

Shawnee Tribe Election Committee
2025 Election Regulations

The candidate filing deadline is Friday, June 20, 2025. Ref. ST Election Act Sec. 6.16.030

The Shawnee Tribe Court Clerk will initiate background checks on all candidates by any means necessary as determined by the Election Committee. The results of all candidate background investigations will be made available only to the Election Committee.

The Election Committee will review all candidate filings for accuracy, completeness, and compliance with the Election Act and shall make every reasonable effort to identify ineligible candidates within four (4) working days after the deadline for filing, provided the results of the candidate background checks are complete. Sec. 6.16.040 and 6.16.080

The name of each candidate will appear on the official ballot as it appears in the permanent enrollment records of each individual candidate at the time of filing for the office.

Incumbent candidates will be recognized by using (I) next to the candidate's name on the official ballot.

The Shawnee Business Council has retained a third-party election administrator, MK Elections LLC, to provide election services for the Shawnee Tribe elections. Duties will include administration of the absentee voting by mail, early in-person voting, and election day voting and tabulation of the vote count immediately following election day voting. A certification of the vote totals will be provided at the conclusion of the vote tabulation. Sec. 6.08.010(H)

The Shawnee Tribe enrollment officer shall supply the election administrator with a list of all Shawnee Tribe citizens that are eligible to vote; those citizens 18 years of age or older. The Shawnee Tribe Election Committee shall also supply a list of citizens that have requested an early voting ballot by mail.

Early in-person voting will be available on Friday, September 19, 2025, from the hours of 2:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the General Council meeting and election site. Election day voting will be held from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. at the same location. Sec. 6.20.060

In-person ballots will be printed "on demand" by the election administrator.

Citizens requesting absentee voting by mail must submit the Application for Absentee Ballot by Mail no later than September 2, 2025. Completed applications may be returned to the Election Committee by using the online fillable form, mail, email, or delivered in-person to the office of the Tribal Court Clerk during business hours. Sec. 6.20.100(A)(1)

Any citizen on the requested list for absentee voting by mail, may not vote in person at the early or election day voting. Sec. 6.20.100(A)(2)

The Shawnee Tribe has a dedicated post office box at the Miami, OK Post Office to receive the voted absentee ballots returned by citizens. Voted absentee ballots must be returned in the envelope that is provided by the election administrator. This will provide anonymity for each voter. The deadline to return the voted absentee ballots by mail is 5:00 pm on Thursday, September 18, 2025. Ballots may be returned to the election committee in person or by mail. Hand delivered ballots must be delivered to the office of the Tribal Court Clerk. Ballots received after the deadline or for not following absentee voting protocol will not be counted. Sec. 6.20.100

No less than two members of the Election Committee shall be present to collect the returned voted absentee ballot envelopes from the post office. The Shawnee Tribe Court Clerk may assist in the collection but is not counted as a member of the committee. The absentee ballot envelopes will be placed in a secured locked/sealed container for security while at the post office. The sealing of the container will be recorded and signed by each member present prior to leaving the post office. A copy of the document shall be retained until the expiration of the protest period.

The locked/sealed container shall immediately be transported to the office of the Tribal Court Clerk and placed inside the locked supply closet. The container will be transported on Friday, September 19 2025, to the site of the election and the envelopes authenticated by the election administrator.

The Shawnee Tribe Election Committee shall utilize an appropriate method for the transportation of the locked/sealed ballot box(s) to and from the Tribal Court Clerk office and the site of the voting and election.

A separate lockable ballot box shall be used for each day or method of voting.

At the conclusion of the election day voting, the absentee by mail voting, the early in-person voting, and the election day voting ballots will be tabulated by the election administrator. At no point during the periods of voting by mail, or early voting, shall votes be tabulated.

At any point in the vote tabulation process, if the election administrator is unable to process the voted ballots for counting, it shall be the responsibility of the Shawnee Tribe Election Committee to perform a hand count of all voted ballots to determine the final vote count.

All voted ballots shall be retained in the Tribal Office for a period of six (6) months following the election. Sec. 6.08.010(F)(11)

Approved by the Shawnee Tribe Election Committee on March 13, 2025.