



# Council of the Cherokee Nation

Cherokee Nation Tribal  
Council  
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Tahlequah, OK 74464

## Legislation Details (With Text)

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**Title:** A RESOLUTION ADOPTING PRINCIPLES FOR DISTRICTING OF THE SEATS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CHEROKEE NATION  
**Sponsors:** Cara Cowan Watts  
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3/10/2008	1	RULES SUB COMMITTEE	Tabled	Pass

### **A RESOLUTION ADOPTING PRINCIPLES FOR DISTRICTING OF THE SEATS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CHEROKEE NATION**

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

**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;

**WHEREAS**, Article VI § 3 of the Constitution of the Cherokee Nation authorizes the Council to establish representative districts within the boundaries of the Cherokee Nation;

**WHEREAS**, the Council desires to redistrict the seats in a fair and consistent manner.

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CHEROKEE NATION**, that the Council hereby adopts the following principles for districting:

1. Districting of Council representative seats must meet the requirements of Article VI Section 3 of the Constitution of the Cherokee Nation:
  - a. The Council shall establish representative districts which shall be within the boundaries of the Cherokee Nation. Fifteen of these seats shall be apportioned to afford a reasonably equal division of citizenship among the districts, and the remaining two shall be elected at-large by those registered voters residing outside the boundaries of the Cherokee Nation voting at-large in accordance with this section.
  - b. Equal representation based upon registered tribal citizens;

2. Districting must achieve voter understanding and be easy to define and implement;
3. Districting must endeavor to gain greater participation in the electoral process from voters and candidates;
4. Districting must balance National, Community and Individual interests;
5. Districting must utilize self-identified counties as provided on the application for Cherokee Nation citizenship;
6. Districting must identify and coordinate regional interests;
7. Districting must promote cooperation among elected officials;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CHEROKEE NATION**, that the Nation shall retain an independent consultant to develop options based upon the principles outlined above;

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CHEROKEE NATION**, that the Rules Sub-Committee shall determine any deadlines for redistricting based upon the findings of the independent consultant.