



Council of the Cherokee Nation

Cherokee Nation Tribal Council
17763 S. Muskogee Ave.
Tahlequah, OK 74464

Legislation Details (With Text)

File #: 26-026 **Version:** 1 **Name:** CN CAPITOL COMPLEX DISTRICT ACT OF 2026
Type: Legislative Act **Status:** Passed
File created: 2/25/2026 **In control:** TRIBAL COUNCIL
On agenda: 3/9/2026 **Final action:** 4/16/2026
Enactment date: 4/13/2026 **Enactment #:** LA-14-26
Title: CHEROKEE NATION COUNCIL HOUSE AND CAPITOL COMPLEX DISTRICT PUBLIC WELLNESS AND BEAUTIFICATION ACT OF 2026
Sponsors: Johnny Kidwell, Danny Callison, Sasha Blackfox-Qualls, Julia Coates, Joe Deere, Kevin Easley Jr., Uriah Grass, Lisa Hall, Clifton Hughes, Kendra McGeady, Dora Patzkowski, Codey Poindexter, Joshua Sam, Melvina Shotpouch, Candessa Tehee, Daryl Legg
Indexes: Court House, Public Health
Code sections: ?? - Unknown
Attachments: 1. Exhibit A_CN Capitol Complex District Act of 2026.20260303, 2. LA-14-26

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
4/16/2026	1	OFFICE OF THE CHIEF	Signed	
4/13/2026	1	TRIBAL COUNCIL		
3/26/2026	1	RULES COMMITTEE		
3/9/2026	1	RESOURCE COMMITTEE		

CHEROKEE NATION COUNCIL HOUSE AND CAPITOL COMPLEX DISTRICT PUBLIC WELLNESS AND BEAUTIFICATION ACT OF 2026

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CHEROKEE NATION:

Section 1. Title and Codification

This legislative act shall be titled and codified as the “Cherokee Nation Council House and Capitol Complex District Public Wellness and Beautification Act of 2026,” and may alternatively be cited as the “Cherokee Nation Capitol Complex District Act of 2026.”

Section 2. Findings

The Council of the Cherokee Nation finds that constructing a dedicated Council House serves the mutual interests of both the Legislative and Executive Branches by maximizing administrative efficiency and optimizing the use of tribal land and governmental resources at the seat of government. This initiative reflects the shared commitment of the Legislative and Executive Branches to the disciplined stewardship and efficient use of the Nation’s fiscal and natural resources, ensuring that tribal assets are utilized to their highest and best use for the benefit of present and future generations of Cherokee citizens.

The Council further finds that consolidation of Council operations into a single, specialized structure will

streamline legislative functions and provide a physical workspace reflective of the Council's status as a separate and co-equal branch of government under the Constitution of the Cherokee Nation. The relocation of Council operations will also vacate space within the W.W. Keeler Tribal Complex, enabling more efficient and effective administration of expanding tribal programs and services and promoting the highest and best use of existing infrastructure.

The Council recognizes that disciplined long-term planning, coordinated land-use quality control, and comprehensive development standards are essential to the orderly growth and preservation of the Cherokee Nation's governmental seat. The formal designation of the Cherokee Nation Capitol Complex District and the development of a non-binding Master Plan, as developed by the Principal Chief and subject to Council oversight, advance these objectives and reflect the Nation's fiduciary responsibility to preserve its lands and fiscal resources for generations yet to come.

The Council further finds that public health, cultural vitality, and community wellness are enhanced through coordinated beautification, recreation, restoration, and memorial projects authorized under this Act, which promote sustainable land stewardship, historic preservation, and long-term prosperity.

Section 3. Purpose

The purpose of this Act is to enhance the administrative efficiency and operational integrity of the Cherokee Nation government by authorizing the funding and coordinated development of vital capital projects through the responsible and efficient use of tribal resources; to formally establish the Cherokee Nation Capitol Complex District to provide a framework for disciplined long-term planning, land-use quality control, and the construction of facilities-including a dedicated Council House-that serve the governance, health, and wellness needs of the Cherokee Nation; and to amend the Cherokee Nation Justice Center Act of 2025 (LA 07-25) by amending said Act through the addition of a new paragraph to Section 6(A), as provided herein.

This Act is further intended to advance the sustainable management of the Nation's natural and fiscal landscape, consistent with the Council's constitutional duty under Article X, Section 2 of the Constitution of the Cherokee Nation to provide by law for the annual expenditure of public funds.

Section 4. Substantive Provisions

A. Definitions.

1. "Cherokee Nation Capitol Complex District" or "District" shall mean a geographic region consisting of all property owned by the Cherokee Nation in Tahlequah within the exterior boundaries defined approximately by: the intersection of South Muskogee Avenue and South 511 Road; south to the intersection of South Bald Hill Road and West 810 Road; west to the intersection of West 890 Road and South 490 Road; north to the intersection of South 490 Road and West Clyde Maher Road; and east to the intersection of Murrel Road and South Muskogee Avenue. The District includes the entirety of the Chief Wilma P. Mankiller Cherokee Nation Capitol Park and all other Cherokee Nation-owned property adjacent to the exterior boundaries described above, consisting of more or less 849 acres as depicted in Exhibit A to this Act.
2. "Council House" shall mean the primary site of operations of the Council of the Cherokee

approximately 17728 S. Muskogee Avenue, including restoration of natural areas and future installation of a pedestrian ellipse trail and public art memorializing Principal Chief John Ross, with pedestrian connectivity forming the Ross/Mankiller Trail within the meaning of the Cherokee Nation Trails Act.

3. Design of Other Projects. The Principal Chief shall advise the Council of the design of authorized projects described in this subsection, other than the Council House, for a period of notice and comment no less than thirty (30) days prior to the commencement of construction.

D. Master Plan for Capitol Complex District.

No later than December 31, 2026, the Principal Chief shall develop and maintain a non-binding “Cherokee Nation Capitol Complex District Master Plan.” The Master Plan shall:

- a. Identify existing infrastructure and the proposed highest and best use of properties within the District over a ten (10) year period;
- b. Include the general location and description of capital projects authorized under this Act;
- c. Be reviewed annually, with written reporting to the Council regarding implementation progress and projected fiscal impacts;
- d. Be reviewed and reissued beginning in Fiscal Year 2037 and each tenth fiscal year thereafter;
- e. Be updated to reflect substantial infrastructure changes; and
- f. Be made publicly available on the Cherokee.org website following a forty-five (45) day Council review and comment period.

E. Funding Sources.

Funding for the projects authorized herein may include dividends received from tribally owned corporations, grants, donations, enterprise revenues, taxes, special or general fund sources, and funds available pursuant to:

- a. The Housing, Jobs and Sustainable Communities Act (LA 04-25);
- b. The Public Health and Wellness Act (LA 27-25);
- c. The Artist Recovery Act Reauthorization (LA 05-25);
- d. The Cherokee Nation Justice Center Act of 2025 (LA 07-25), as amended herein.

F. Amendment to the Cherokee Nation Justice Center Act of 2025.

The Cherokee Nation Justice Center Act of 2025 (LA 07-25) is hereby amended by adding a new paragraph to Section 6(A) to read as follows:

Section 6(A)(4). Funds authorized by this section of the Act and determined by the Principal Chief on or after March 30, 2026, not necessary to construct the Cherokee Nation Justice Center or the District Courthouse described therein, are authorized for reallocation to construct the Council House described in the Cherokee Nation Council House and Capitol Complex District Public Wellness and Beautification Act of 2026, with written notice to the Council of such reallocation.

G. Appropriation and Fiscal Oversight.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit or waive the authority of the Council of the Cherokee Nation under Article X, Section 2 of the 1999 Constitution of the Cherokee Nation, which mandates that the Council shall provide by law for the annual expenditure of funds and the source from which funds are to be derived to defray the estimated expenses of the government. All expenditures contemplated by this Act remain subject to

appropriation by law.

H. Attribution to the Act.

Any program, activity, or publication relating to the purposes and policies of this Act shall be attributed to the “Cherokee Nation Capitol Complex District Act of 2026,” or comparable attribution as determined by the Principal Chief, and shall include appropriate signage.

Section 5. Provisions as cumulative

The provisions of this act shall be cumulative to existing law.

Section 6. Severability

The provisions of this Act are severable and if any part of provision hereof shall be held void the decision of the court so holding shall not affect or impair any of the remaining parts or provisions of this Act.

Section 7. Effective Date: Emergency Declared

It being immediately necessary for the welfare of the Cherokee Nation, the Council hereby declares that an emergency exists, by reason whereof this Act shall take effect immediately upon its approval and signatures.