



Tribal Constitution Reform Project

A Special Publication of the Gila River Indian Community

“All political power is inherent in the People.” - 1960 Constitution

Final Draft Revised Constitution Submitted to the Legislative Standing Committee

The Tribal Constitution Reform Project Task Force (“Task Force”) finalized over two years worth of research, information gathering, surveying and meeting with Community Members when it submitted a Final Draft Revised Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) Constitution to the Legislative Standing Committee. To reach this point, the Task Force completed three rounds of surveys and presentations out in the districts, before various groups and organizations and even traveled to California to hear from members living in the Los Angeles and San Francisco areas on issues relating to the revision of the Community’s Constitution.

The Final Draft presented in this special edition reflects hundreds of hours of research, writing draft language, and detailed review of the Community’s responses on constitutional reform and how Community Member’s think the GRIC government should be organized. This draft was submitted to the Legislative Standing Committee in accordance with the Tribal Constitutional Reform Project Action Plan.

While the Final Draft was completed with Community Member input and response and the Task Force envisioned the Final Draft to be submitted to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) by November 2009, with a request for a Secretarial Election, it is possible that there may be changes made by the Community Council before submission. As well as possible changes suggested or encouraged by the BIA.

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The Task Force encourages you to take time to become familiar with the Final Draft as well as to look for information about the BIA Secretarial Election process in the near future. If you have any questions about the Final Draft or the BIA Secretarial Election process, please feel free to contact your district Task Force Representative through your Service Center office. You may also contact TCRP Staff at (520) 562-9720, located in the Governance Center or by e-mail at Gerald.Calnimpewa@gric.nsn.us and/or Joanne.Miles-Long@gric.nsn.us.

FINAL DRAFT COLOR CODE KEY

Community Members requested the Task Force make the following changes to the GRIC Constitution:

MEMBERSHIP	Yellow
POWERS	Golden
QUALIFICATIONS	Grey
BYLAWS	Lavender
OTHER	Blue

As a result of the requested changes, additional housekeeping changes were made to protect the integrity of the document.

HOUSEKEEPING	Pink
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FINAL DRAFT

CONSTITUTION OF THE GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

PREAMBLE

We, the People of, the Gila River Indian Reservation, in order to show our gratitude to Almighty God, and to preserve in ourselves the rights of self government and to provide a means for the orderly transaction of Community business and the free expression of the Community establish this Constitution for the government of the people of this reservations henceforth to be known as the Gila River Indian Community.

ARTICLE I – Terms

Terms placed in alphabetical order. The terms “appointed official” and “registered voter” were added.

ARTICLE I – TERMS

SECTION 1. For the convenience of brevity and unless otherwise specified, the following terms will be construed to have the meanings set forth in this paragraph:

- (a) Appointed Official – Any person appointed to a position in accordance with this Constitution.
- (b) Community – Gila River Indian Community.

- (c) Council – Gila River Indian Community Council.
- (d) Councilman – Male or female member of the Gila River Indian Community Council.
- (e) Governor – Governor of the Gila River Indian Community.
- (f) He – He or she; wherever used the masculine shall include the feminine.
- (g) Lieutenant Governor – Lieutenant Governor of the Gila River Indian Community.
- (h) Registered Voter – A member of the Gila River Indian Community who meets the voter eligibility requirements as outlined in Article XV and has registered his name as a qualified voter with the Gila River Indian Community Elections Board.
- (i) Reservation – Gila River Indian Reservation, Arizona.
- (j) Secretary – Secretary of the Gila River Indian Community Council.
- (k) Secretary of the Interior – The Secretary of the Interior of the United States, or his duly authorized representative.
- (l) Superintendent – The Superintendent of the local office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs under which the Reservation is placed for administrative purposes, or his successor in office.
- (m) Treasurer – Treasurer of the Gila River Indian Community.

SECTION 2. The provisions of this Constitution are mandatory, unless by express words they are declared otherwise. Any restrictions on or limitations of rights or powers shall not restrict or limit rights or powers conveyed to the incorporated Community in its Charter of Incorporation unless specifically stated.

ARTICLE II – Supreme Law of the Land

A declaration: the Gila River Indian Community Constitution will be the supreme law.

ARTICLE II – SUPREME LAW OF THE LAND

This Constitution shall be the supreme law of the Gila River Indian Community.

ARTICLE III – Territory

(No substantive change: Article renumbered)

ARTICLE III – TERRITORY

The jurisdiction of the Community shall extend to all lands now comprised within the Reservation and to such other lands as may hereafter be acquired for the use and benefit of the Community and added thereto.

ARTICLE IV – Membership

Blood quantum remains at ¼ Indian blood . One must be a biological child or grandchild of an enrolled member, and a United States citizen. One may not be enrolled in any other tribe. (Section 1(c)). Dual enrollment is prohibited. (Section 1(e)). A person using false information to be enrolled may be disenrolled. (Section 3. Members enrolled under a previous constitution will not be subject to disenrollment if he/she does not meet the requirements of the new revised constitution. (Section 4).

The 20 year residency rule was removed.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. The membership of the Community shall be determined as follows:

(a) All persons of Indian blood whose names appear, or rightfully should appear, on the official allotment roll of the Gila River Reservation or are members or should be members under the Constitution and Bylaws (Constitution and Bylaws of the Gila River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Arizona) approved May 14, 1936.

(b) All persons whose names validly appear on the latest duly certified membership roll of the Gila River Indian Community; provided that, the Community Council may, from time to time and in accordance with applicable law, correct the certified membership roll.

(c) All biological children or grandchildren of members wherever born, shall be entitled to membership in the Community if such person:

1. Is at least one-fourth Indian blood; and
2. Is a United States citizen; and
3. Is not enrolled in any other federally recognized tribe.

(d) Dual enrollment in the Gila River Indian Community and any other Indian tribe or band is strictly prohibited. A person found to be in violation of this section may be subject to disenrollment by majority vote of the Community Council. The Community Council shall enact procedures for disenrollment under this section.

(e) Any person petitioning for membership in the Gila River Indian Community and who meets the requirements for membership but has been enrolled in another Indian tribe or band may be enrolled as a member of the Gila River Indian Community if he relinquishes his membership in the other Indian tribe or band.

(f) If a member who has reached the age of majority voluntarily relinquishes membership in the Gila River Indian Community, he will be forever ineligible for re-enrollment in the Gila River Indian Community.

SECTION 2 . A census for the purpose of establishing a current and complete roll of the members of the Community shall be taken within three years from the date of the adoption of this Constitution and thereafter every ten (10) years as coincides with the general Census of the United States.

SECTION 3.

(a) Any person who knowingly provides false or inaccurate information to become an enrolled member of the Gila River Indian Community shall be disenrolled by formal action of the Community Council,

(b) The Community Council shall, within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this Constitution, enact procedures for disenrollment and to guarantee a person accused of enrolling into the Community using false or inaccurate information is afforded the due process of notice, the opportunity to be heard, and the right to appeal any decision to the Gila River Indian Community Supreme Court.

SECTION 4. Members enrolled in the Gila River Indian Community under a previous Constitution of the Gila River Indian Community shall not be disenrolled because he does not meet the requirements of this or any future revised Constitution. However, a member may always relinquish his membership voluntarily.

SECTION 5. The Community Council shall have the authority to adopt rules to be followed in compiling a membership roll in accordance with the provisions of this Article, the completed roll to be approved by the Community Council not less than ninety (90) days after the same has been presented for approval.

SECTION 6. Any person whose name has been omitted from the membership roll shall have the right to petition the Community Court to have his name included on the roll. A Copy of such petition shall be served on the Secretary. The decision of the Community Court shall be final unless within sixty (60) days a notice of appeal to the Community Council is given by petitioner

or the Secretary.

SECTION 7. The Community Council shall have the power to enact ordinances governing present and future membership, loss of membership, and the adoption of members by the Community.

ARTICLE V – Rights of Members

Proposes revisions to reflect the Indian Civil Rights Act and makes allowances for pending changes in the Act and the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2009.

ARTICLE V – RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

All political power is inherent in the people. Governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed, and are established to protect and maintain individual rights. To that end, the Gila River Indian Community will comply with 25 U.S.C. §1302, as amended and shall not:

- (a) Make or enforce any law prohibiting the free exercise of religion, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition for a redress of grievances;
- (b) Violate the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable search and seizures, nor issue warrants, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched and the person or thing to be seized;
- (c) Subject any person for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy;
- (d) Compel any person in any criminal case to be a witness against himself;
- (e) Take any private property for a public use without just compensation;
- (f) Deny to any person in a criminal proceeding the right to a speedy and public trial, to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation, to be confronted with the witnesses against him, to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and at his own expense to have the assistance of counsel for his defense, unless otherwise required by 25 U.S.C. §1302, as amended;
- (g) Require excessive bail, impose excessive fines, inflict cruel and unusual punishments, and in no event impose for conviction of any one offense any penalty or punishment greater than allowed in 25 U.S.C. §1302, as amended;
- (h) Deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of its laws or deprive any person of liberty or property without due process of law;
- (i) Pass any bill of attainder or ex post facto law; or
- (j) Deny to any person accused of an offense punishable by imprisonment the right, upon request, to a trial by jury of not less than six persons.

The enumeration on this Constitution of the foregoing rights shall not be construed as denying or disparaging other fundamental rights of the people.

ARTICLE VI – Separation of Powers

Proposes a formal separation of powers between the three (3) branches of government; Legislative, Executive and Judiciary.

ARTICLE VI - SEPARATION OF POWERS

SECTION 1. The Gila River Indian Community government shall be divided into three separate branches of government: the Legislative, the Executive and the Judiciary.

SECTION 2. No branch of government or any official of a

branch of government shall exercise any power reserved to any other branch of government.

ARTICLE VII – Legislative Branch

Powers of the council are re-organized. Election decisions were moved to a power of the judiciary.

Proposes a mandatory reapportionment of council representative seats within six (6) months of the census which will affect the number of council representatives each district is entitled to, based upon changes in population. (Section 2). Secretarial review of tribal council action is reduced to only those instances where review is required by federal law. (Section 7). Community Council appoints a Secretary to a four (4) year term. (Section 8).

ARTICLE VII – LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

SECTION 1. The legislative body of the Community shall be known as the Gila River Indian Community Council and shall consist of seventeen (17) members, who shall be elected by the registered voters of their respective districts.

SECTION 2. Each district of the reservation shall be represented by at least one council person. The remaining council persons shall be apportioned between the districts on the basis of population. The Council shall determine the number of council persons each district is allocated not later than six (6) months after the decennial census has been completed. Such determination shall govern the numbers of council persons to be elected from each district for all subsequent elections until the next determination by the council.

SECTION 3. Nine (9) members of the Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

SECTION 4. The Governor, or in his absence the Lieutenant Governor, will be the presiding officer of the Council. He shall be permitted to participate in discussion and shall be permitted to vote only in the case of a tie. His functions at Council meetings shall be in conformance with Ordinances of the Community. In the absence of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor the Council shall elect an acting Chairman from among its own members.

SECTION 5. All voting on any action by the Community Council in all Council meetings shall be by roll call vote and each Council person's vote shall be recorded by the Community Council Secretary.

SECTION 6. The Community Council shall meet regularly on the first and third Wednesday of each month, unless otherwise designated by the Community Council. Special Council meetings may be held at such time and place as shall be designated in writing by:

- (a) The Community Council;
- (b) The Governor; or
- (c) Five or more members of the Community Council.

The Community Council Secretary shall give notice of all special meetings to the public and all Community Council persons.

SECTION 7. The Community Council shall exercise the following powers, subject to any limitations imposed by the applicable statutes of the United States and subject further to all expressed restrictions upon such powers contained in this Constitution:

- (a) To promote and protect the health, peace, morals, education and general welfare of the Community and its members.
- (b) To negotiate with the Federal, State and local governments on behalf of the Community.
- (c) To prevent the sale, disposition, lease, use or encumbrance of Community lands, interests in lands, or other Community assets.

(d) To advise the Secretary of the Interior and the Congress of the United States of the wishes of the Community with regard to Federal projects or appropriation for the benefit of the Community.

(e) To create Departments and determine Department duties and responsibilities that will be administered by the Executive, in accordance with applicable law.

(f) To determine the qualifications, duties and responsibilities of Department Directors.

(g) To employ legal counsel in accordance with applicable Federal law.

(h) To set the salaries, terms and conditions of employment for all governmental personnel.

(i) To establish and regulate subordinate organizations for business purposes.

(j) To appoint subordinate officials, committees and boards, and to prescribe their duties and powers.

(k) To recognize any district committees, associations or other organizations open to the members of the community and to approve such organizations, subject however, to the provision that no such committee, association or organization may assume authorities specifically granted to the council unless by a proper delegation of authority by the Council.

(l) To adopt a budget and expend money in conformance with the adopted budget.

(m) To administer all Community property.

(n) To transfer or convey tribal assets to the incorporated Community and to contract with the incorporated Community for management of tribal assets.

(o) To purchase or otherwise acquire property of members of the Community for public purpose and to acquire same under condemnation proceedings in courts of competent jurisdiction.

(p) To regulate the use and disposition of property of members of the Community, insofar as such use and disposition affects the welfare of the Community at large.

(q) To enact criminal and civil codes or ordinances governing the conduct of members of the Community and non-members on the Reservation.

(r) To levy dues, fees, and taxes on members of the Community and on non-members residing or doing business within the Reservation.

(s) To provide for the manner of conducting elections through the enactment of an Elections Ordinance.

(t) To regulate the domestic relations of members of the Community.

(u) To act for an on behalf of members of the Community at the request of such members.

(v) To provide for the maintenance of law and order and the administration of justice by establishing police force and defining the powers and duties thereof.

(w) To provide by ordinance for the removal or exclusion from the territory of the Community non-members whose presence may be injurious to the peace, health, or welfare of the Community.

(x) To provide by ordinance for the appointment of guardians for minors and mental incompetents.

(y) To prescribe rules of inheritance provided however, that any rules of inheritance shall not be in conflict with specifically applicable Federal laws.

(z) To regulate its own procedure.

(aa) To do such other acts of governmental or public nature as are not prohibited by specifically applicable Federal laws or by this Constitution.

(bb) To pass ordinances necessary or incidental to the exercise

of any of the foregoing powers.

SECTION 8. The Community Council shall appoint a Community Council Secretary who shall be the official custodian of all files, records, and correspondence of the Community and of the community seal. He shall prepare all minutes, resolution and ordinances enacted by the Council and transmit required copies to the Superintendent. The Community Council Secretary shall be appointed to a 4 year term, shall serve at the pleasure of the Community Council.

SECTION 9. A Councilman shall not lose his right to vote at Council meetings because of membership on any committee or holding any office other than Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Chief Judge or Associate Judge.

SECTION 10. Any resolution or ordinance or Community Council action, which, by the terms of applicable law, is subject to review by the Secretary of the Interior shall be delivered to the Superintendent not later than five (5) days after enactment and the Superintendent shall note the date of receipt on the original and the Council copy. The Superintendent within ten (10) days after receipt of the resolution or ordinance shall either approve or disapprove it in writing. The ordinance or resolution shall be deemed approved if not specifically disapproved within ten (10) day period.

If the Superintendent shall approve any ordinance or resolution or fail to act within ten (10) days, it shall thereupon become effective but the Superintendent shall transmit a copy bearing his endorsement to the Secretary of the Interior, who may, by written notice to the Council within ninety (90) days from the date of enactment rescind the said ordinance or resolution. Such rescission shall not affect the legality of action taken under provisions of the ordinance or resolution prior to notification of the action of rescission.

If the Superintendent shall disapprove any ordinance or resolution submitted to him, he shall in writing advise the council of his reasons therefore within ten (10) days after its receipt. If these reasons appear insufficient to the Council, it may by majority vote, refer the ordinance or resolution to the Secretary of the Interior who shall within ninety (90) days of it referral, approve or disapprove the same in writing.

When approval of the Superintendent is required before any particular action of the council may become effective, the Secretary of the Interior, where permitted by law, may in writing waive this requirement for such periods as he in his sole discretion deems fit.

SECTION 11. The Council may exercise such further powers as may in the future be delegated to the Community by the Secretary of the Interior, or by any other duly authorized official or agency of the Government.

SECTION 12. Any rights and powers heretofore vested in the tribes or bands of the Gila River Reservation but not expressly referred to in this Constitution shall not be abridged by this article.

ARTICLE VIII – Executive Branch

Creates a formal executive branch comprised of the Governor and Lt. Governor. (Section 1). Governor appoints Executive staff, including the Treasurer, subject to Community Council approval (Section 2(f)); Outline of the duties and responsibilities of the Executive Branch. (Section 2).

ARTICLE VIII - EXECUTIVE BRANCH

SECTION 1. The Executive power of the Community shall be vested in the Governor and, in his absence, the Lieutenant Governor. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor shall be elected by popular vote of the Community.

SECTION 2. The Governor shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Community and shall execute, administer and enforce the laws of the Community and all other powers delegated by the Legislature, including but not limited to the following:

- (a) To execute and administer the laws of the Gila River Indian Community;
- (b) To prepare and propose an annual budget to the Community Council for consideration and approval;
- (c) To propose legislation for the benefit of the Gila River Indian Community;
- (d) To make recommendations to the Community Council on any matter affecting the Community;
- (e) To administer the day to day operations of the Gila River Indian Community, including all Departments or agencies and its directors created by the Community Council;
- (f) To appoint Directors and other Appointed Officials, serving in the Executive Branch as determined by Article VII, Section 7(e) of this Constitution, subject to the approval of the Community Council, provided however, that if the Community Council fails to act on any appointment within thirty (30) days such appointment shall be deemed an approval;
- (g) To select and hire personnel in accordance with applicable law.
- (h) To preside over meetings of the Community Council and to vote when there is a tie in the Community Council votes;
- (i) To represent the Gila River Indian Community in any matter that directly or indirectly affects or impacts the Community.

SECTION 3. The Governor shall have the power to convene the Council in special meetings.

ARTICLE IX – Judiciary

Creates a Judiciary comprised of a Supreme Court, Community Court and other courts determined necessary by the Community Council (Section 1); Specifies how judges are elected or appointed (Section 2); Outlines requirements for judges (Section 10); Outlines powers, duties and responsibilities of the Chief Judge (Section 4); Outlines powers, duties and responsibilities of the Judiciary. (Section 3).

ARTICLE IX - JUDICIARY

SECTION 1. The Judicial power of the Community shall be vested in the Judiciary which shall include the Supreme Court of the Gila River Indian Community, the Gila River Indian Community Court and such other lower courts as deemed necessary by the Legislature, including but not limited to forums of special jurisdiction for traditional dispute resolution.

SECTION 2. Composition

(a) Supreme Court. The Supreme Court shall be comprised of a Chief Justice and two Associate Justices appointed to four (4) year terms by the Community Council.

(b) Community Court.

1. The Community Court shall be comprised of a Chief Judge and such Associate Judges and such Appointed Judges as determined to be necessary by the Community Council via ordinance.

2. The Chief Judge and Associate Judges shall be elected by popular vote of the registered voters of the Gila River Indian Community.

3. Appointed Judges shall be selected by the Community Council. Minimum qualifications for Appointed Judges will be determined by the Community Council via ordinance.

4. Judges Pro Tempore. The Chief Judge may appoint any judge of a State, Federal or tribal court or an attorney licensed to practice before the highest court of any State of the United States or the District of Columbia as a Judge Pro Tempore in any case, matter or appeal in which the Chief Judge or other Community judges are disqualified, unable or unwilling to act.

(c) The compensation of a judge shall not be reduced during

his term in office.

SECTION 3. Jurisdiction

(a) The Judiciary shall have original jurisdiction over all cases, controversies and matters in law and equity arising under this Constitution and the ordinances of the Community and the customs of the Pima or Maricopa tribes, including cases in which the Gila River Indian Community, its officials and/or employees are a party to the matter.

(b) The Supreme Court shall have appellate jurisdiction over any case on appeal from the Community Court.

(c) In no instance shall the grant of jurisdiction shall in no manner be deemed a waiver of sovereignty.

SECTION 4. Powers of the Court

(a) Community Court. The Community Court shall have the power to:

1. Interpret the laws and Constitution of the Gila River Indian Community;
2. Make findings of fact and conclusions of law;
3. To issue all remedies in law and in equity including injunctive and declaratory relief and all writs including attachment and mandamus;
4. To declare the laws of the Gila River Indian Community void and invalid if such laws are not in agreement with this Constitution;
5. To enact written Rules of Procedure for the Community Court, consistent with the laws of the Gila River Indian Community;
6. To resolve all Community election disputes;
7. To exercise such other powers as are necessary and inherent to the Court for the necessary exercise of justice.

(b) Supreme Court. The Supreme Court shall have the power to:

1. Interpret the Constitution of the Gila River Indian Community and to make conclusions of law on all matters appealed from the Community Court or all lower courts of the Gila River Indian Community;
2. Establish written Rules of Procedure for the Supreme Court, consistent with the laws of the Gila River Indian Community;
3. Decisions of the Supreme Court shall be final.

SECTION 5. The Chief Judge shall be responsible to for the following:

- (a) To designate a judge to preside over the trial of each case.
- (b) To establish standards and qualifications for the licensing of attorneys and advocates practicing before any court in the Gila River Indian Community.
- (c) To establish a Code of Judicial Conduct applicable to all judges of the Gila River Indian Community and a Code of Conduct for Judicial Employees.

SECTION 6. Qualifications

(a) Chief Judge or Associate Judge.

1. No person shall be eligible to be elected Chief Judge or Associate Judge unless he meets the minimum qualifications as contained in Article X of this Constitution.

2. Additional qualifications as established by the Community Council including but not limited to; minimum education standards, experience in court matters and additional restrictions on criminal history.

(b) Chief Justice, Associate Justices and Appointed Judges.

The qualifications to be appointed and serve as Chief Justice or Associate Justice of the Supreme Court or Appointed

Judge shall be established by the Community Council within sixty (60) days of the enactment of this Constitution.

ARTICLE X – Qualification of Officers

Specifies minimum qualifications for elected officials; Adds a minimum educational requirement of a high school diploma or GED (Section 1); Increases the time one must be “conviction free” from one (1) year to five (5) years and proposes all elected and appointed officials attend mandatory ethics training on an annual basis (Sections 2 and 3).

ARTICLE X – QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1. No person shall be elected or hold office as Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or Councilmen unless he (1) is a member of the Community; (2) has reached that age of twenty-five (25) years; (3) has been living on the Reservation and within the district he is to represent for at least one year immediately preceding the election; (4) have obtained a high school diploma or General Educational Development (GED). Additional qualifications may be prescribed by ordinance.

SECTION 2. No person who, within the five (5) years preceding the election has been convicted of a felony or any crime involving moral turpitude shall be eligible to hold office in the Community.

SECTION 3. All elected and appointed officials shall attend training on the Gila River Indian Community Constitution and the principles and foundations of ethics on an annual basis, regardless of their tenure in office. The training, all requirements of the training and consequences for failing to attend such training shall be identified and established within ninety (90) days of the enactment of this Constitution by ordinance.

ARTICLE XI – Appointed Officials and Committeemen

References to the Community Council Secretary and Treasurer were removed.

ARTICLE XI – APPOINTED OFFICIALS AND COMMITTEEMEN

SECTION 1. Standing Committees and Boards shall be appointed by the Council from within or without its own membership.

SECTION 2. Special Committees shall be appointed by the Governor, from within or without the membership of the Community, when such committees are authorized by the Council.

ARTICLE XII – Treasurer

A new article outlines the duties and responsibilities of the Treasurer; Gives the Community Council authority to specify additional powers and responsibilities of the Treasurer.

ARTICLE XII – TREASURER

SECTION 1. There shall be a Community Treasurer appointed by the Governor, subject to the approval of the Community Council, to a term of four (4) years.

SECTION 2. The Treasurer shall be bonded and shall be responsible to maintain the Community’s assets as directed by the Community Council with recommendation from the Governor.

SECTION 3. The Treasurer shall cause all Community records to be audited on an annual basis by Certified Public Accountants.

SECTION 4. At the direction of the Community Council, the Treasurer may inspect and cause to be audited all records of the

Community and all its entities.

SECTION 5. Qualifications and additional duties and responsibilities of the Treasurer shall be adopted by the Community Council through ordinance.

ARTICLE XIII – Tenure of Office

Proposed changes increase the term of elected officials to four (4) years (Section 1); Limits the Governor and Lt. Governor to two (2) terms. Councilmen and Judges are not subject to term limitations. (Section 6).

ARTICLE XIII – TENURE OF OFFICE

SECTION 1. Councilmen shall be elected from their respective districts for a term of four (4) years, beginning with the next regularly scheduled election following the enactment of this Constitution. They shall take office at the first regular Council meeting in June following their election and shall serve until their respective successors have been duly elected and qualified. Incumbent elected officials will fulfill their existing terms.

SECTION 2. The Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Chief Judge and Associate Judges shall be elected from the Community-at-large for a term of four (4) years, beginning with the next regularly scheduled election following the enactment of this Constitution. They shall take office the first day of January following their election, and shall serve until their respective successor have been duly elected and qualified. Incumbent elected officials will fulfill their existing terms.

SECTION 3. Standing Committeemen or Board members shall be appointed for period of three (3) years, unless otherwise ordered by the council.

SECTION 4. Special Committeemen are appointed for a specific purpose and when their assignment is completed the committee shall automatically be dissolved.

SECTION 5. Should it become necessary, because of vacancies, to make appointments other than at the first regular Council meeting in June, that fraction of a year in which the appointment is made shall constitute a full year toward the term of appointment, but compensation shall be based upon the time actually served.

SECTION 6. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor may serve no more than two (2) terms in any one elected position. Councilmen, the Chief Judge and Associate Judges shall have no term limits.

SECTION 7. The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Chief Judge, Associate Judges, Councilmen, and officials duly appointed or elected to office prior to the adoption of this Constitution shall serve until their respective successors have been duly elected or appointed and qualified.

ARTICLE XIV – Vacancies

Restructures contents of section; Establishes succession within the Executive office. The Treasurer acts as Governor when there is a vacancy in the Office of Governor and Lt. Governor due to death or permanent disability.

ARTICLE XIV – VACANCIES

SECTION 1. During the absence or inability of the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor shall have all powers, privileges and duties of the Governor.

SECTION 2. Should a vacancy exist from any cause whatsoever in the Office of Governor, the Lieutenant Governor shall immediately succeed to the Office of Governor, and the Office of Lieutenant Governor shall thereupon be vacant.

SECTION 3. Should a vacancy exist due to the death or per-

manent disability in both the Office of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, the Treasurer shall exercise all duties and responsibilities of the Governor until such time as a successor is elected at a special election called by the Community Council in accordance with Section 5 of this Article.

SECTION 4. The Community Council shall declare that a vacancy exists when a Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Chief Judge, Associate Judges, or Councilman is removed for cause, resigns, moves from the Reservation, or when a Councilman moves from the district he represents.

SECTION 5. Should a vacancy exist from any cause whatsoever in the Office of Lieutenant Governor, Chief Judge, Associate Judge, or Councilman, a successor shall be elected at a special election called by the Community Council within sixty (60) days after the vacancy occurs. The successor shall hold office until the expiration of the regular term of his predecessor. Should a vacancy occur within six (6) months or less of the regularly scheduled election, the Community Council may waive the special election and allow the vacancy to exist until the successor is elected at the regularly scheduled election.

ARTICLE XV – Elections

Allow for elections to be held every four (4) years.

ARTICLE XV – ELECTIONS

SECTION 1 – The election of the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Chief Judge and the Associate Judges shall be held every four (4) years on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, beginning November 2011.

SECTION 2 – The election of Councilmen shall be held annually on the first Tuesday of May, beginning May 1960, for councilmen whose terms expire the following June.

SECTION 3 – All adult members of the community, male or female, who have attained the age of eighteen years shall, unless non compos mentis, have the right to vote in any election.

SECTION 4 – The manner of making nominations and holding elections shall be in conformity with appropriate ordinances enacted by the Council.

SECTION 5 – The Community Court shall be the final judge of all elections.

ARTICLE XVI – Elections Board

Creates an independent Elections Board (Section 1); Creates minimum requirements for members of the Elections Board (Section 4); and outlines powers, duties and responsibilities of the Elections Board (Section 1).

ARTICLE XVI - ELECTION BOARD

SECTION 1 – There shall be created and established the Gila River Election Board. The Gila River Election Board shall be an independent entity responsible for the proper administration of all Gila River Elections in accordance with this constitution and the Election Ordinances of the Gila River Indian Community. The Community Council shall not have executive or administrative authority over the Gila River Indian Community Election Board. The Election Board shall have the following duties:

- (a) Conduct voter registration and certify the membership qualified to vote in Gila River Indian Community elections and compile a list of registered voters;
- (b) Ensure proper notification to registered voters of the dates, polling places and subject of each election;
- (c) Review qualifications of each person declaring candidacy for any elected office of the Gila River Indian Community and

prepare a list of qualified candidates;

- (d) Supervise the Elections Office and the conduct of all elections;
- (e) Authority to certify the results of all elections; and
- (f) Perform such other duties as defined by the Election Ordinance.

SECTION 2 - The Gila River Indian Community Council shall enact ordinances, consistent with this constitution for the fair conduct of all elections.

SECTION 3 – The Gila River Indian Community Election Board shall be comprised of seven (7) members. Each district shall appoint one (1) Election Board member to represent the district from the district's residents to serve a term of four (4) years. The Election Board shall select from its membership a Chairman and Vice-Chairman responsible for the overall conduct of Election Board operations.

SECTION 4 – All Election Board members shall meet the following qualifications:

- (a) A registered voter of the Gila River Indian Community;
- (b) No felony convictions;
- (c) No convictions for crimes involving moral turpitude within the previous five (5) years; and
- (d) High School Diploma or General Educational Development (GED).

SECTION 5 – An Election Board member shall automatically be removed from his position upon final conviction of a violation of the Gila River Indian Community Election laws, a felony conviction or a conviction for a crime involving moral turpitude.

SECTION 6 – The Gila River Indian Community Council shall authorize the appropriation of proper funding, sufficient workspace and adequate administrative assistance for the Gila River Election Board to conduct business.

ARTICLE XVII – Districts; No substantive change: ARTICLES renumbered

ARTICLE XVII – DISTRICTS

SECTION 1 – For purposes of representation and administration the reservation shall be divided into seven (7) districts, as follows:

District 1 shall consist of all of that portion of the Reservation included in Sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, 12, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 34, 35, and 36, Township 4 South, Range 7 East; Sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, 15 and 22 Township 5 South, Range 7 East; and all of Townships 4 and 5 South, Range 8 East (North and South Blackwater).

District 2 shall consist of all of that portion of the Reservation included in Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33, Township 4 South, Range 7 East; and Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21, Township 5 South, Range 7 East (Sacaton Flats).

District 3 shall consist of all of that portion of the Reservation lying south of the Gila River and included in Townships 4 and 5 South, Range 6 East (Cottonwood, Sacaton and Progressive Colony).

District 4 shall consist of all of that portion of the Reservation lying north of the Gila River in Townships 2, 3, and 4 South, Ranges 4, 5, and 6 East (Santan, Lower Santan, Stotonic, Snake-town and Goodyear).

District 5 shall consist of all of that portion of the Reservation lying south of the Gila River in Townships 3, 4 and 5 South, Ranges 4 and 5 East (Sweetwater, Bapchule, Vah-ki, Wetcamp and Sacate).

District 6 shall consist of all of that portion of the Reservation included in Townships 1, 2, 3 and 4 South, Range 2 and 3 East (Santa Cruz, Gila Crossing and Co-op).

District 7 shall consist of all of that portion of the Reservation included in Township 1 North and Townships 1 and 2 South, Range 1 East (Maricopa District).

SECTION 2. Each district may elect a District Council made up of a representative from each of the villages or settlements within the district, in conformity with ordinances which may be enacted by the Council. A District Council shall serve as an advisory board and shall perform such other local administrative duties as may be assigned to it by the Council. The District Councils shall not have power to adopt or enact regulatory measures.

ARTICLE XVIII – Removal from Office; No substantive change; ARTICLES renumbered

ARTICLE XVIII – REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

SECTION 1. Any official of the Community who is finally convicted in a Federal, State or Indian Court of any offense involving moral turpitude shall automatically be removed from office.

SECTION 2. Any elected official of the Community who is found by the Council to be guilty of improper conduct or gross neglect of duty or to have failed to perform the duties of his office for a period of sixty (60) days unless excused therefrom by the Council, may be expelled by the affirmative vote of not less than twelve (12) of the Council members favoring such expulsion, provided that the accused official shall first be given full and fair opportunity to reply to any and all charges at a designated Council meeting.

A written statement of the charges against such charged official shall be mailed postage prepaid or delivered to his last known place of abode at least ten (10) days before the meeting at which he is to appear. All witnesses requested by such official shall be subpoenaed by the Council. When the council is sitting for impeachment purposes, all witnesses shall testify under oath or affirmation. The decision of the Council shall be final.

SECTION 3. The Council shall enact ordinances which will define what constitutes (1) improper conduct; (2) a crime involving moral turpitude, and (3) gross neglect of duty.

SECTION 4. Every elected official of the Community is subject to recall by voters of the district or districts from which he was elected as follows:

(a) A recall may be initiated by a recall petition signed by a number of registered voters exceeding twenty percent (20%) of the vote cast for the position at the last election. Petition shall be filed with the Election Board who shall, within five (5) days, serve notice on the official by mailing notice to the official's last known address.

(b) Every recall petition must contain a statement, in not more than two hundred (200) words, of the grounds of such demand and must be filed at the office of the Council. Each signer of such recall petition must add to his signature, the date of his signing said petition and his place of residence. The mark of a person unable to write his name must be witnessed by two persons who shall sign as witnesses. The person circulating such petition must make and subscribe an oath on each sheet that the signatures thereon are genuine.

(c) If said official offers his resignation it shall be automatically accepted. If he does not resign within ten (10) days after recall petition is filed, an election shall be ordered by the Council to be held no less than thirty (30) nor more than forty-five (45) days after such order to determine whether such official shall be recalled. Such recall may be held at a special election called for that purpose or may be held at the same time as and concurrent with any other election. Not less than ten (10) days prior to the election the official may file with the Council a statement of justification containing not more than two hundred (200) words. On the ballot of such election shall be printed the reason for recall as set forth in the petition, and such justification as has been filed by the official. He shall continue to hold office until

the result of said election shall be officially declared.

(d) No recall petition shall be circulated against any official until he shall have held his office for a period of one (1) year. After one recall petition and election, no further recall petitions shall be filed against the same official within one (1) year from said recall election. No recall election shall be held if an election for the office is scheduled within ninety (90) days after the filing of the recall petition.

SECTION 5. Any official, committee member or board member appointed by the Council may be removed or discharged by a majority vote of the Council.

ARTICLE XIX – Referendum; No substantive change; ARTICLES renumbered

ARTICLE XIX – REFERENDUM

A referendum on any enacted or proposed ordinance or resolution or other action of the Council shall be called by a petition of ten percent (10%) or more of the registered voters of the Community or by resolution of the Council. Such referendum may be held at a special election called for that purpose or may be held at the same time as and concurrent with any other election.

The result of such referendum shall be immediately noted in the Council minutes by the Secretary and shall be conclusive and binding upon the Council.

ARTICLE XX – Initiative; No substantive change; ARTICLES renumbered

ARTICLE XX – INITIATIVE

SECTION 1. The people of the Community reserve unto themselves the power to propose ordinances, resolutions, or other actions independently of the Council.

SECTION 2. Any proposed initiative measure shall be presented to the Council accompanied by a petition signed by not less than ten (10%) of the registered voters of the Community. Upon receipt of such petition the Council shall within sixty (60) days:

- (a) Adopt the initiated measure without alteration, or
- (b) Set the matter for vote of the registered voters at an election to be held within one hundred twenty (120) days of the time such petition was presented. Such election may be held at a special election called for that purpose or may be held at the same time as and concurrent with any other election.

SECTION 3. The result of such initiative election shall be binding upon the Council.

ARTICLE XXI – Land and Property; No substantive change; ARTICLES renumbered

ARTICLE XXI – LAND AND PROPERTY

SECTION 1. The unallotted lands of the Gila River Indian Reservation and all lands which may be acquired here after shall be Community lands.

SECTION 2. The Council in its discretion may adopt ordinances in conformity with which Community lands may be assigned for beneficial use and occupancy to members of the Community.

SECTION 3. Any owners of allotted lands shall not be compelled to relinquish his land or any part thereof, however, allotted lands or any part thereof may be condemned for Community public works, or like Community public purposes, and in such cases the landowner shall receive in return for the condemned land just and equitable compensation prior to the taking. Con-

demnation proceedings shall not become effective until approved by the Council.

ARTICLE XXII – Amendments
 Secretarial Election (BIA oversight) requirement removed so that future changes to the constitution are tribal elections.

ARTICLE XXII – AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed to the Election Board by a resolution of the Community Council approved by a 2/3 vote of the entire Community Council or by a petition signed by at least thirty percent (30%) of the registered voters of the Gila River Indian Community. Upon receipt of the Community Council’s resolution or the petition, a special election will be called and conducted in accordance with the Community’s Elections Ordinance.

Proposed amendments will be approved by a majority vote of the registered voters of the Gila River Indian Community voting in an election called for the purpose by the Election Board, provided that at least thirty (30%) percent of those entitled to vote shall vote in such election.

ARTICLE XXIII – Severability
 A new article that states that if any of the provisions of the constitution are declared unconstitutional or invalid, that section can be removed but the other sections remain valid.

ARTICLE XXIII - SEVERABILITY

Should any provision of this Constitution be declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the invalid provision(s) shall be severed and the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

ARTICLE XXIV – Savings Clause
 A new article that states that all prior laws and actions of the community taken before the new constitution was enacted are still in full force pending until it can be rescinded or repealed.

ARTICLE XXIV - SAVINGS CLAUSE

All prior laws, ordinances, resolutions and actions of the Gila River Indian Community taken before the effective date of this Constitution, including elections and terms of office, shall remain in full force and effect until such time as they might be duly rescinded or repealed pursuant to the provisions of this Constitution.

ARTICLE XXV – CertificationAdoption
 OA new article that outlines when and how the revised constitution was certifiedadopted.

ARTICLE XXV - CERTIFICATION

This Constitution, when adopted by a majority of the registered voters of the Gila River Indian Community, voting at a special election called for that purpose by the Secretary of the Interior or his authorized representative, in which at least thirty percent (30%) of those entitled to vote shall vote, shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Interior for his approval and shall be effective from the date of his approval.

BYLAWS -The Bylaws were incorporated into the body of the constitution.

CERTIFICATION

Understanding the Secretarial Election Process

Submitted by
 The Tribal Constitution Reform Project Task Force

The Gila River Tribal Constitution Reform Project Task Force (Task Force) completed the first draft of revisions to the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) Constitution April 2009. In writing this first draft, the Task Force spent over a year conducting surveys and collecting feedback from the membership to determine what changes should be made to the GRIC Constitution. Since then, the Task Force has collected feedback on the Draft 1 and from the feedback developed a Final Draft. Once again members should begin thinking about the next step, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Secretarial Election. This election is required and necessary to pass the changes to the GRIC constitution.

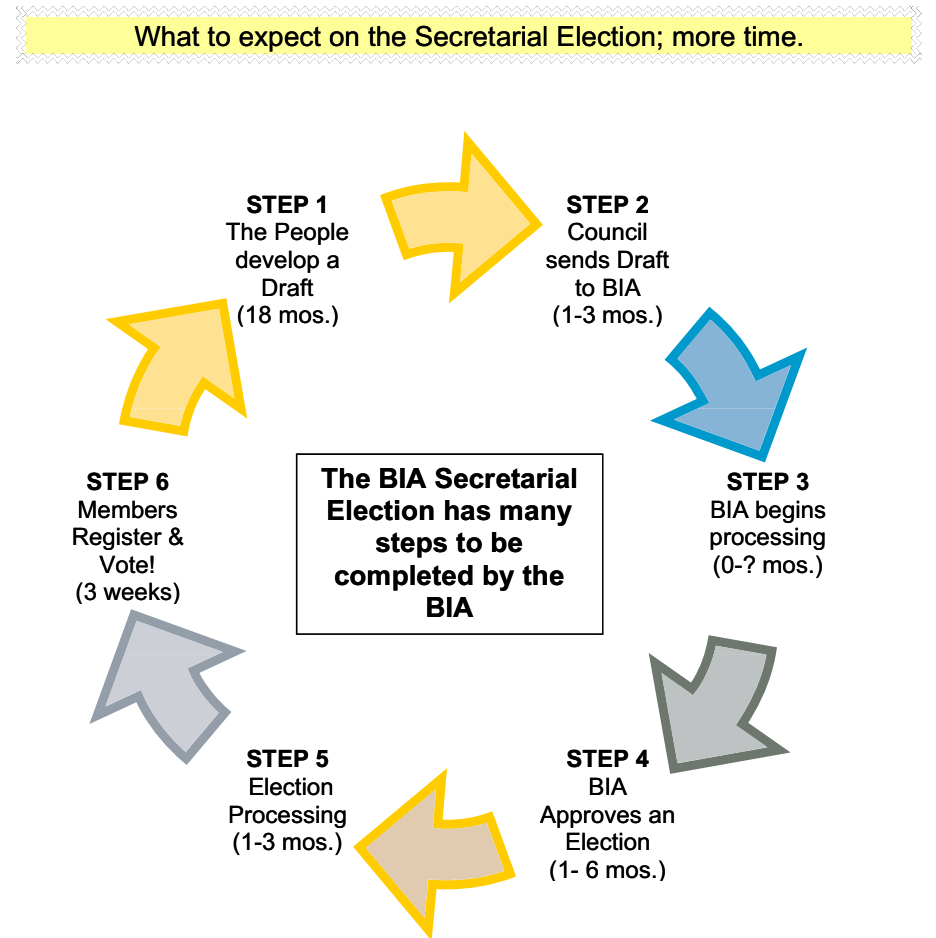
The most important thing to remember about the BIA Secretarial Election is that it is NOT a tribal election. Each year, GRIC members go to the polls to elect tribal officials. These elections are tribal elections and are governed by GRIC law under the oversight of the GRIC Election Board. A BIA Secretarial Election is a special election to revise the constitution and is a

federal election, governed by federal procedures and overseen by the BIA (Bureau of Indian Affairs).

The Request

The BIA Secretarial Election process begins when the BIA receives a resolution from the GRIC, Community Council or a petition from 500 eligible community member voters, requesting a BIA Secretarial Election. The proposed revisions (a draft) should accompany the request. GRIC will be submitting its request to the Pima Agency, of the BIA. The Pima Agency will verify the request and submit the request and documentation to the Phoenix Regional BIA Office for decision on whether to authorize a BIA Secretarial Election. If authorized, a BIA Election Board will be established consisting of a Chairperson, who is a BIA official, and two representatives from the GRIC. The BIA Election Board is responsible to oversee the BIA Secretarial Election to ensure compliance with applicable procedures in the Code of

See Secretarial Election Pg. 10



Tribal Constitution Reform Task Force Reviews Community Member Comments and will make changes to Draft 1

Submitted by The Tribal Constitution Reform Project Task Force

The Tribal Constitution Reform Project Task Force (Task Force) completed Draft 1 of the Revised Community Constitution and hit the road out and about in the Community presenting the draft for community comment.

Those attending the presentation participated in an interactive presentation and were asked by the Task Force to provide feedback on the presented changes. The Task Force received information on each of the proposed changes and some community members gave specific comments on the draft. Not all those attending the presentations provided a completed survey form but at the end of the reservation tour, the Task Force received 139 completed surveys on Draft 1 alone and throughout the entire process, has received over 500 comments from community members.

Membership remains the top concern with many different comments and opinions on the issue of blood quantum. The Community's current constitution states that one must be at least ¼ Indian blood to be eligible for enrollment, among other qualifications. Draft 1 proposed to change the blood quantum of 1/8 Gila River Pima and/or Maricopa. Of the 139 responders, only 55% liked this change while 36% indicated that they did not like this amendment and 9% declined to answer the question. As a result, the TCRP concluded that additional study of the issue is needed.

On the other hand, community members completing the survey showed overwhelming support for a formal separation of powers with 83% of those responding agreeing that the community needs a formal separation of powers, a mere 7% opposing a separation of powers and 10% elected not to answer.

Draft 1 adjusted the requirements to serve as an elected and appointed officials by increasing the educational requirements to require at a minimum a high school diploma or GED, changing the residency requirements and expanding the necessity for a conviction free background. Seventy percent of those responding generally liked the new requirements but the written comments submitted suggest that community members want elected and appointed officials to have more education than a high school diploma/GED. One person commented, "I hope there will be more of a requirement than HS/GED because a community should be run by educated community members."

Full Survey Results

Question	Approve	Disapprove	Did Not Answer
Declaration that the Constitution is the Supreme Law of the Land	73%	9%	18%
Membership: Do you like the membership changes – generally	60%	19%	21%
Do you like 1/8 GRIC Pima and/or Maricopa blood quantum	55%	36%	9%
Requirement: Must be child or grandchild of enrolled member	78%	12%	10%
Requirement: US Citizen	81%	4%	15%
Requirement: Not enrolled elsewhere	82%	9%	9%
Requirement: Never relinquished elsewhere	67%	19%	14%
Requirement: Must enroll w/in 1 year of birth	65%	24%	11%
Requirement: Must enroll w/in 1 year of 18 th birthday	61%	29%	10%
Dual Enrollment Prohibited	85%	5%	10%
Must disenroll elsewhere to enroll in GRIC	82%	10%	8%

Question	Approve	Disapprove	Did Not Answer
If voluntarily relinquish as adult, cannot re-enroll later	66%	21%	13%
Disenroll if used false information to enroll	82%	7%	11%
No disenrollment for existing members not meeting new criteria	62%	27%	11%
Remove "20 year rule"	61%	30%	9%
Do you like the new Rights of Members	75%	9%	16%
Do you like the new Separation of Powers	83%	7%	10%
Do you like changes to Legislative Branch	78%	11%	11%
Do you like changes to Executive Branch	73%	14%	13%
Do you like changes to the Judiciary	78%	11%	11%
Do you like the changes to qualifications – elected/appointed officials	70%	21%	9%
Do you like changes to Treasurer	76%	7%	17%
Do you like changes – Tenure of Office	77%	6%	17%
Do you like lengthened terms	66%	19%	15%
Do you like Term Limits	62%	17%	21%
Do you like changes to Elections	76%	10%	14%
Do you like changes – Election Board	73%	10%	17%
Do you like changes – Amendment Process	77%	10%	13%
Do you like changes – Severability	78%	7%	15%
Do you like changes – Savings Clause	74%	9%	17%
Do you like changes – Adoption Clause	78%	8%	14%
Does Draft 1 meet the Community's Needs	63%	21%	16%
If election were held today would you vote to approve	45%	37%	18%

After reviewing the survey results and comments, the Task Force began evaluating the areas that needed additional revision and identified areas that needed additional study and started on Draft 2.

The latest round of presentations was the third series of presentations made to the community on constitutional reform. In addition to the presentations, the Task Force completed three surveys and collected hundreds of comments from interested community members. The revision process has been open to anyone interested in participating. Information is readily available. Task Force representatives also gave updates on Task Force activities at district meetings. For further information on the reform process or for a schedule of Task Force presentations, please contact your district's Task Force Representative or Project Manager Gerald Calnimpewa at (520) 562-9757 or e-mail at Gerald.Calnimpewa@gric.nsn.us.

Secretarial Election From Pg. 9

Federal Regulations (25 CFR Part 81).

Once the Phoenix Regional BIA Office receives the request, they have approximately 90 to 180 days to conduct a technical and legal review of the proposed revisions and communicate with the GRIC, regarding any issues that might arise. If there are no issues or when the issues identified are resolved, authorization to conduct a BIA Secretarial Election will be issued. Once issued, the BIA Secretarial Election must occur within 90 days or it will be considered to have failed. The 90 day deadline may be extended under certain circumstances.

Secretarial Election

When the BIA Election Board

receives an authorization to conduct an election, the BIA Election Board will notify the adult members of the tribe about the following; the requirement to register to vote in the pending BIA Secretarial Election; how to register to vote; and the date of the BIA Secretarial Election. Notice will also be sent to those GRIC tribal members who will turn 18 years of age within 150 days from the date the election was authorized. However, he or she must be 18 on the date of the election in order to be eligible to vote. Since notices are sent to the member's last known address on record, it is extremely important that all members keep your address current with the GRIC Enrollment Department. If the member's address is off reservation, the notice will include information on absentee voting. Registration on the day of the election is not allowed. The

BIA Election Board will develop an official list of registered voters. The list will be posted in public locations at least 20 days before the BIA Secretarial Election. If there is a dispute as to eligibility of any member either on the list or excluded, a challenge must be submitted in writing within established deadlines and the BIA Election Board will issue a final decision 10 days before the election.

The BIA Election Board oversees the election. Voters will be allowed to vote in person at polling places or, in certain instances, by absentee ballot. Ballots will be counted and the results will be submitted to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The GRIC Community Constitution requires that at least thirty percent (30%) of registered voters cast a ballot in the BIA Secretarial Election

for any amendment to pass. Even if the vote is to pass the amendments, if less than thirty percent (30%) of the registered voters vote; the amendment will fail.

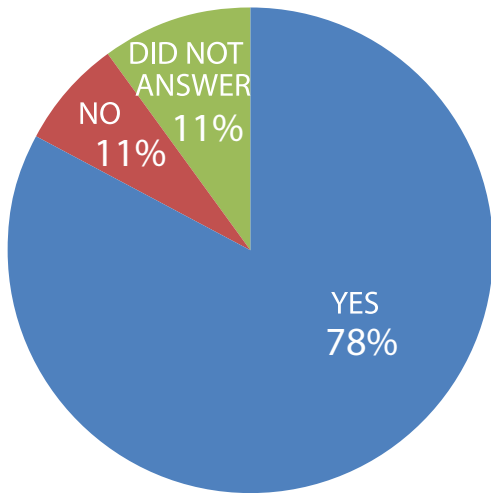
History: The 1990 Attempt

In 1990, a BIA Secretarial Election was held to amend the Gila River Indian Community Constitution. Although those that did vote passed the proposed amendments, the attempt failed because less than thirty percent (30%) of those who registered to vote in the BIA Secretarial Election failed to vote. *It is critical that members who register to vote in the BIA Secretarial Election, do, actually vote in the BIA Secretarial Election.*

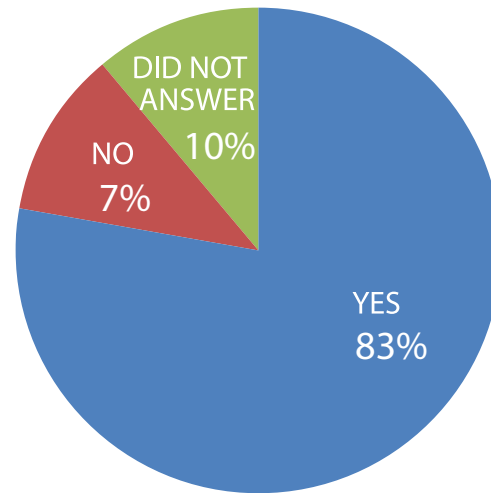
Continued on Pg. 12

Community Response to Draft 1 (Top Issues)

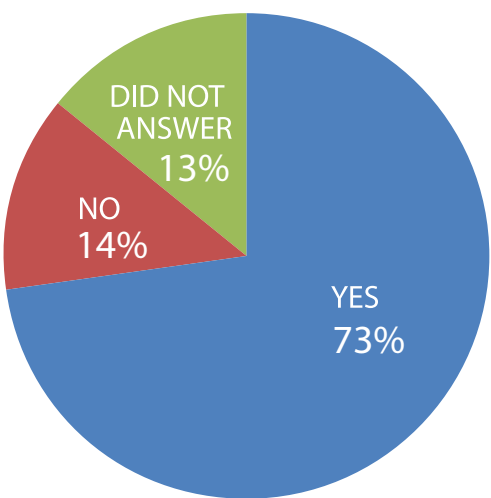
Do you like changes to Judicial Branch?
All Responses



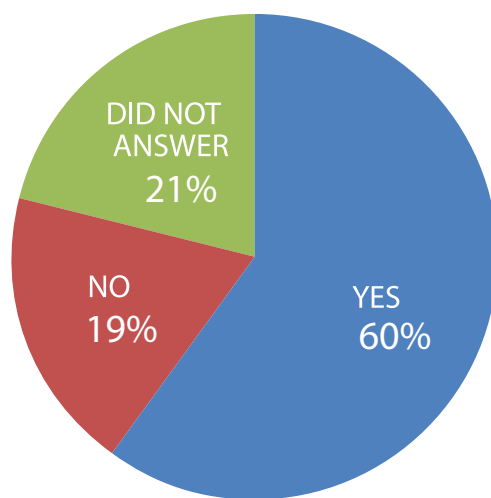
Do you like the Separation of Powers?
All Responses



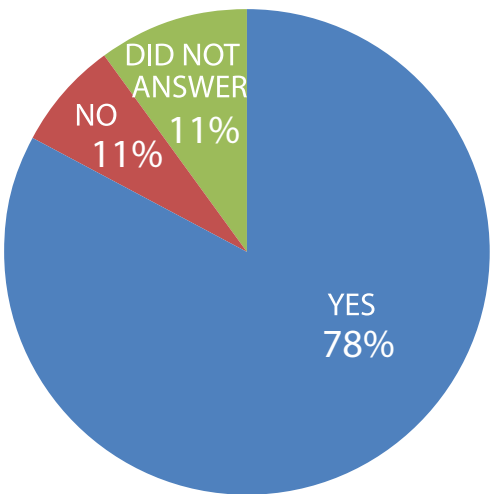
Do you like changes to Executive Branch?
All Responses



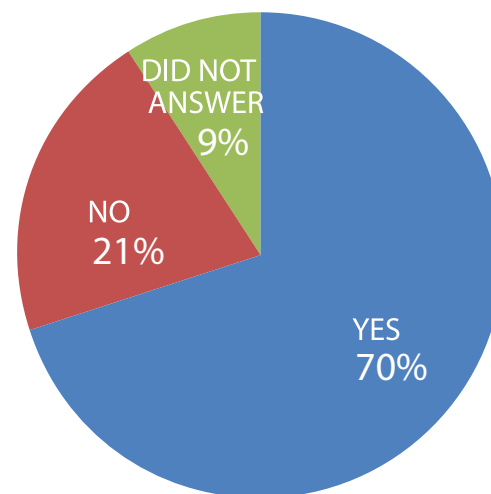
Do you like changes to Membership - Generally?
All Responses



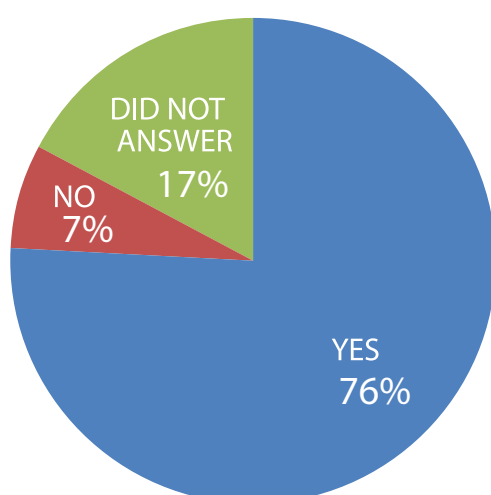
Do you like changes to Legislative Branch?
All Responses



Do you like changes - Qualifications?
All Responses



Do you like changes to Treasurer?
All Responses



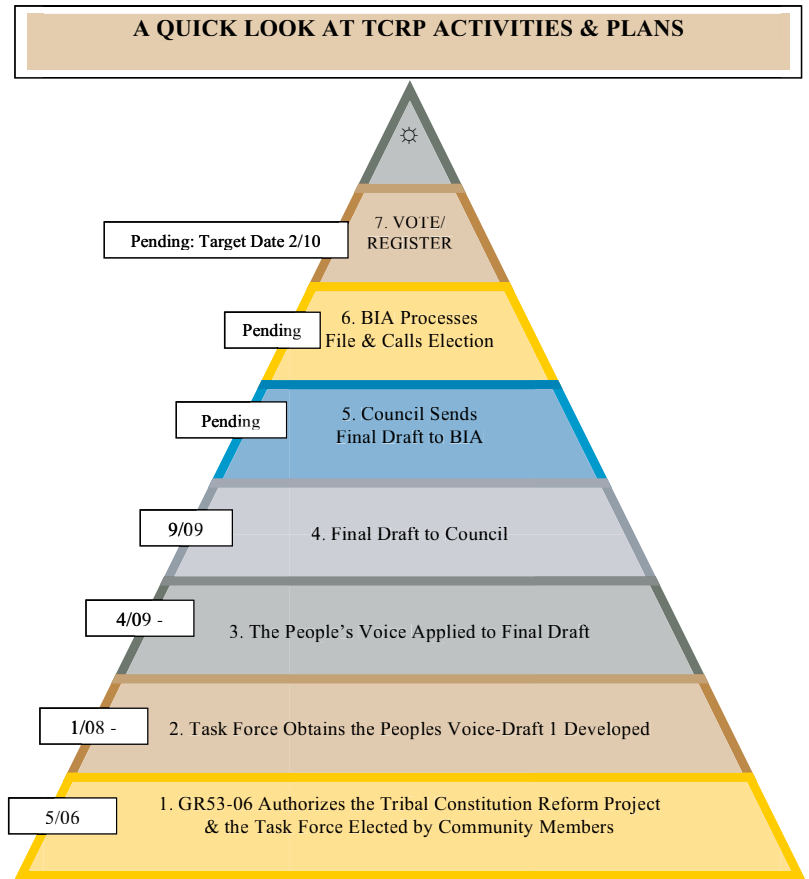
**Secretarial Election
From Pg. 10
Target Date**

The GRIC, Tribal Constitution Reform Project, Task Force identified a target date of August 2009 to have a final draft of the revised constitution submitted to the Community Council for review. This target date was completed on time. The GRIC Community Council's review will include a secondary legal review by the GRIC Law Office. If that secondary review is completed by November 2009, and a request is made for a BIA Secretarial Election, the election could possibly occur as early as February 2010. However, because GRIC does not control the process after the request and the draft constitution is submitted, the BIA Secretarial Election could be much later. There-

fore, it is very important that GRIC Community members take the initiative to keep informed on the topic.

The BIA Secretarial Election process can take many months and the Task Force reminds members not to become discouraged with the process. We encourage every member to become educated about the reform process and stay engaged in the process throughout and to the end.

For further information on the project you may contact a Task Force Representative through the District Service Center Office, or the TCRP Staff by telephone at (520) 562-9720, or by email at Gerald.Calnimptewa@gric.nsn.us & Joanne.Miles-Long@gric.nsn.us.



Thank You from the Tribal Constitution Reform Project Task Force

Dear Community Members:

Thank you for the hospitality! Also for the participation! You really opened up and expressed your thoughts, ideas and feelings. There were some candid, passionate, and defining moments, as well as hundreds of written comments and concerns expressed. While it is often difficult to say things in public, many people did. After more than a year of making the rounds from District 1 to District 7, and including the urban members in the Phoenix, Los Angeles and San Francisco, the Elderly Concerns Group,

the Council of Elders Committee and the Youth Council, the Task Force was able to obtain an immense amount of information. The Task Force could not have made the FINAL DRAFT without you, Community Members. As stated early on in this endeavor, it is truly your document.

The Task Force is also indebted to the Legislative Standing Committee, the Community Council, and the Executive Office, for their full support given to the project. Finally, our technical support, the law firm of Rosette and Associates and the GRIC, Law Office, past leadership,

the Enrollment Department, the PIO office and the Gila River Indian News staff, we thank you too.

While we recognize that we are not finished and still have a long way to go, the TCRP could not possibly present this FINAL DRAFT without full acknowledgement of where it came from. **Not from the Task Force, but from the People.**

Thank you!

To view current version of GRIC constitution and to stay updated on the project go to: www.mygilariver.com and click on the Tribal Constitution tab.



Top row (l to r): District 1 Selwynn Johnson, District 6 Anthony Hill Chairperson, District 2 Richard Schurz, District 3 Angel Galaz, TCRP Project Manager Gerald Calnimptewa. Bottom Row (l to r): Urban Members Association Edward Floyd Johnson, Charlene Jackson from Rosette and Associates Law Firm, District 5 Judy Antone, District 4 Belinda Nelson Vice Chairperson, District 7 Rowena Nelson. Not pictured: Joanne Miles-Long

Tribal Constitution Reform Project