involvement on every level. I look forward to that opportunity.

## Robert Allen - Tribal Council Vice Chair

My name is Robert Allen and I am Running for Kaw Nation Tribal Council Vice Chair. As a tribal elder, I bring many years of experience and insight to this position. I will work to expand and diversify our businesses, offering our people jobs and sustainability. Additionally, it is my plan to identify and, secure federal grants to increase our tribal programs and services. A high priority is to provide better health care and living assistance to our tribal elders and those in need. I will work with other Tribal Council members to ensure that we make the best decisions for ALL the Kaw people, and not for personal gain. I am a veteran of the United States Marines and I recently retired from the construction industry. My grandparents were William Bellmard and Cecelia LeClair, and my parents were Hobart Allen and Evelyn Bellmard. A member of the Ponca Clan, I actively participate in our Kaw tribal dances and ceremonies as a Traditional Straight Dancer. A former boxer, I coach boxing to youth at a gym in Winfield, Kansas in my spare time.

I appreciate your vote on September 8 and I will do my very best to serve our Kaw people on the Tribal Council. You may request an absentee ballot if you are unable to vote in person. You can request an absentee ballot at: Kaw Nation Election Board, P.O. Box 48, Kaw City OK 74641 or email at [electionboard@kawnation.gov](mailto:electionboard@kawnation.gov). You may also request an absentee ballot by fax at: (580) 269-6060. All absentee ballot requests must be received by August 8, 2024. Thank you for your support!

## Desiree Storm Brave - Tribal Council Seat #4

Hawé Kaá'ze Níkashí'ga,  
Ms. Desiree Storm Brave is Kaá'ze, Wazhazhe, Citizen Potawatomi, and Cherokee. Her maternal grandparents are the late Elmer and Naomi Clark, Kaá'ze and Citizen Band Potawatomi, respectively. Her mother is Little Carol Clark, Kaá'ze/Citizen Potawatomi; her father is David Brave, Osage/Cherokee. Ms. Brave resides in Kaw City, Oklahoma with her two daughters Maudie May and Tiger Vera Jones, her son Maxwell Brave, and her companion, Laken McConnell.

Ms. Brave was raised by her Kaá'ze mother and was fortunate enough to grow up immersed in our Kaá'ze traditions, culture, and language. Ms. Brave is in her tenth year as Kaá'ze Íe Director and she is proud of the program and its success. The Kaá'ze Language has recently entered Newkirk and Shidler schools and this is a huge step in the right direction in order to revitalize our language for new generations. She is twenty-nine and is more than ready to learn new responsibilities and higher her education amongst her Kaá'ze Níkashí'ga in a leadership position.

**"I am here to look after the rights of my people and protect them."**

*-Lucy Tayiah Eads, first woman chief of the Kaá'ze Níkashí'ga*

# Kaw Nation 2024 Notice of Election

## ELECTION DATE

**September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

The Election Board of the  
Kaw Nation

P.O. Box 48

Kaw City, OK 74641

## Election Day

September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## Polling Place

Kaw Nation  
Administration Building,  
Kaw City, OK

## Candidate Filing Date

March 18<sup>th</sup> – March 22<sup>nd</sup>  
8:00 AM – 4:00 PM at  
Kaw Nation  
Administration Building

## Qualified Voters

Enrolled Citizens 18 years  
of age and older

## Absentee Requests

The last day to request an  
absentee ballot in writing  
is August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Last day for absentee  
ballots to be received at the  
Post Office is September  
6<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Citizens of the Kaw Nation  
are hereby notified that an  
election will be held  
September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, for

the purpose of filling the  
following positions: Vice  
Chair, Tribal Council  
Member #2, and Tribal  
Council Member #4.

The election is conducted  
in accordance with Article  
IX, pursuant to Section 4  
of the Constitution of the  
Kaw Nation ratified on  
August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011, and as  
amended on April 29<sup>th</sup>,  
2016.

## Voter Qualifications

A qualified voter must:

\*Be an enrolled citizen of  
the Kaw Nation

\*Be 18 years of age or  
older on the date of the  
election

\*Not have been adjudged  
mentally incompetent by a  
court of competent  
jurisdiction.

## Candidate Filing Fees

At the time of filing of the  
Declarations of Candidacy,  
candidates must also pay a  
non-refundable filing fee  
of three hundred dollars  
(\$300.00). Filing fees must  
be paid in money order or  
certified check. **Personal  
checks will not be  
accepted.**

## Absentee Voting

Voters may request an  
Absentee Ballot from the  
Election Board. Please  
send the written requests  
to:

Kaw Nation Election  
Board

P.O. Box 48

Kaw City, OK 74641

Or by Fax:

Kaw Nation Election  
Board

580-269-6060

Or by Email:

[electionboard@kawnation.  
gov](mailto:electionboard@kawnation.gov) (Sign and Scan  
request)

Upon receipt of a written  
request containing the  
voter's signature, the  
Election Board shall mail  
absentee ballots to the  
requester. The last day that  
a written request for an  
absentee ballot can be  
received by the Election  
Board is August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Absentee ballots must be  
returned in the pre-  
addressed mailing  
envelopes provided with  
the ballot. **Ballots must be  
received by postal mail to  
the above address, no  
later than September 6<sup>th</sup>,  
2024.** No ballots will be  
accepted in person or at  
any other location.

**PLEASE EXPECT  
YOUR BALLOT  
TO TAKE UP TO  
A WEEK TO GET  
TO KAW CITY  
VIA THE MAIL  
AND PLAN  
ACCORDINGLY.**

## Election Results:

Immediately following  
the tabulation of the  
ballots, the Election  
Board shall issue an  
unofficial canvass of  
the Election results.  
The Election Board  
shall issue the Certified  
Election Results after  
the expiration of the  
protest period at 12:00  
PM on September 11<sup>th</sup>,  
2024, or after the  
resolution of any  
challenges received by  
the Election Board,  
whichever is later.  
Election results will be  
posted at the  
appropriate tribal  
offices as well as being  
released to all  
appropriate media  
outlets at the  
conclusion of the  
election.

## KAW NATION 2ND CANDIDATE FORUM

The Kaw Nation Election Board will be holding its 2nd candidate forum on Sunday, August 18th, at the McCauley gym in Newkirk from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. The Kaw Nation Election Board will be accepting questions from tribal members up until Friday, August 16th. These questions can be submitted via email to [electionboard@kawnation.gov](mailto:electionboard@kawnation.gov), they can be mailed in to PO Box 48, Kaw City, OK 74641, or written questions can be dropped off at the Kaw Nation administration building in Kaw City (Please make sure to address them to the Election Board so they do not get lost or accidentally sent to the wrong department). It is asked that tribal members please refrain from asking personal questions that are not related to the election or harmful and intentionally misleading questions. **All questions that are submitted will be asked to all candidates.** You may also put your name on your questions or remain anonymous, whichever you would prefer. We look forward to seeing as many of our tribal members as possible so feel free to share this information with all your family members and friends that are Kaw Nation tribal members!





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