

**\*\*CONSTITUTION OF THE POWHATAN NATION OF AMERICAN INDIANS\*\***

**\*\*PREAMBLE\*\***

WE, THE PEOPLE OF THE POWHATAN NATION OF AMERICAN INDIANS, also known and doing business as THE POWHATAN NATION, representing the core and executive Successor House of the original Powhatan Confederacy, acting through our inherent sovereignty and by the grace of the Creator, do hereby establish this Constitution.

WHEREAS, we are the direct descendants of the Powhatan (Proper), the Paramount seat of government that once unified thirty-three subtribes across Tsenacommacah; and

WHEREAS, in the face of colonial encroachment and the fracture of our ancestral tidewaters, our ancestors chose the path of Sovereign Migration over the bonds of tributary status, carrying the executive bloodlines into the southern wilderness to preserve our political independence; and

WHEREAS, this diaspora served as a gathering of the "Scattered Seeds," absorbing and protecting our kin absorbing and using the shadow and or ties to or with the Saponi, Shawnee, Catawba, Cherokee, and Monacan other tribal nations, weaving a tapestry of blood and marital bonds that strengthened our resolve and ensured our survival through the "shatterzone" of the Southeast; and

WHEREAS, our people successfully re-anchored our ancestral homelands through our sovereignty in the soil of Madison County, Alabama, establishing a permanent "Island of Freedom" documented through the trials of the 1824 Superior Court and protected by the 1838 Sovereign Shield of the Finley records; and

WHEREAS, despite the forced displacement from our ancestral anchor at the Redstone lands in 1941, our identity remained unextinguished, anchored by the graves of our ancestors and the memory of the Powhatan Indians who migrated and existed in that region before even the existence of what would become Madison County Alabama

THEREFORE, we, the POWHATAN NATION OF AMERICAN INDIANS, the Successor House of the Alabama Anchor, publicly and proudly decree for God and the world as one political body. We assert our right to self-governance, the protection of our citizens, and the preservation of our heritage. We hold open the door of our Nation to all true and verified descendants of the original Confederacy and its affiliated bands who seek to return to the fire of the Powhatan (Proper).

IN THE SPIRIT OF OUR ANCESTORS, AND FOR THE UNBORN GENERATIONS, WE DO ORDAIN AND ESTABLISH THIS CONSTITUTION FOR THE POWHATAN NATION OF AMERICAN INDIANS.

## **\*\*ARTICLE I – NAME AND JURISDICTION\*\***

### **\*\*SECTION 1. NAME\*\***

The name of this sovereign entity shall be The Powhatan Nation of American Indians, also known as The Powhatan Nation and historically as the Powhatan (proper) and others.

### **\*\*SECTION 2. TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION\*\***

The territorial jurisdiction of The Powhatan Nation Of American Indians DBA The Powhatan Nation shall extend to all lands, waters, and natural resources historically and currently held by the Nation, including:

\* \*\*A. The Ancestral Anchor:\*\* All lands within the boundaries of Madison County, Alabama, including the ancestral village sites, homesteads, and agricultural lands occupied by the Successor House families since the early 19th century.

\* \*\*B. Redstone Arsenal Stewardship Policy:\*\* Regarding tribal lands currently situated within the federal boundaries of the Redstone Arsenal:

\* \*\*1. Restoration of Unused Lands:\*\* The Nation asserts its right to the immediate return of any historical tribal lands within the Arsenal that are currently vacant or not actively utilized for military operations.

\* \*\*2. National Security Exception:\*\* For lands currently utilized by the U.S. Army for the defense and betterment of the United States, the Nation agrees to permit continued military use, provided such use remains in the interest of national security and the betterment of The United States of America.

\* \*\*3. Sacred Site Protection (The Cemeteries):\*\* The Powhatan Toney Cemetery and other documented burial sites are the exclusive property of the Nation. Should the Army require the use of all surrounding lands for national security, making the cemetery inaccessible, the Nation permits the Army to remain as a temporary custodian under a strict agreement of "Great Care" and respectful maintenance, provided the use is for the betterment of the country.

## **\*\*ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP AND CITIZENSHIP\*\***

### **\*\*SECTION 1. ELIGIBILITY\*\***

Membership in The Powhatan Nation of American Indians is a political right reserved for those who can prove a direct, unbroken blood connection to an ancestor from any of the thirty-three (33) subtribes under the original Powhatan Paramountcy, or to an ancestor from an Approved Affiliated Nation or tribal community. Enrollment is open to any True and Verified Direct Blood Descendant of the following:

\* \*\*A. The Core Executive Line:\*\* Any member of the Powhatan (Proper), the executive tribe of the original Confederacy.

\* \*\*B. The Confederate Subtribes:\*\* Any member of the thirty-two (32) additional subtribes historically under the Powhatan Paramountcy.

\* \*\*C. Proven Affiliated Nations:\*\* Members of tribes or tribal communities who entered into documented blood or marital bonds with the Successor House during the diaspora and re-anchoring process. This specifically includes but isn't limited to: The Saponi Indians, Catawba Indians, Shawnee Indians, Monacan Indians, Mattaponi Indians, and Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

## **\*\*SECTION 2. THE BASE ROLL\*\***

The Base Roll for the determination of citizenship shall consist of the families documented and considered:

\* The Proven Unbroken Bloodline Descendants of any original members of any of the 33 subtribes under the original Powhatan Confederacy.

Also,

The Base Roll for the determination of citizenship shall consist of the families documented in the primary "Anchor Records" of Madison County, Alabama, and the historic Virginia/NC refugee corridors, including:

- \* The 1824 Superior Court Records (Lovan/Loving, Davis, Evans).
- \* The 1838 Finley Deed (Identifying the "Powhatan Tribe of Indians").
- \* The 1850 U.S. Census (District 34) (Culbertson, Gibson, Bunch, Carter, et al.).
- \* The 1941 Redstone Displacement Surveys (Toney and associated kinship lines).

## **\*\*SECTION 3. VESTED AUTHORITY\*\***

The Tribal Council, through an appointed Enrollment Committee, shall have the final authority to review and certify all enrollment applications. No person shall be enrolled who cannot provide factual, documented evidence (vital records, land deeds, or court records) linking them to an ancestor on the Base Roll.

## **\*\*ARTICLE III – TRIBAL GOVERNMENT\*\***

### **\*\*SECTION 1. DISTRIBUTION OF POWERS\*\***

The government of The Powhatan Nation shall be divided into three separate and distinct branches: the Executive, the Legislative, and the Judicial. No person or group of persons charged with the exercise of powers properly belonging to one branch shall exercise any of the powers properly belonging to either of the others, except as specifically provided in this Constitution.

## **\*\*SECTION 2. THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH (THE CHIEF)\*\***

The executive power of The Powhatan Nation shall be vested in the Chief. The Chief serves as the "Paramount Voice" and Successor to the Mamanatowick position of the original Confederacy.

\* \*\*A. Hereditary Succession:\*\* The position of Chief is a hereditary title, following the traditional matrilineal and fraternal laws of the original Paramountcy:

\* \*\*1. Fraternal Succession:\*\* Upon the death or removal of a Chief, the position shall pass to his next eldest brother.

\* \*\*2. Matrilineal Succession:\*\* If no brothers exist, the position shall pass to the eldest son of the Chief's eldest sister, and so on through the matrilineal line.

\* \*\*3. Current Lineage:\*\* In accordance with these laws, the current Vice Chief is Emilio Ramsey, being the eldest son of Chief Mark Anthony Ramsey's eldest sister.

\* \*\*B. Vacancy and Campaigning:\*\* Should the position of Chief be abandoned or otherwise left vacant without a direct hereditary successor, or should the current line of succession become totally extinct due to emergency acts of God, the following strict criteria apply:

\* \*\*1. Blood Quantum of Leadership:\*\* A candidate may only campaign for the office if they can prove that all four (4) of their grandparents are direct blood descendants of a Paramount Chief from the original Confederacy.

\* \*\*2. Council Approval:\*\* Before a campaign may begin, the Board of Council must review the nominee's petition and lineage. A formal vote and majority agreement by the Council are required to authorize a petition to campaign for office.

## **\*\*SECTION 3. THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH (TRIBAL COUNCIL)\*\***

The legislative power shall be vested in the Tribal Council, which shall consist of at least 5 but up to 7 elected representatives.

\* \*\*A. Powers:\*\* The Council shall have the power to enact laws, resolutions, and ordinances; to manage tribal finances and the annual budget; and to confirm or reject appointments made by the Chief.

\* \*\*B. Land Management:\*\* The Council shall have the authority to regulate the use and disposition of tribal lands, including the implementation of the Redstone Stewardship Policy.

\* \*\*C. Enrollment:\*\* The Council, through an appointed Enrollment Committee, shall have the final authority to certify new members based on the "True and Verified" blood descendant criteria established in Article II.

## **\*\*SECTION 4. THE JUDICIAL BRANCH (TRIBAL COURT)\*\***

The judicial power shall be vested in a Tribal Court system consisting of a Chief Judge and such associate judges as may be deemed necessary by the Tribal Council.

\* \*\*A. Jurisdiction:\*\* The Court shall have the authority to interpret the Constitution and laws of the Nation and to adjudicate all civil and criminal cases arising under tribal jurisdiction.

\* \*\*B. Independence:\*\* The Judiciary shall be independent of the Executive and Legislative branches.

#### **\*\*SECTION 5. QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE\*\***

To hold any elective or appointive office within The Powhatan Nation, a person must:

\* Be an enrolled citizen of The Powhatan Nation.

\* Be at least 30 years of age.

\* Have no felony convictions or crimes involving "moral turpitude" (theft, fraud, or dishonesty) Or have written exception declaration signed by the Chief (Mamanatowick) or Vice Chief (Waroance.)

\* Demonstrate an active commitment to the preservation of the Powhatan Nation of American Indians and Powhatan (Proper) culture and that of the Madison County Anchor.

#### **\*\*ARTICLE IV – BILL OF RIGHTS\*\***

##### **\*\*SECTION 1. FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND TRADITION\*\***

The Powhatan Nation shall make no law prohibiting the free exercise of religion or traditional Indigenous spiritual practices. The right of citizens to engage in traditional ceremonies, to use sacred medicines, and to access ancestral sites (pursuant to the Redstone Stewardship Policy) shall be protected from government interference.

##### **\*\*SECTION 2. FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND ASSEMBLY\*\***

The right of tribal citizens to freedom of speech, press, and peaceful assembly shall not be abridged. Citizens have the right to petition the Chief and the Tribal Council for the redress of grievances without fear of retaliation.

##### **\*\*SECTION 3. DUE PROCESS OF LAW\*\***

No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property by The Powhatan Nation without due process of law. This includes the right to a fair and public trial, the right to be informed of the nature of any charges, and the right to confront witnesses.

##### **\*\*SECTION 4. PROTECTION AGAINST UNREASONABLE SEARCH AND SEIZURE\*\***

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated. No warrants shall issue but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched and the persons or things to be seized.

## **\*\*SECTION 5. JUST COMPENSATION FOR TRIBAL TAKINGS\*\***

While the Nation holds ultimate authority over tribal lands, it shall not take the private property of a tribal citizen for public use without just compensation. (This section reinforces the "Sovereign Anchor" by protecting the individual homesteads of tribal families).

## **\*\*SECTION 6. EQUAL PROTECTION\*\***

The Powhatan Nation shall not 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. Membership status—whether by direct descent from the Powhatan (Proper) or an affiliated nation—shall not be a basis for the denial of basic civil rights.

## **\*\*SECTION 7. RIGHTS OF THE ACCUSED\*\***

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall have the right to a speedy and public trial, to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation, and to have the assistance of counsel for their defense at their own expense. No person shall be twice put in jeopardy for the same offense, nor shall any person be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against themselves.

## **\*\*ARTICLE V – TRIBAL ELECTIONS AND SUCCESSION\*\***

### **\*\*SECTION 1. THE HEREDITARY SEAT\*\***

Because the Office of the Chief is a hereditary position of the Successor House, it is not subject to general popular election unless the criteria in Article III, Section 2B (Vacancy) are met. The transition of power shall be overseen by the Council of Elders to ensure the lineage is "True and Verified."

### **\*\*SECTION 2. THE TRIBAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS\*\***

The members of the Tribal Council shall be elected by the citizens of The Powhatan Nation.

\* \*\*A. Term of Office:\*\* Council members shall serve 10 years before up for reelection.

\* \*\*B. Voter Eligibility:\*\* Any enrolled citizen of the Nation who is at least eighteen (18) years of age shall have the right to vote in Council elections.

\* \*\*C. Election Procedure:\*\* The Council shall enact an Election Ordinance to govern the timing, location, and manner of tribal elections.

## **\*\*ARTICLE VI – REMOVAL, VACANCY, AND EARLY SUCCESSION\*\***

### **\*\*SECTION 1. INVIOABILITY OF THE HEREDITARY SEAT\*\***

Because the Office of the Chief is a hereditary position derived from the Powhatan (Proper) executive core, a sitting Chief serves for life unless removed or superseded as provided in this Article. The Chief cannot be removed by popular vote, nor by the Tribal Council for matters of policy or political disagreement.

#### **\*\*SECTION 2. GROUNDS FOR EARLY SUCCESSION\*\***

A sitting Chief may be removed or superseded if their actions constitute a documented, obvious intent to bring fundamental harm to, or the dismantling of, the Powhatan Nation of American Indians and its tribal community, **\*\*or\*\*** if the Chief is physically or mentally incapable of performing the duties of the Mamanatowick for an extended period.

#### **\*\*SECTION 3. PROCEDURE FOR CHALLENGE\*\***

The process for investigating the fitness of a sitting Chief is strictly limited to the following sovereign procedure:

**\* \*\*A. The Lineal Petition:\*\*** Only the designated Lineal Successor (pursuant to the laws of succession in Article III, Section 2A) has the standing to petition for a Council investigation into the sitting Chief, claiming either an intent to exterminate the tribe or physical or mental inability to handle the position. No other citizen or official may initiate this process.

**\* \*\*B. Council Investigation:\*\*** Upon receipt of a Lineal Petition, the Tribal Council shall conduct a formal investigation. The burden of proof lies with the Petitioner to provide undeniable evidence of the Chief's malintent or medical evidence of unfitness for duty.

**\* \*\*C. Adjudication of Proof and Retirement:\*\*** If the investigation yields undeniable proof that the sitting Chief is unfit for duty under the grounds of Section 2, the Tribal Council shall authorize the Chief to retire with full benefits.

**\* \*\*D. The Sovereign Vote and Transfer of Title:\*\*** Upon a finding of unfitness for duty, the Tribal Council shall hold a formal vote on the transfer of the Mamanatowick title. A **\*\*two-thirds (2/3)\*\*** vote in favor of the petition is required to effectuate the early transfer of the Mamanatowick title and authorities to the Lineal Successor. The Lineal Successor shall be placed in the position immediately upon a successful vote.

#### **\*\*SECTION 4. VOLUNTARY RESIGNATION OR INCAPACITY\*\***

Should a Chief voluntarily resign the office or become physically or mentally incapable of performing the duties of the Mamanatowick for an extended period, and the process in Section 3 is not initiated or completed, the Vice Chief (as the first in the line of succession) shall assume the duties of the office as "Acting Chief" until such time as the Chief recovers or a formal transition occurs.

#### **\*\*ARTICLE VII – SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY\*\***

## **\*\*SECTION 1. INHERENT IMMUNITY\*\***

The Powhatan Nation of American Indians is a sovereign nation and, as such, possesses all the inherent attributes of sovereignty, including immunity from suit. Nothing in this Constitution, nor any tribal ordinance or resolution, shall be construed as a waiver of the sovereign immunity of the Nation unless such waiver is expressed in clear and unambiguous language.

## **\*\*SECTION 2. IMMUNITY OF TRIBAL OFFICIALS\*\***

The Chief, the Tribal Council, the Judiciary, and all other officers and employees of the Nation shall be immune from suit for any actions taken in the performance of their official duties. This immunity is essential to ensure that tribal leadership can act in the best interests of the Successor House without fear of personal legal liability in outside jurisdictions.

## **\*\*SECTION 3. LIMITED WAIVERS OF IMMUNITY\*\***

\* \*\*A. Authority to Waive:\*\* A waiver of the sovereign immunity of The Powhatan Nation may only be granted by a formal, written Act of the Tribal Council, which must be signed by the Chief.

\* \*\*B. Scope of Waiver:\*\* Any such waiver must be specific as to the parties, the court of jurisdiction, and the specific tribal assets or funds that may be subject to a judgment.

\* \*\*C. Prohibition on Land Alienation:\*\* Under no circumstances shall a waiver of sovereign immunity be interpreted as a waiver of the Nation's rights to its ancestral or trust lands, specifically including the Madison County Anchor and the Redstone sacred sites. Tribal land is sacred and inalienable.

## **\*\*SECTION 4. INTERNAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION\*\***

All claims against the Nation or its officials arising under tribal law must be brought before the Tribal Court as established in Article III. The Tribal Court shall have exclusive jurisdiction over all internal matters, ensuring that the Powhatan (Proper) laws are the final word in all disputes involving the Nation.

## **\*\*ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS\*\***

### **\*\*SECTION 1. PROCESS FOR AMENDMENT\*\***

This Constitution may be amended to reflect the evolving needs of the Powhatan Nation of American Indians, provided that such amendments do not infringe upon the inherent hereditary rights of the Powhatan (Proper) executive core as established in the Preamble.

\* \*\*A. Proposal:\*\* Amendments may be proposed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Tribal Council or by a petition signed by at least thirty percent (30%) of the adult enrolled citizens of the Nation.

\* \*\*B. Ratification:\*\* Proposed amendments must be submitted to the Chief for review. Upon approval by the Chief, the amendment shall be submitted to a vote of the tribal citizenship. A majority vote of those voting in a special election called for that purpose shall be required for ratification.

\* \*\*C. Effective Date:\*\* An amendment shall become effective immediately upon certification of the election results by the Tribal Council and the signature of the Chief.

**\*\*ARTICLE IX – TRIBAL SEAL AND SYMBOLS\*\***

**\*\*SECTION 1. THE GREAT SEAL \*\***

The Tribal Council, with the advice and consent of the Chief, shall adopt a Great Seal of The Powhatan Nation. This seal shall be the official insignia of the Nation and shall be used to authenticate all official documents, treaties, and laws.

**\*\*SECTION 2. THE CHIEF'S EMBLEM\*\***



The emblem