

Resolution No. 30-26

COUNCIL OF THE CHEROKEE NATION

**A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF KRISTEN SMITH-SNELL
THOMAS AS REGISTRAR OF THE CHEROKEE NATION**

WHEREAS, the Cherokee Nation since time immemorial has exercised the sovereign rights of self-government on behalf of the Cherokee people; and,

WHEREAS, the Cherokee Nation is a federally recognized Indian Nation with a historic and continual government to government relationship with the United States of America; and,

WHEREAS, the Nation has exclusive tribal jurisdiction over the Cherokee Nation Reservation, the geographic scope of which is defined in federal and Cherokee Nation law.

WHEREAS, the Cherokee Nation Registrar was created under Article IV, Section 2 of the Constitution of the Cherokee Nation; and

WHEREAS, the Principal Chief is authorized to appoint the Registrar, subject to confirmation by majority vote of the Council of the Cherokee Nation; and

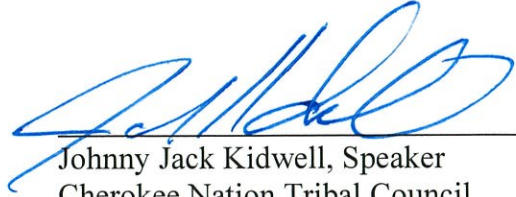
WHEREAS, the term of office for the Registrar is concurrent with the Principal Chief's term; and

WHEREAS, Kristen Smith-Snell Thomas is duly qualified to fill this position and should be appointed as Registrar of the Cherokee Nation.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CHEROKEE NATION, that Kristen Smith-Snell Thomas is hereby confirmed as the Registrar of the Cherokee Nation for a term beginning June 8, 2026 to August 2027.

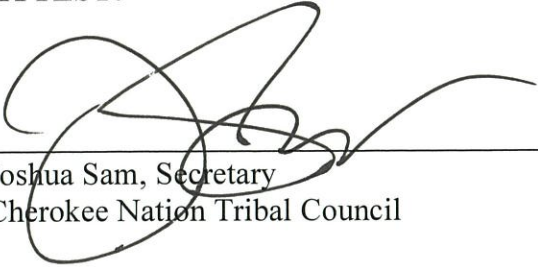
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the council of the Cherokee Nation at a duly called meeting on the 8th day of June, 2026, having 14 members present, constituting a quorum, by the vote of 14 yea; 0 nay; 0 abstaining.



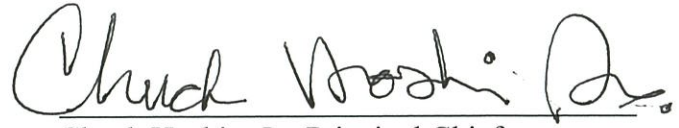
Johnny Jack Kidwell, Speaker
Cherokee Nation Tribal Council

ATTEST:



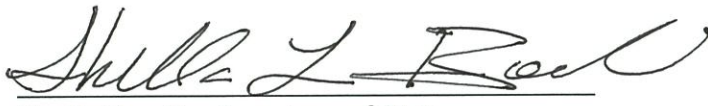
Joshua Sam, Secretary
Cherokee Nation Tribal Council

Approved and signed by the Principal Chief this 11th day of June, 2026.



Chuck Hoskin, Jr., Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation

ATTEST:



Shella Bowlin, Secretary of State
Cherokee Nation

EDUCATION

- M.S., Higher Educational Leadership, Summa Cum Laude, Northeastern State University, 2019
- B.A., Cherokee Cultural Studies, Magna Cum Laude, Northeastern State University, 2010

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Office of the Principal Chief, Cherokee Nation

Special Projects- Community Engagement | 2024–Present

- Lead and coordinate high-priority community engagement projects, including the Cherokee Nation Citizenship Registration & Photo ID Field Event Program, Tribal Registration reforms, and Public Health & Wellness Funding Act capital projects.
- Oversee project timelines, cross-department coordination, and community-focused service delivery.

Cherokee Language Master/Apprentice Program, Cherokee Nation

Supervisor, Cherokee Language/Apprentice Program | 2020–2024

Native Languages Community Coordination Grant Coordinator / Language Curriculum Design Specialist | 2017–2020

- Directed program operations, staff supervision, and curriculum implementation supporting Cherokee language teaching and learning.
- Facilitated development of a unified Cherokee language curriculum spanning early childhood through university levels.
- Maintained grant reporting, intertribal partnerships, and interagency communication.
- Supported the development of the Cherokee Nation language teacher certification process and managed special language projects.

Cherokee Promise Scholarship, Cherokee Nation

Scholarship Coordinator | 2013–2017

- Developed first-generation student support and Cherokee cultural identity programming across multiple college campuses.
- Led program oversight, interagency coordination, and student advisement to support academic success.
- Ensured compliance with funding requirements and partner institution standards.

Cherokee Language Degree Program, Cherokee Nation

Scholarship Coordinator | 2007–2014

- Managed the Cherokee Language Scholarship Program and coordinated degree planning for Cherokee Education and Cherokee Cultural Studies majors.
- Supported accreditation maintenance and maintained academic schedules and reporting.

Cherokee Language Immersion Charter School, Cherokee Nation

Cherokee Cultural Specialist | 2002–2007

- Contributed to early childhood and elementary Cherokee language curriculum development for immersion and public school settings.
- Developed original Cherokee language content and media and facilitated language and cultural outreach to public schools.

ADMINISTRATIVE CLEARANCE

Dept/Program:

Signature/Initial

Date

Executive Director:

Signature/Initial

Date

Treasurer (Required:
Grants/Contracts/Budgets):

Signature/Initial

Date

Government Relations:

Signature/Initial

Date

Administration Approval:

Signature/Initial

05/29/2026

Date

LEGISLATIVE CLEARANCE:

Legal & Legislative Coordinator:

Signature/Initial

Date

Standing Committee & Date:

Chairperson:

Signature/Initial

Date

**Cherokee Nation
Act/Resolution Proposal Form**

☐ Act

☒ Resolution

TITLE:

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE
APPOINTMENT OF KRISTEN SMITH-SNELL
THOMAS AS CHEROKEE NATION REGISTRAR**

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Chuck Hoskin, Jr.

RESOLUTION PRESENTER: Canaan Duncan

Johnny Kidwell, Joshua Sam, Dora Patzkowski,
Sasha Blackfox-Qualls, Candessa Tehee, Lisa Hall
Ashley Grant, Daryl Legg, Codey Poindexter,
Clifton Hughes, Melvina Shotpouch, Kendra
McGeady, Danny Callison, Julia Coates

COUNCIL SPONSOR:

NARRATIVE:

A resolution appointing Kristen Snell-Smith Thomas as the Cherokee Nation Registrar for a term ending in August 2027.